

REGULAR MEETING Minutes January 23, 2025

Members Present: Gene Harshaw; Dean Fadel; Marci Straughter; Becky Swartz; Michael Underwood

Members Virtual: Katherine Kelly, Karen Wilkins

Staff Present: Dot Yeager; Angie Franke; Gwynn Kinsel; Kathy Lawton; Larry Macintosh; Amy Magginis; David Ott; Joe Petrarca; Ryan Phillips; Rita Price; Jennifer Schueneman

The Regular meeting of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities was called to order by Board President Dean Fadel.

MINUTES

Mr. Underwood moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held on November 21, 2024, second by Ms. Straughter. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously.

Agency Updates by Superintendent/CEO Dot Yeager

Budget, Finance and Human Resources:

Superintendent/CEO Dot Yeager provided an update on the agency finances. Director of Fiscal Services Jennifer Schueneman explained our results compared to the prior year for 2024. We were at 103% of revenue due to \$2 million of funds received from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) for DSP waiver match. In our revised budget, we requested and received an increase in budget to address the increase expenditures for waiver match. With this revision, we ended up at 95% of expenditures at \$258 million. An agenda item today is for the 2025 waiver match in the amount of \$119,800,000.

In our HR report we reviewed activity for November and December 2024 – sadly, we report that Yaw Osei passed away and is missed greatly by colleagues here. We discussed program year calendars, which are Early Childhood, West Central, and Administrative and other staff. Superintendent Yeager provided reasoning of the various calendars needed. Another item discussed related to Human Resources, is the move to \$19/hour rate of pay, which is still pending with one of the bargaining units. This helps to align with the movement at the state level to have a minimum of \$19/hour rate of pay for Direct Support Professionals.

**Early Childhood
& Family Center**
2879 Johnstown Rd.
Columbus, OH 43219
614-475-0564

**Early Childhood Learning
Community**
4141 Rudy Rd.
Columbus, OH 43214
614-451-6418

Intake
1650 Watermark Dr.
Columbus, OH 43215
614-342-5490

Service Coordination
1600 Watermark Dr.
Columbus, OH 43215
614-464-2743

Transportation
2879 Johnstown Rd.
Columbus, OH 43219
614-475-5910

West Central School
1481 W. Town Street
Columbus, OH 43222
614-276-8231

24-hour abuse, neglect and emergency line: 614-464-2743

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Welcome to our new Board members

Becky Swartz is the parent of a young adult who graduated from our West Central School. Becky and her daughter assisted our efforts to promote the state-funded grants for universal, adult-sized changing tables in public spaces. Here is a link to our video where she shares how such supports make our community more accessible: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zePht7lsQVU>

Katherine Silver Kelly is a long time Special Olympics coach, special educator, attorney and is currently clinical professor of law at the Ohio State University. Her Linked In profile can be found at this link: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/katherine-silver-kelly-ba204317/>

Gene Harshaw was appointed just this week by the Franklin County Commissioners. Gene is the father of an individual served by the board. He is an insurance consultant with Nationwide Life Insurance Company and past parent mentor for Aspirations program at OSU Nisonger.

Family Support

The Family Support meeting led by the superintendent was to be held this past Wednesday, January 22 at Noon (12 p.m.) via Zoom, however due to a facility issue the meeting was postponed.

State asks for feedback, suggestions on OhioISP

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities is seeking feedback on the OhioISP (Individual Service Plan), the standardized template now used for service plan documents in Franklin and all Ohio counties.

State officials say they want to build on OhioISP successes and work to make the processes better. "We recognize that no system is perfect, and there's always room for growth," the department said. "That's why DODD invites you to share your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions to improve the OhioISP template and process."

People with developmental disabilities, families, providers and system professionals are invited to weigh in. To share your input:

- Complete a brief survey: Share your feedback based on your role in the system. Your input will directly inform updates to the OhioISP. [Complete the survey here.](#)
- Join an in-person feedback session: Attend a session to discuss your suggestions directly with DODD and other participants. Register at this link: <http://reg.planetreg.com/E110103128131254>.

Program Year Calendars for 2025/2026

Calendars for the 2025/2026 Program Year (July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026) will be considered by the Board at the January 23, 2025 meeting.

Annual Action Plan Draft

A draft of the Franklin County DD Annual Action Plan for 2025 will be presented to Board Members for review. It is consistent with the board's long term strategic plan and has incorporated feedback, including the community survey results and focus group meeting held in December. A public hearing will be held on February 4 at 5 p.m. at 2879 Johnstown Road, for comment and inclusion in the plan.

Polar Plunge

This year's Polar Plunge fundraiser for Special Olympics will be held on February 8, 2025 at the new Crew Stadium (Lower.com field). Our Franklin County Special Olympics volunteers generally lead others in their fundraising totals.

Advocacy

Self-Advocacy Advisory Committee

The SAAC planned to meet on Thursday, January 16, 2025 to review plans for the 2025 year, however the meeting was postponed. Ryan Phillips, Director of Communications, Advocacy and Community Relations will look at rescheduling the meeting.

March DD Awareness Month

DD Awareness and Advocacy Day will be held at the Ohio Statehouse on March 4, 2025 at 10 a.m. Registration fills up quickly and begins on January 17, 2025. If board members need assistance registering for the event, please let Amy Magginis know. We look forward to seeing you at the Statehouse!

2025 Legislative Advocacy Day – April 4, 2025

Christine Brown and the Franklin County DD Self-Advocate Advisory Council with Ryan Phillips, Director of Communications, Advocacy and Community Relations are coordinating the 2025 Legislative Advocacy Day on April 4, 2025 at 10 a.m. The location is the Columbus Metropolitan Library's Main branch at 96 S. Grant Avenue, Columbus, where free parking will be offered.

RESOLUTIONS

- a. Mr. Underwood moved to ratify bill payments approved by the Superintendent as presented to the Finance Committee on January 23, 2025, second by Ms. Straughter. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Ms. Swartz moved to approve 2025/2026 Program Year Calendars, second by Ms. Wilkins. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Ms. Wilkins moved to approve the Superintendent's Professional Development Plan, second by Mr. Underwood. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously.
- d. Mr. Underwood moved to authorize Superintendent to approve the expenditure of up to \$119,800,000 that Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities is required to pay according to ORC 5126.059 and 5126.0510 for its ongoing financial commitment for Medicaid waiver match, for a period beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2025, second by Ms. Swartz. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously.
- e. Ms. Wilkins moved to authorize Superintendent to renew a contract with Hattie Larlham Center for Children with Disabilities for the Transition to Work Summer Program at a cost not to exceed \$65,200 for the period beginning February 1, 2025 through August 31, 2025, second by Ms. Straughter. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously.
- f. Mr. Harshaw moved to authorize Superintendent to auction vehicles that have become obsolete or unfit for public use as prescribed by ORC 1207.12(E) using Govdeals.com through Franklin County Public Facilities Management or through private auction, second by Ms. Swartz. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously.

- g. Ms. Swartz moved to renew the Ohio SIBS sponsorship in amount not to exceed \$2,000, on an annual basis, second by Mr. Underwood. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously.
- h. Ms. Swartz moved to approve revisions to Board policy 11.23 Technology and Equipment Usage second by Ms. Wilkins. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously.
- i. Mr. Underwood moved to go to bid to replace transportation garage bus lift, second by Ms. Wilkins. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – No unfinished business.

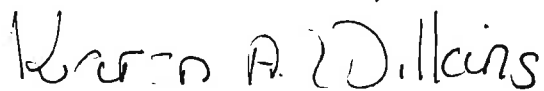
NEW BUSINESS – No new business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Board member Marci Straughter shared that she will speak at a conference in either South or North Dakota (virtually) in August, 2025 related to independence and how technology can assist. Angel Sense, DODD and Marci are working on the presentation.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC - There were no members of the public heard.

Ms. Wilkins moved to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Wilkins
Secretary

KW/am