

**Sandusky County Commissioners – 622 Croghan Street, Fremont, OH 43420**

**2024 MEETING**

Meeting: Board Of Commissioners

Location: Commissioners' Board Room

Date: 5/7/2024

Time: 8:00AM

Present: Commissioners: Russ Zimmerman – President; Scott Miller– Vice President; Charles Schwochow

Present: Theresa Garcia – County Administrator

Others Present: Judge Fiser, Judge Welty, Stacy Dickman, Ron Hiser, Kay Reiter

(\*action items)

AGENDA ITEMS	BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS / ACTION STEPS:	PERSON RESPONSIBLE:	DOLLAR AMOUNT:	MOTION / VOTE
Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance (8:00am)		Russ Zimmerman, President		
<b>*Review &amp; Approval of Commissioner Meeting Minutes, incoming Mail Review &amp; External Meeting Notices</b>	The 5/2/2024 minutes were reviewed/approved by the Board. The Board reviewed incoming mail and external meeting notices.	Russ Zimmerman Scott Miller Charles Schwochow		<b>*Motion: Move to Approve minutes Moved by: Scott Miller 2nd: Charles Schwochow Yes – 3</b>
<b>Review of External board / Meetings Attended by Commissioners</b>	Commissioners Miller and Schwochow attended the Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner. Commissioner Miller talked about the Foster Parent Appreciation dinner. The highlight was a speaker that talked about her experience in the foster system and growing up and where she is as an adult. Melanie noted there are a lot of stories out there and we can only hope they all have happy endings.	Scott Miller Charles Schwochow		
	Commissioner Zimmerman attended the Board of DD Kentucky Derby fundraiser. They had a good turnout. The outcome of the Kentucky Derby was very close	Russ Zimmerman		
	Commissioners all attended the Law Day luncheon. Justice Stewart was the guest speaker. It was a good presentation.	Russ Zimmerman Scott Miller Charles Schwochow		


	CCAO Regional meeting. There was a lot of information shared. CEBCO talked about the increase in medication costs especially for weight loss drugs. Property insurance has also increased. Information was shared on the Sewer and Water Rotary Fund and the money available for these projects if they go through agricultural property. HB 347 was discussed regarding tax exemption for ATV's.	Russ Zimmerman Scott Miller Charles Schwochow		
<b>Commissioners and Administrator Discussion</b>	Administrator Garcia received a memo from a vendor working with the City of Fremont on a solar array that would supply the industrial park and the County buildings on Countryside Drive. There seems to be some confusion. Administrator Garcia will reach out to Fremont and the vendor for more detail.	Theresa Garcia		
	Administrator Garcia showed an update on the building plan for East State Street. They would like to start monthly planning meetings.			
<b>* Then /Now Documents</b>	<p>One certificate was presented by DJFS. PO was in place, however the vendor di not have reimbursement rates established with the State of Ohio. Invoices were held until this was completed. Two invoices make up this certificate. Mid-Ohio Teaching - \$9,900.00 &amp; \$10,230.00</p> <p>One certificate was presented by DJFS. OMJ caseworker was not aware the client was going to request mileage until after the form was turned in. Two invoices makes up this certificate. Ashley Branco - \$228.87 &amp; \$464.71</p> <p>One certificate was presented by the Commissioner's Office. Purchase orders were not done as we did not receive quotes from the Village of Green Springs prior to them sending us the invoices. Five invoices make up this certificate. Burkett Industries - \$1,140.25 &amp; \$2,402.27 The Bergren Assoc. Inc. - \$8,014.50 &amp; \$18,614.00 Huber Technology - \$4,365.77</p>	<p>DJFS</p> <p>DJFS</p> <p>Commissioners</p>	<p>\$9,900.00 \$10,230.00</p> <p>\$228.67 \$464.71</p> <p>\$1,140.25 \$2,402.27 \$8,014.50 \$18,614.00 \$4,365.77</p>	<p>*Motion: Move to Approve certificates Moved by: Scott Miller 2nd: Charles Schwochow Yes – 3</p>
<b>* Personnel</b>	None			
<b>* Travel Requests</b>	None			

<p><b>County Court Judges</b></p>	<p><b><u>Judge Welty, Judge Fiser and Stacey Dickman – County Courts.</u></b> Judge Fiser presented minutes from 2/21/23 where she came in with Judge Kolesar to discuss the HVAC and chair lift in Woodville. The chair lift has been replaced. She is still concerned about the HVAC and the need to have both courts running efficiently. Judge Fiser noted that both buildings need to be maintained and that the citizens of the county deserve the county courts to be as well-kept as the Common Pleas Court. They are running air conditioning and heating at the same time. Judge Fiser also noted that to combine the courts into one building would be a challenge and could not happen in the near foreseeable future. Commissioner Schwochow noted the HVAC in Woodville is going to be fixed. Commissioner Zimmerman explained how the units would work for the building. Judge Fiser also spoke about the Clyde court renovation. Commissioner Miller explained that was put on hold until a new Judge was seated. Judge Welty was presented with the renovation plan and asked to have it put on hold until decisions were made about a new court. Ron Hiser was in the meeting and was asked to explain how the units would work in the Woodville Court and when the project would be done. Ron will move forward with getting a contract signed to get this project completed.</p>	<p>Judge Fiser – County Court Judge Cindy Welty – County Court Judge Stacy Dickman – Court Administrator</p>		
<p><b>Facility Management</b></p>	<p><b><u>Ron Hiser- Facility Management.</u></b> Ron came in for his regular meeting with the Commissioners. See attachment for agenda items. There was discussion on the work being done to demo the Park Street building. The contractor is still inside. He was supposed to be done at the end of April. Ron does not have a contract signed to demo the rest of the building yet. Ron asked if the Commissioners if he was moving forward with the new HVAC recommendation for Woodville. Commissioners all noted we had to do the project. We need to make sure to move forward. He has been working with Parker Energy on the solar array project and grants available. The GIS office update was quoted. They want to make changes that would include moving wiring and data lines. The Commissioners do not want to see these changes made. They continue to work on the JJC project. The pipes at the Service Center continue to fail. It is going to become a big problem. They are adding new card readers at the service center. Ron is</p>	<p>Ron Hiser – Director.</p>		


	working on pouring concrete with heating units for the courthouse ramp. They are cleaning up the veterans monuments for memorial day.			
<b>DJFS</b>	<p><b><u>Meanie Allen – DJFS.</u></b> Melanie came in for her regular meeting with the Commissioners. See attachment for agenda items. Commissioner Miller talked about the Foster Parent Appreciation dinner. The highlight was a speaker that talked about her experience in the foster system and growing up and where she is as an adult. Melanie noted there are a lot of stories out there and we can only hope they all have happy endings. Melanie stated they really keep their staff in mind when dealing with cases. Custody count went up by one, next month they will have five that will move on by age and adoption. They still have several positions open and many new hires. They will be pilot mentors for the Treatment Foster Care program. They have a foster care recruitment event on May 20th. They will share information with those attending what it means to be a foster parent. They will also be offering VR demos for those interested in working at JFS. Director Damshroder, State JFS Director, will be visiting in August. Melanie is considering a take your child to work day. They considered it in 2020 but they weren't able to make it happen then.</p>	Melanie Allen – Director		
<b>Regional Airport Authority</b>	<p><b><u>Kay Reiter – Regional Airport.</u></b> Kay came in to inform the Commissioners of an open board seat. Tim Buitt tendered his resignation from the Airport Authority Board. He has resigned from other boards he sits on in the area as well. They will accept the resignation at the next board meeting. She asked to enter executive session to discuss an appointment.</p> <p>At 10:01am Commissioner Miller moved to enter executive session to discuss appointment of public employees.</p> <p>At 10:10am Commissioners exited executive session.</p> <p>Kay asked that the recommendation for the new board member have a strong financial background. The suggestion was to reach out to Genoa Bank for a possible recommendation.</p>	Kay Reiter – Airport Authority Chair		<p>*Motion: Move to enter executive session Moved by: Scott Miller 2nd: Charles Schwochow Yes – 3</p> <p>*Motion: Move to exit executive Moved by: Scott Miller 2nd: Charles Schwochow Yes – 3</p>

* Resolutions	2024 - 147 APPROVING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH TOLEDO METROPOLITAN AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (TMACOG) ESTABLISHING A THREE-COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (RTPO) FOR COORDINATED REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING	TMACOG		*Motion: Move to Approve resolution Moved by: Scott Miller 2nd: Charles Schwochow Yes – 3
	2024 - 148 APPROVING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO RACCOON CREEK REIMBURSEMENT (\$1,630.00) FOR BOND REFUND	Raccoon Creek	\$1,630.00	*Motion: Move to Approve resolution Moved by: Charles Schwochow 2nd: Scott Miller Yes – 3
	2024 - 149 APPROVING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO TASC SUPPLIES (\$30,000.00) FOR LAB SUPPLIES / CHEMICALS	TASC	\$30,000.00	*Motion: Move to Approve resolution Moved by: Scott Miller 2nd: Charles Schwochow Yes – 3
Public Open Session	Citizens Attendees – none Media Attendees – none Elected Officials – none			
* Adjournment (am)	With business completed for the day the meeting was adjourned.			* Motion: Move to adjourn Moved by: 2nd: Yes - 3

Signature of:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Russ Zimmerman, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Miller, Vice President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles Schwochow

Board of County Commissioners, Sandusky County Ohio

Attest: Theresa Gourea  
Clerk to the Board / County Administrator

I, the undersigned, Clerk of the Board of Commissioners,  
Sandusky County, Ohio, do hereby certify that the foregoing  
is a true and correct copy from the official record of said  
Board of County Commissioners as recorded in its Journal.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk, Board of County Commissioners, Sandusky County, Ohio

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## Northwest Ohio collaborative to become state model for foster care

**COLUMBUS** — A collaborative effort by four northwest Ohio counties to keep youths with complex behavioral health issues with foster-care families closer to home instead of in congregate settings is about to become a statewide model.

Gov. Mike DeWine recently gave a shout-out during his annual State of the State address to Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca, and Wyandot counties for their success in working together to recruit foster-care families with experience in dealing with behavioral issues.

"Not only have they saved money, but they have also created the opportunity for children to remain in a home with a family," he said.

The Public Children Services Association of Ohio has estimated the savings to date at about half a million dollars.

The state wants to replicate what it sees as a success story via a pilot program that will help counties in other regions of the state collaborate in recruiting more local foster parents, providing one-on-one support to

those families, providing around-the-clock access to crisis counseling, and providing specialized training.

The idea is to keep children in a home with foster parents better equipped to handle autism, mental health, and other complex behavioral issues, preferably within the counties' borders or in nearby counties rather than elsewhere in the state or across state lines.

"Currently, there are more than 1,800 foster children who live in group settings because there are not foster families willing or comfortable to take on the significant behavioral challenges and complex needs these foster children present," Mr. DeWine said. "And, though some of them do need to be in congregate care, the best place for most children is ultimately in a foster home with adults who love them."

Northwest Treatment Foster Care Collaborative outside Toledo is the brainchild of Melanie Allen, director of the Sandusky County Department of Job and Family Services. She is intent on improving the "no" to "yes" ratio — the proportion of potential foster families who decline to take children with such complex needs compared to those who say "yes."

In many cases, the net had to be cast more and more widely in the past to find that "yes," and it was wreaking havoc on the county's budget.

"We are starting to see complex needs in younger and younger youth," Ms. Allen said. "With the complications with the young ones, say an 8-year-old who has an autism diagnosis, a traditional family foster home may not be skilled enough in managing that child's needs and behaviors.

"If there's nothing local for us for that, then that means going to a group home setting at a very young age," Ms. Allen said. "It's more expensive, and it's absolutely not the right location for a child."

These children may be autistic, come from abusive homes, or may have already had run-ins with the juvenile justice system.

Ms. Allen said the cost of placing one child in a congregate-care setting is the equivalent of five in treatment foster-care homes.

"The cost savings are astounding," Ms. Allen said.



Kati and Ray Tittle, of Fremont, said “yes” — twice. Already raising an autistic son, Logan, now 18, Ms. Tittle wanted to follow a family tradition and open their home to an 8-year-old girl, S.S., who'd been temporarily removed from her troubled home.

Later, her 10-year-old sister, K.S., joined them after being in kinship care in Columbus, in a group home in Toledo, and then again in Columbus.

"These girls have thrived," said Ms. Tittle, who also brought her experience as director of Advocacy and Protective Services, Inc., a nonprofit serving adults with developmental disabilities.

"[The girls] have done so many wonderful things," she said. "Ray and I give them a life, and they get all A's in school. They're making friends, which is important. ... We give a child love, support, understanding, and no judgment."

"If Logan was in that situation, I would absolutely want a family to step up and give him what we've been able to give these girls," Ms. Tittle said.

The goal is for the girls to eventually return to their mother and siblings. Ms. Tittle said she would welcome more foster children in the future.

The temporarily expanded Tittle family was preparing for a weekend camping trip to Tall Timbers in Port Clinton.

"They love camping...", Ms. Tittle said. "We had a camper, but we didn't have a camper that met everyone's needs. My son is autistic, so he doesn't go up. When we found out how much they liked camping, we started looking at campers together. We found a camper that met everyone's needs."

Sandusky, Seneca, and Wyandot counties were already under one mental health board. Ottawa later joined.

"Besides sharing funding, we share a staff member who is dedicated only to this project," Ms. Allen said.

Finding foster-care spots has become more difficult as existing foster parents age, and the next generation has yet to take their place.

"The idea is to recruit foster families who are willing and trained to take placement of children with complex needs so that they do not go into residential care," said Scott Britton, PCSAO assistant director. "Some may be traditional foster families who are ready to step up.

"Some have experience working with kids with complex needs," he said. "We can provide evidence-based training for them and 24-7 support. The idea is to create a truly therapeutic placement to help kids heal and go back home."

Some kids may ultimately need greater help than a foster-care home may provide.

"What we know is residential care is more expensive," Mr. Britton said. "A home-setting has better long-term outcomes."

Ms. Allen noted that these foster-care parents may be former police officers, mental health therapists, probation officers, nurses, or others who have "lived experience" with troubled children of their own.

The Ohio Department of Children and Youth received 30 applications from children's services agencies by the April 26 deadline seeking to form 10 regional partnerships across the state. The plan is to award grants of between \$75,000 and \$225,000 per pilot program with up to three agencies in each of the state's five children's services regions.

Ms. Allen said her northwest Ohio group applied for funding to potentially expand and provide technical assistance to other districts as they set up similar programs.

"We have our social media campaign," Ms. Allen said. "We put a lot of information out there with our message, about the need. We have dedicated workers at events in all four counties to talk to anyone who wants to hear our need.

"We're pounding the pavement to talk to anyone," she said. "Any time we have inquiries or questions about foster parenting, [the dedicated staff member] is the only talking to them on the front end and helping them to decide which track they are best suited for."

Anyone interested in becoming a foster parent may call 419-334-8708. The same number may be used to register for an open house at the Sandusky County Department of Job and Family Services, 2511 Countryside Drive, Fremont, on May 20 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

*First Published May 4, 2024, 7:00am*

# Sandusky County Commissioners Agenda



## Topics of Discussion for the meeting Dated May 7th, 2024.



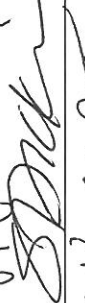
1. We are working with various vendors on feasibility study of installing a solar array. We are also working with Parker Energy Solutions for an energy efficiency grant.
2. We have issue PO# for new lockset, card reader, and electric strike for CH#1 door.
3. PO# has been issued for the tax map on workstation office for regional planner. Working on scheduling.
4. The relief fan noise at the BOH continues to be an issue. Kleinfelder to propose to insulate the supply ductwork.
5. Working with Warner and Kleinfelder on bid package #5 (submittals and scheduling).
6. We continue to have pipe failures at the Service Center. We repaired another one on Monday.
7. The masonry block walls around the outdoor recreation areas at the jail are in need of repairs. We are securing quotes.
8. We are continuing to work on C.H. Security on safety measures.
9. We are adding a couple of new card readers at the Service Center.
10. Met with Emily and Kristen to go over scope of work for bid package #6. Dates have been set for advertising and bid opening.
11. Working with Jeff's team and Thomas Porter on design for the new EMS buildings.
12. Working on the carpet for the commissioner's conference room.
13. In the process of performing annual maintenance on the fire extinguishers and fire protection systems.
14. The lockset for the courtroom has not been changed out yet. (7wks.)
15. We are setting up training for the fire alarm systems at the BOH and BOE.
16. Updating quotes for the blackout sealing to be done this summer.
17. Updating quotes for the sally-port ramp at the courthouse.
18. Landscaping and spring cleanup at all locations are underway.
19. Securing pricing for Woodville Court HVAC.

## May Commissioner's Agenda

5/7/24

- I. Placements
  - a. Current custody count: **38 (37 last month, +1)**
  - b. Placement Costs- increased number of high dollar placements
  - c. Reduction over the next few month: (-5) 2 graduating age 18, 1 age 21, 2 adoptions
- II. Building / Staffing status
  - a. Positions – several new hires
- III. Agency info
  - a. TFC – pilot mentors for state/ State of the State /OneOhio Grant
  - b. FC dinner 5/6, FC recruitment event 5/20
  - c. In demand jobs week this week, we are offering VR demos M-Th 2-4
  - d. June 11 staff appreciation
  - e. August 8 we will be hosting a visit from Director Damshroder and a child support awareness event while he is here
  - f. Considering a TCTW day over summer

5/7/2024

Name	Signature	Contact Information
Candi Welby		
Judy Ford		
Suey Dickman		
KAY E. RESTER	