Lawrence County Board for the Developmentally Disabled

Opening Doors Through Coordinating Services

The Lawrence County Board for the Developmentally Disabled met on February 12, 2026, at the Lawrence County Board office at 403 E. Elm Street, Aurora, MO. Members present were: Bill Alexander, Kristine Shanks, Sonya Messenger, Rick Lamb, Blenda Moore, Lana Moore, Debbie Bowles, and Chris Freeman (arrived at 7:08). Members absent: Martha Pettegrew. Guests were: Kerri Watson, Patricia Childress and Stacy Childress.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by chairman Bill Alexander.

The October 2025 board minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Lana Moore to accept the minutes after some clerical corrections were made. Kristine Shanks seconded the same motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

The Treasurer report was given by treasurer Kristine Shanks for the months of September 2025 through January 2026. A motion was made by Debbie Bowles to approve the report. Lana Moore seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Two resolutions were then discussed. The first one is to let chairman Bill Alexander sign on behalf of the board for all contracts and necessary documentation for 2026. A motion to approve was made by Kristine Shanks. Debbie Bowles seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried. The second resolution was to allow Administrative Assistant, Patricia "Dusti" Stott to contact and receive information from the accountants Newbold and Newbold as needed to complete her job duties. The motion to approve was made by Lana Moore and seconded by Sonya Messenger. All were in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

The members present that were not at the January informational meeting received their binder with the information about the Sunshine Law, Conflict of Interest and the Missouri Ethics Commission Guide to Ethics Law, signed the conflict-of-interest form, the receipt of the binder form, ad the confidentiality form.

The topic of who to choose for the agency web site change to ADA compliance by April was discussed. Lana asked the executive director which company she thought would best meet this need. The executive director, Kerri, informed the board that through discussions with the two potential web developers, Convirs would, in her opinion, be the best choice. It is the most cost effective, closer to the board office than the other, and is willing to work closely with the executive director and the security officer to ensure information is put on in a timely manner. Lana Moore made the motion to approve Convirs as the web designer, Rick Lamb seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Bill then discussed the need for the members to think about the Board's Vision for the Future and a Strategic Plan. He also discussed that the northern county residents are not open to going to Aurora and Monett to participate in services/activities, that those towns are too far. He discussed the thought of possibly relocating to Mt. Vernon at some point to help draw those northern residents in for service possibilities.

Next, having an executive session at the end of meetings for questions and training was discussed.

Sonya then suggested half-day training once or twice a year to help get some training for board members.

The use of a program like survey monkey to create questionnaires for employees, families, etc. in the future.

A folder was presented to the members that showed what was used to create the 2026 budget. Bill explained how it was utilized and encouraged the members to try to utilize that information and create a budget themselves.

Bill then talked about the action alert from MACDDS regarding property tax bills and call to action to contact the state legislators to express how reducing or freezing property taxes will negatively impact the population the board serves.

Kerri then supplied the approved employee wage list that was approved in November 2024 by the board. He also reminded the board that no raises were given this year due to not enough money in the budget to sustain one. He brought up the idea of providing employees a one-time payment of $1000.00 since a sustainable raise was not possible this year. The board chose to revisit this in the June meeting.

The motion was then made to go to the closed meeting by Lana Moore. Rick Moore seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

The board came out of closed meeting to decide the following:

Next board meeting will be April 9th at 6 pm.

Motion to adjourn was made by Lana Moore and seconded by Blenda Moore. All were in favor, none opposed. Adjourned at 7:51 pm.

CLOSED MEETING:

Bill started off discussing what an SB40 board is. It is a political subdivision that utilizes tax levy money to assist the developmentally disabled of the county. The tax money that is received for this becomes public funds and public funds administered by the board cannot legally pay for services that have not been provided. Bill also discussed that a board cannot go into debt to sustain a budget.

Bill then discussed that his commission ends in August of 2026 and he is not planning on signing up for another term. He wants to use his time left to help educate the board so they can continue to run as smoothly as possible.

Bill then discussed that the board is responsible to the Missouri Ethics Commission and that all it takes is an “appearance of” an ethics breach or violation to be turned in to the commission. He also informed them that side conversations, depending on what is discussed and how they are conducted, could be construed as ethics violations.

Bill then discussed that the board has one employee, the executive director. The executive director is over the remainder of the employees and board members need to let the executive director handle employee issues. He explained that the executive director keeps him informed of any employee issues, as well as any issues or concerns that come up within the agency.

It was discussed again about utilizing executive sessions at the end of meetings for questions about items/issues discussed earlier in the meeting. An example would be when grants are being requested.

Lana Moore and Sonya Messenger requested that the board members be supplied copies of Creative Therapy’s invoices, as well as a blank grant application.

Chris Freeman then talked about how it would be more helpful and easier to keep up with what is going on in the agency if the board went to monthly or bi-monthly meetings.

The next meeting date was determined and the meeting was adjourned. (See open meeting minutes)

Lawrence County Board for the Developmentally Disabled

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The Lawrence County Board for the Developmentally Disabled met on May 21, 2026, at the Lawrence County Board office at 403 E. Elm Street in Aurora, MO. Members present were Bill Alexander, Martha Pettegrew, Kristine Shanks, Lana Moore, Blenda Moore and Kami Willis. Members absent were Sonya Messenger, Chris Freeman, and Debbie Bowles. Guests present were Kerri Watson, executive director, Deanna Cecenas, Jackie Wasson, Lynda Painter, Patty Pippin, Susan Miles, Erica Thrasher, and Patrick Pettegrew.

The meeting was called to order by Bill Alexander at 6:01 pm.

The February meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Lana Moore to approve the minutes as written, and it was seconded by Martha Pettegrew. All were in favor, none opposed. Minutes were approved as written.

Kristin Shanks gave the following treasurer's report for the months of February through April 2026:

Bank of Billings

Start	Debits	Credits	Ending Balance
February $191,826.84	$147.15	0.00	$191,973.99
March $191,973.99	$38,716.94	0.00	$230,690.93
April $230,690.93	$189.61	0.00	$230,880.54

First Independent Bank

Start	Debits	Credits	Ending Balance
February $197,690.61	$18,156.00	0.00	$215,846.00
March $215,846.61	$22,795.75	0.00	$238,642.36
April $238,642.36	$35,625.20	$50,000.00	$224,267.56

Mid Missouri Bank

Start	Debits	Credits	Ending Balance
February $122,000.00	0.00	0.00	$122,000.00
March $122,000.00	$60,086.00	0.00	$182,086.00
April $182,086.00	0.00	0.00	$182,086.00

Freedom Bank

Start	Debits	Credits	Ending Balance
February $150,241.13	$1,008.38	$99,061.48	$52,188.03
March $51,688.03	$300,638.61	$189,796.76	$162,529.88
April $162,529.88	$50,915.59	$79,393.13	$134,052,34

A motion was made by Kami Willis to approve the financial report. It was seconded by Martha Pettegrew. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Bill then reviewed Tax Levy information that showed what was received in 2024, 2025, and what has been received so far in 2026. He reported that the 2027 budget will be based on 2024 tax assessment values. There will be a slight increase from what was collected in 2024 based on the levy increase that was approved last year to increase LCBDD from 0.08 to 0.10 per every $100 dollars collected. Bill also explained that there is legislation in the Missouri congress to potentially change the levy amount from 0.10 for every $100 collected to 0.10 for every $1000 collected.

Deanna from Creative Therapy spoke. She reported they have a new dance teacher and that Kati has stepped down in music therapy and thus there is a decrease in requested hours. She reported that there are 55 total Lawrence County participants: 37 in music therapy, 39 in art therapy, and 29 in dance therapy. Deanna requested $45,568.19 to be able to complete the current year of therapy services. Bill recommended approval. A motion was made by Kami Willis and was seconded by Blenda Moore. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Bill asked Lynda Painter, with the Barry Lawrence County Development Center to give a short report how things are going there. She reported that things are going well and the kids are doing good.

Bill asked Susan Miles with Champion Athletes to give a small report on how things are going with Champion Athletes. She reported that there has been a new executive director hired, but she is not going anywhere. She also stated that they are going to start life skills in this area when they can fit it in the schedule.

Bill informed the grant holders that were present (Creative Therapy, Champion Athletes and Barry Lawrence County Developmental Center) that they need to be aware that funds for the 2027 year will potentially be less due to the assessment being rates from 2024.

Bill then requested the meeting go into an executive session and the public guests left.

Bill discussed board budget has received its first two checks from the county and that the next one won't be until July and it won't be very much. He stated if the amount collected in 2024 is a potential indicator, the projected budget for 2027 will be around $668,193.00 from tax levy funds.

Bill then proposed giving all 10 staff a $1000.00 bonus from TCM funds billed through Medicaid since they were not able to receive a raise this year. Bill also explained that taxes would be withheld from this so they are not hit with a tax bill at tax time from it. A motion to give the bonus was made by Kami Willis and seconded by Martha Pettegrew. All were in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

Bill discussed a mid-Saturday morning training with board members with either him doing the training, or bringing in someone else to do it. The board stated they would prefer someone coming in from the outside to complete the training. Kerri Watson reported that there are a couple of people, Ann Graff and Dan Prather, that could be contacted to get their availability and cost for them to complete a training. The members stated they would like for Kerri to reach out and get the information.

The next meeting will be Monday, July 20th at 6 pm at the board office. Officers will need to be chosen in this meeting as Bill will not be re-signing up for another three years and a new board chairman will need to be voted in.

Lana made a motion for the meeting to adjourn and it was seconded by Kami Willis. All were in favor, none opposed and the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm.

Lawrence County Board for the Developmentally Disabled

Opening Doors Through Coordinating Services

The Lawrence County Board for the Developmentally Disabled met on July 20, 2026, at the Lawrence County Board Office at 403 E. Elm Street in Aurora, Mo. Members present were Bill Alexander, Martha Pettegrew, Kristine Shanks, Lana Moore, Blenda Moore, Kami Willis, and Sonya Messenger. Members absent were Chris Freeman. Guests present were Kerri Watson, executive director, Kodie Harris, Wanda Lefler, Janice Alexander, Patty Childress, Christen Burnett, Patric Pettegrew, Nicole Browning, Suzanne DePriest, April Fare, Patricia Stott, Lindsey Eutsler, Regina Faddis, and Sommer Schwin.

The meeting was called to order by Bill Alexander at 6:00 p.m.

The May Meeting Minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Kami Willis to approve the minutes as written, and it was seconded by Martha Pettegrew. All were in favor, none opposed. Minutes were approved as written.

Kristine Shanks gave the following treasurers report for the month of May 2026.

Bank of Billings

Start	Debits	Credits	Ending Balance
May $230,880.54	$196.09	$0.00	$231,076.63

First Independent Bank

Start	Debits	Credits	Ending Balance
May $224,267.65	$48,020.8	($50,000.00)	$222,287.84

Freedom Bank

Start	Debits	Credits	Ending Balance
May $134,052.34	$50,658.08	($78,840.69)	$105,869.73

Mid Missouri Bank

Start	Debits	Credits	Ending Balance
May $182,086.00	$0.00	0.00	$182,086.00

A motion to approve financial report was made by Kami Willis. It was seconded by Sonya Messenger. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Suzanne DePriest, supervisor of TCM (Case management) went before the board with solutions to help retain current staff, such as a raise in mileage, cola raises, and possible drug screenings.

Kami Willis proposed mileage be raised to .65 cents starting immediately. Kristine Shanks seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed.

Bill Alexander made the motion to start officer elections. Lana Moore nominated Sonya Messenger. Sonya Messenger declined, stating she did not have the time to be chairman. Sonya Messenger nominated Lana Moore for Chairman. Lana Moore declined stating she also did not have the available time. Kristine Shanks nominated Kami Willis to be chairman. Kami Willis accepted the position. Lana Moore seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed.

Sonya Messenger was nominated by Lana Moore to continue being vice chair. Blenda Moore seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

Kami Willis made the motion for Kristin Shanks to continue being the treasurer. Lana Moore seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

Lana Moore nominated Blenda Moore to be secretary. Kristine Shanks seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

Bill Alexander spoke of the Resolutions that needed to be signed.

1. Bill Alexander removed from banks, and all signing on behalf of the board.
2. Kami Willis added to all banks and will be signing documents on behalf of the board.
3. Blenda Moore to be added to the banks.
4. Martha Pettegrew is to be removed from all banks.

Kristine Shanks made motion to approve all resolutions. Lana Moore seconded. All were in favor, none opposed.

The next meeting will be on Thursday August 27th at 6:00 p.m. at the Lawrence County Board Office. Tax Levy will need to be discussed. Lana Moore made motion to adjourn, Blenda Moore seconded. All were in favor, none opposed and the meeting concluded at 7:05 p.m.