

REGULAR MEETING Minutes February 27, 2025

Members Present: Gene Harshaw; Dean Fadel; Marci Straughter; Becky Swartz; Karen Wilkins

Members Virtual: Katherine Kelly, Michael Underwood

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

Ms. Straughter moved to approve the organizational and regular minutes meetings held on January 23, 2025, second by Ms. Wilkins. (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 for the current reporting period ending January 31, 2025. In 2025, we have \$242 million in revenue expected and \$288 million in expenditures, because of our cash balance, we are able to have a budget where revenues are less than expenditures. Our 2025 expenditures include \$119.8 million for Medicaid match which was approved at the January 2025 meeting.

To date we have received \$445,000 in revenue and \$33.2 million in expenditures, including \$25 million in for Medicaid match. We are at .2% of revenue and at 11.5% of our expenditures. Also, noting that each year, there is a review by the Auditor of State on the report to the state for how we have spent the budgeted money, known as the annual cost report. In 2022, out of \$10 million in targeted case management Medicaid claims, there was \$2077.58 in questioned costs. The underlying reasons for the questionable costs are not expected to recur, meaning that there are no real recommendations from the Auditor of State from that review. Board President Fadel has a copy of the report if you would like to review.

The finance report reflects \$75,000 from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities for the changing table grant. We drew down a progress payment from the state for this grant.

Board Member Swartz stated that there is some noted worry about the federal issues currently. Superintendent Yeager indicated that the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) is actively tracking the activity at the state and federal levels. OACB is taking a delegation to Washington D.C. and will provide information to us if there are actions that need to be taken. We have received several questions and parent/guardian volunteers regarding advocacy when needed.

The Polar Plunge raised over \$30,000 for Franklin County's special Olympics. This is a regional event. Franklin County had a great turn-out of athletes and supporters. As 'unified' sports have become more prevalent, the Polar Plunge has always been a 'unified' event. Athlete Max Damron chose the theme for this year's event. Aaron Elman carried the torch. Many Franklin County staff attended and supported the event: Ryan Phillips, Rita Price, Board Member Katherine Kelly had a team, Megan Bender, Tim Brock, Andrea Stonebraker, Avery Charles supported the athletes, Ted Koontz from the Maintenance department delivered the adult sized changing table, and Stefania Celli handed out towels.

Superintendent Yeager shared the Human Resources report. Our HR department hired six new staff and reported four resignations and two retirements. Our HR team along with department heads are monitoring vacancies as they occur and are identifying recruitment needs for different positions. Currently, we are advertising for several therapy positions that will need filled in the near future.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Family Support

Superintendent Dot Yeager held the FCBDD Family Support meeting on Wednesday, March 5 on Zoom. Topics covered included: 2025 Annual Action Plan draft and upcoming Legislative Advocacy Day. Also, announced an event, Charting the LifeCourse program will be held on March 27, 2025, here at administration in collaboration with Family Resource Network of Ohio.

2025 Annual Action Plan

The final draft of the Franklin County DD Annual Action Plan for 2025 will be presented to the Board for approval today. The plan has incorporated feedback from the community survey, focus group meetings and discussion with community partners. It is consistent with the board's long term strategic plan. Noted continued commitment to the blended early childhood program for children under three years of age.

Advocacy

Self-Advocacy Advisory Committee

The SAAC plans to meet on Thursday, March 13, 2025. Ryan Phillips, Director of Communications, Advocacy and Community Relations, will lead the group.

March DD Awareness Month

The Board will be asked to pass a resolution to declare March as DD Awareness Month.

Columbus Museum of Art will host a DD Awareness event on March 26 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will have a docent on hand to assist. Special thanks to self-advocate Jeremy Pauley and Ryan Phillips for setting this up.

2025 Legislative Advocacy Day – April 4, 2025 (FLYER) 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 Friday, April 4, 2025 at 10 a.m. The location is the Columbus Metropolitan Library's Main branch at 96 S. Grant Avenue, Columbus, where parking will be free. Director Hauck is expected to present on the state budget. Local legislators have been invited to attend.

Save the Date!

Plans are underway for the 2025 Community Star Awards – October 8, 2025

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>.

Franklin County DD Staff Survey

Over 400 staff responded to the first-ever agency-wide anonymous staff survey. The questions with the highest response were: 1) My immediate supervisor cares about me as a person, 2) overall I am happy with my job and enjoy working here and 3) I am proud of the quality of service we provide. Questions with the lowest responses were: 1) my feedback is sought, and my opinions are valued, 2) workplace culture supports health/ well-being and 3) leaders support employee development and growth. The Franklin County DD management team met on February 13 to review the responses and individual comments to identify themes and preliminary ideas about future action items. I have also been meeting with staff, upon their request, either individually or in small groups, to get additional insight into the responses.

RESOLUTIONS

- a. Ms. Straughter moved to ratify bill payments approved by the Superintendent as presented to the Finance Committee on February 27, 2025, second by Ms. Wilkins. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Ms. Wilkins moved to declare March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, second by Ms. Swartz. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Ms. Wilkins moved to adopt the 2024 Progress Report and 2025 Annual Action Plan, second by Ms. Straughter. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously.

- d. Ms. Straughter moved for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities to agree to the written policies and procedures in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA) and the Ohio Operating Standards for Ohio Educational Agencies Serving Children with Disabilities, second by Ms. Wilkins. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously.
- e. Ms. Wilkins moved to approve the sponsorship of Franklin County Public Health's ACEs, PACEs & ADDICTION 2025 Summit on July 21, 2025 in the amount not to exceed \$2,500, second by Ms. Straughter. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously.
- f. Mr. Underwood moved to amend agreement with Easterseals Central and Southeast Ohio, Inc. to add Home Based Early Intervention services from March 1, 2025 through July 31, 2025 to serve 87 children, and to revise the not-to-exceed amount to \$1,182,594, second by Ms. Straughter. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously.
- g. Ms. Wilkins moved to renew agreement with Bridgeway Academy for the period beginning June 1, 2025 and ending May 31, 2026, for Payor of Last Resort pilot project for Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), psychology and therapy services for approximately 290 children, at a cost not to exceed \$1,000,000 for Applied Behavior Analysis and psychology services; at a cost not to exceed \$340,000 for family partnership and crisis stabilization services; and at a cost not to exceed \$650,000 for therapy services at varying rates for specific services, second by Ms. Straughter. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

NEW BUSINESS –

- a. Ms. Swartz moved to renew the agreement with the Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio for adult literacy services in an amount not to exceed \$50,000, for the period beginning March 1, 2025 and ending on February 28, 2026, second by Ms. Wilkins (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins; Mr. Fadel abstained from vote) Motion carried with abstention by Mr. Fadel. This request is to renew at the current funding level for a one-year period.
- b. Mr. Underwood moved to revise Board policy 11.29 Grant Funds, second by Ms. Wilkins. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously. The revision is to establish a maximum indirect cost percentage of 10% to be applied to contracts for services that are not funded by a federal grant.
- c. Ms. Wilkins moved to settle a workers compensation matter, second by Ms. Swartz. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Board President Dean Fadel shared that Board Member Marci Straughter was on the front page of The Columbus Dispatch. Board Member Straughter shared the events she will be involved with this month for DD Awareness month, including a skit on March 4 at the Statehouse event.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC - Self-Advocate Christine Brown provided updates to the Board regarding Legislatives Advocacy Day, City of Columbus' ADA Coordinator, Smart Home Discovery Place at the

OSU Nisonger Center. Superintendent/CEO Dot Yeager indicated that Creative Housing Inc., will be asking for an RFI (Request for Information) on a pilot project for a "Try Out Tech at Home" project – stay tuned.

President Fadel moved to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Wilkins

Karen Wilkins
Secretary

KW/am