

RESOLUTION NO. 23-01241

In the matter of approval of prior meeting) County Commissioners' Office,
minutes from the regular session held on) Wood County, Ohio
September 26, 2023.) September 28, 2023

WHEREAS, in accordance with §121.22 (“Sunshine Law”), and §305.11, Revised Code of Ohio, “immediately upon the opening of each day’s session of the board of county commissioners, the records of the proceedings of the session of the previous day shall be read, or provided to each commissioner in written form, by the clerk of the board and, if correct, approved and signed by the commissioners”; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on the 26th day of September 2023 with the following members present: DORIS I. HERRINGSHAW and THEODORE H. BOWLUS; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners’ Agenda for September 26, 2023, was as follows:

I. 9:38 a.m. -- Consider Resolutions – See Resolution Listing

Commissioner Bowlus called the meeting to order with County Administrator Carri Stanley, Assistant Administrator Dan Scherger, Clerk of the Board Sandy Long, Job and Family Services (JFS) Director Dave Wigent and Protective Services Supervisor Kristen Weymer also present. Commissioner Bowlus noted the receipt of the minutes of the previous session with no corrections necessary.

The personnel actions submitted were from Information Technology for a change from full-time to part-time for IT Support Technician II Julie Nieset; from JFS for the resignation of Protective Services Worker 2 Dennis Fetzer and the appointment of full-time CSEA Case Manager Julia Printy.

Commissioner Herringshaw moved to approve the resolutions on the attached listing with the exception of resolution 23-01234 (change order 1 and 3 for the Northwest Community Corrections Center) which will be tabled. Commissioner Bowlus seconded the motion. All present voted aye and the motion carried.

II. -- Staff Reports

JFS re: Protective Services Ongoing Unit (9:45 a.m.) – Mr. Wigent introduced Protective Services Supervisor Kristen Weymer and provided an update on the activities of the Protective Services Ongoing Unit. Mr. Wigent stated that JFS conducts between 900 and 1,000 child abuse investigations per year with approximately 150 ending up in court. He stated that once a case moves from investigation to ongoing status Ms. Weymer’s ongoing unit takes over. He noted that cases last months or even years. The staff must have a lot of interaction with the family and there is also significant data entry required by state and federal requirements. Ms. Weymer stated there are ten employees in her unit, eight are ongoing case workers who will work with families for up to two years. She stated the employee assigned to a case is required to see the child every month, and in some instances are required to travel in order to accomplish the visit. Ms. Weymer stated that Wood County has been at 99% or higher in visitation since reporting started two years ago. She noted that staff work hard to reunite families and from January through June have shown a 70% success rate. During that time 21% of children were in kinship placement and 9% were seeking adoption or emancipation. Mr. Wigent stated they are still working to enroll college students in the fellowship

program in hopes they will transition into vacant positions within the JFS department. He noted that fellowship student enrollment is currently low but anticipates it will grow in the next 4 to 6 weeks.

Ms. Weymer stated that many cases involve teens with significant behavioral issues. Ms. Weymer stated the turnover rate in mental health is high and there is not a solid community support system for families. She noted that mental health issues are talked about more in recent years. Ms. Weymer stated that providers drop cases for services if the client does not show up for an appointment, making it difficult for the client to receive treatment if this is a habitual pattern.

Ms. Weymer noted that JFS works to have cases closed within one year, but they could be ongoing for up to two years. Commissioner Herringshaw asked how often the client's behavior is repeated after reunification. Mr. Wigent stated it does happen. Once it is known that a family was investigated for abuse, community members watch closely and file reports on all types of behavior. Ms. Weymer stated she would estimate less than 10% of cases are from previous clients.

Commissioner Bowlus asked about child trafficking cases. Mr. Wigent stated cases could be due to prostitution, sweatshop labor or crossing borders. Some have been trafficked by their own family to obtain drugs. He mentioned that Chuck Bergman, Chief Assistant Prosecutor of the Juvenile Division, has asked JFS employees to explore more training on this matter. Mr. Wigent stated that 20 years ago child trafficking was not really an issue. This type of abuse has a lot of law enforcement involvement and is very labor intensive. He mentioned the biggest issue right now is how many local treatment partners are struggling. He noted the Children Resource Center recently received a large grant to be used for youth behavioral crisis services which will be very beneficial. He also mentioned the Board of Developmental Disabilities will be building new multi-system youth homes and Harbor is exploring options of building homes as well. The only issue is these options are still two years out. Mr. Wigent said the state needs to step in and help with placement. It is a crisis throughout the state. Ms. Weymer stated that behavioral issues with teens are the largest growing problem. She said that people assume if a child is placed in foster care or a group home that they will get the necessary treatment, when in reality the treatment options are generally the same as if they were living in their own home. Foster care itself is not a treatment center. Mr. Wigent stated that he is thankful that Wood County has the stability of Juvenile Court Judge Woessner to help navigate these cases. The Commissioners thanked them both for the update. The meeting concluded at 10:15 a.m. Mr. Wigent and Ms. Weymer exited at this time.

Ms. Stanley requested a brief executive session to consider the appointment of a public employee. Commissioner Bowlus moved to enter into executive session for the aforementioned reason. Commissioner Herringshaw seconded the motion. All present voted aye and the motion carried at 10:16 a.m. The Commissioners left the executive session at 10:30 a.m.

III. -- Open Forum Citizens Comments/Concerns

There were no comments from the public. Commissioner Herringshaw moved to adjourn and Commissioner Bowlus seconded the motion. All present voted aye and the motion carried at 10:30 a.m.

The Board of County Commissioners will attempt to provide reasonable accommodations for any disabled person. Requests for special accommodations shall be made to the Office of the County Commissioners twenty-four (24) hours prior to the time such accommodations are required; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Wood County, Ohio, that the foregoing minutes be and are hereby approved; and be it further

RESOLVED, that these proceedings shall be kept on file in the office of the County Commissioners and open at all times to public inspection.

Commissioner Herringshaw moved and Commissioner Bowlus seconded the approval of the resolution, and the roll being called on its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

DORIS I. HERRINGSHAW, Ed.D. yes Doris I Herringshaw

DR. THEODORE H. BOWLUS yes Th H Bowlus

CRAIG LAHOTE yes Craig LaHote

Board of County Commissioners,
Wood County, Ohio

Attest: Sandy A. Long
Clerk of said Board

Resolution	Date	Description	PO	Cost
23-01231	9/26/2023	APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR SESSION HELD ON 9/21/2023		
23-01232	9/26/2023	AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS		
23-01233	9/26/2023	APPOINTING AND REAPPOINTING MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS BOARD (TERM EXP. 10/17/26)		
23-01234	9/26/2023	AUTHORIZE CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 AND CHANGE ORDER NO. 3 WITH ALVADA CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW FEMALE WING ADDITION TO THE EXISTING NORTHWEST COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS CENTER, LOCATED AT 1740 EAST GYPSY LANE ROAD, BOWLING GREEN, OHIO.		
23-01235	9/26/2023	SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION - VARIOUS FUNDS		
23-01236	9/26/2023	AUTHORIZE VARIOUS PERSONNEL ACTIONS		
23-01237	9/26/2023	ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF AN EXPEDITED TYPE 1 ANNEXATION PETITION FOR TERRITORY LOCATED IN HENRY TOWNSHIP TO THE VILLAGE OF NORTH BALTIMORE AND GRANTING THE ANNEXATION. (PETITION #23-3)		
23-01238	9/26/2023	AUTHORIZING RENEWAL RATES FOR MET LIFE FOR THE WOOD COUNTY EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM FOR PLAN YEAR 2024, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024.		
23-01239	9/26/2023	PAYMENT FOR SERVICES - AUGUST 2023 FUEL FACILITY		
23-01240	9/26/2023	PAYMENT FOR SERVICES - AUGUST 2023 LANDFILL TRASH DISPOSAL		

