

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 23, 2016

Contact: Jake Freppel, Board President
jakefrep@gmail.com
(419) 599-2892 Board

Henry County Board of DD seeking full-time superintendent

Shared staffing arrangement with Ottawa County will expire at end of year

NAPOLEON, Ohio – At its regular monthly meeting, the Henry County Board of Developmental Disabilities voted unanimously to allow its shared superintendent arrangement with the Ottawa County Board of Developmental Disabilities to expire at the end of the year. Board members cited a greater need for hands-on supervision and administrative oversight from its superintendent as the determining factor in its decision, particularly in light of recent changes in state and federal laws that are requiring the board to undergo a series of large-scale changes in how it provides services.

“Since 11/01/2011, we have appreciated our shared superintendent arrangement with Ottawa County,” said Jake Freppel, Henry DD Board President. “However, now that the board is making significant changes in how services are provided, we thought it was best to go back to a full-time superintendent in order to ensure the needs of families and staff members are met during this time of transition.”

For the past 4 ½ years, the Henry County Board of DD has provided services overseen by a superintendent that served both Henry and Ottawa Counties. At the time when this decision was made, many counties were trying this model of administration in an effort to save money. In the time since, significant changes in state and federal policy have been enacted, many of which are having a substantial impact on how the board will operate in the future. These mandatory changes cross many different aspects of the board’s operations, and therefore require a greater level of oversight than had previously been necessary at the agency.

“We are living in a different world than what existed 4 ½ years ago and our organization has different obligations that must be met,” Freppel said. “A full time superintendent allows us to meet those obligations while also continuing to support the people we serve. Meeting the expectations of people with developmental disabilities and their families has and always will be our number one priority.”

During Monday’s meeting, the board also voted to work with the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities to plan the superintendent search process and ensure a seamless transition occurs before the contract expires in December. The board intends to have completed the transition no later than January 1, 2017.

Those interested in applying for the position, or acquiring additional information may contact Mr. Freppel directly at jakefrep@gmail.com or may contact Administrative Assistant, Tina Parsons, at the Board office or via email at tparsons@henrydd.org.