



DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES BOARD

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

July 18, 2012

The Rock County Developmental Disabilities Board's Public Hearing was called to order at 6:35 P.M. by Chair Jensen.

Board Members introduced themselves to the attendants of the Public Hearing.

The following were speaker's comments:

Jennifer Pelz, CESA 2 VOA:

Ms. Pelz thanked the Board for their support. Ms. Pelz spoke briefly of the programs provided by CESA 2 VOA and the importance of funding for these programs.

Brenda Cokinis and Sarah Knutson concerned parents of LSS Enrichment Center clients: Ms. Cokinis and Ms. Knutson expressed concerns regarding LSS Enrichment Center's budget constraints resulting in parents paying for supplies and community outing costs and less staff to care for and interact with clients. Ms. Cokinis and Ms. Knutson would like to see more funding for this program so the staff levels can be increased and out of pocket costs can be decreased.

Whitney Walraven, Family Respite Care Services Executive Director:

Ms. Walraven explained what the Family Respite Care Services Program means to the parents of children with Developmental Disabilities and how they have expanded into Evansville due to a grant they received. Ms. Walraven also told the Board of their partnering up with the Epilepsy Foundation to help control costs and deal with decreased funding and how they are planning on partnering with CESA's The Learning Center and Mercy Options to start a parent support group. Ms. Walraven then read letters from a concerned parent, Epilepsy Foundation, Family Respite Care supporter/volunteer all praising the work the Family Respite Care Services does and the need for more funding.

Joellyn Richgels, Family Respite Care Services Volunteer:

Ms. Richgels expressed the need for services that Family Respite Care Services provides and the need for increased funding.

Anna Fuller, concerned parent/supporter of the Family Respite Care Services:

Ms. Fuller explained that she and her family only recently participated in some the services that the Family Respite Care Services Provides and was extremely surprised at how much

it was needed and appreciated by all in her family. Ms. Fuller expressed the need for programs like The Family Respite Care services and the need for increased funding for it.

Sue Lethlean, Rehab Resources:

Ms. Lethlean explained that Rehab Resources is the Therapeutic arm of the Birth to Three Program. She also expressed her thanks to the DD Board for funding. Ms. Lethlean further explained that Rehab Resources is a Federally mandated program and that Federal mandates dictate that therapy be given in the child's natural environment, which is costlier than in a clinical setting. Ms. Lethlean assured the Board that every avenue of funding is explored before resorting to County funding. Funding continues to be an issue as funding goes down the needs rise. Ms. Lethlean asked for consideration in funding her 2013 budget request in full.

Ms. Lethlean also provided the Board with a letter from a concerned parent who was unable to attend the hearing but had wanted to speak on behalf on Rehab Resources. The written statement from Melisa Stoltz, concerned parent/supporter of the Birth to Three Program, Rehab Resources praised the work of the therapists that have helped her daughter continue to make great strides in her development. She also expressed the need for funding early intervention programs such as the Birth to Three Program

Anna Fuller, CESA 2 TLC, Birth to Three Program:

Ms. Fuller thanked the Board for its continued support. Ms. Fuller explained to the Board that TLC is the case management/referral side of the Birth to Three Program and how number of kids being referred to the program continues to increase and that effort is being made to control costs though some things like employees health insurance benefits and office rent are out of their control. Ms. Fuller asked for consideration in funding her 2013 budget request in full.

Chair Jensen thanked everyone for coming and reminded everyone the County Board Public Hearing is Wednesday, November 8, 2012 at the courthouse.

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:25 P.M. on Motion By Louis Peer, Seconded By Terry Fell. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tahirih Carr
DD Financial Worker