

REGULAR MEETING Minutes April 24, 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

Ms. Wilkins moved to approve the regular minutes meetings held on March 27, 2025, second by Ms. Swartz. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion 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 March 31, 2025.

We are at 46% of revenue and at 23% of expenditures. Expenditures by program category for the first quarter were also discussed and are at or below 25%, as expected.

Superintendent Yeager shared the Human Resources report for the month of March, 2025. There were 3 resignations; 1 retirement; and 1 hire with others pending. This is a continual process. The HR Training Center hosted Board member Marci Straughter and DODD staff member Kelly Shuck who presented on utilizing technology, increasing safety and independence. The next HR Training is set to be on the topic of Compassion Fatigue which was a topic identified through our staff survey as a need.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Advocacy

Self-Advocacy Advisory Committee

The SAAC met on Thursday, April 10. Ryan Phillips, Director of Communications, Advocacy and Community Relations hosted the group off-site at the opening of the new Blendon Woods Metro Park Inclusive Playground. This is an exclusive/inclusive area that can be set up by reservation. Thanks to Franklin County DD's grant for changing tables, a universal changing table is available in the shelter adjacent to the playground. Special thanks to Communications Coordinator Rita Price for spearheading the changing spaces grant.

2025 Legislative Advocacy Day

Christine Brown and the Franklin County DD Self-Advocate Advisory Council with Ryan Phillips, Director of Communications, Advocacy and Community Relations hosted the 2025 Legislative Advocacy Day on April 4, 2025 at 10 a.m. at the Columbus Metropolitan Library's Main branch at 96 S. Grant Avenue, Columbus. Special thanks to Jacke Dowling from OACB; Dana Charlton of OSDA; and legislators and their staff attending.

Spring Recess for Early Childhood Education, West Central School and Transportation

This is Spring Break week for the center-based preschool programs and for West Central School are scheduled from Monday, April 21 through 25, returning to school on April 28

2025 Community Star Awards

Save the date for the evening of October 8, 2025 at the Boat House at Confluence Park for Franklin County DD's Community Star Awards event. The Star Award nomination process will be published in the May Dateline and includes an online nomination form this year.

1650 Watermark Planning – changes ahead

The Intake and Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Departments have occupied leased space next door to 1600 Watermark where our Service Coordination Department has been housed since early 2010. Last year the Franklin County DD Psychology Department transitioned administratively to ARC Industries, but has continued to operate out of their Johnstown Road offices. The Psychology team will move to the ARC offices on Airport Drive in the summer of 2025. The MUI Department, which began reporting to Legal Counsel effective January 2025, will relocate to the former psychology space at Johnstown Road in Fall of 2025. Renovations are needed to 1600 Watermark to accommodate the move of the Intake Department. Feedback from Service Coordination and Intake staff about the move is encouraged. To create additional capacity for "hot desking" options, spaces at Johnstown Road are being explored. The move of the two departments will allow Franklin County DD to cease leasing the 1650 Watermark space and save \$250,000 annually. The request to go to bid for the needed improvements is on the April 24 agenda.

Bitty and Beau's in Upper Arlington opens

A new coffee shop has opened in Upper Arlington, near what is known as the Kingsdale shopping area. This is a national chain that focuses on hiring those individuals having developmental disabilities, providing a community job opportunity. The owner's recognized that approximately 80% of those with intellectual developmental disabilities (IDD) are unemployed. The grand opening is set for May 3.

Superintendent's "Out and About"

April:

- Creative Housing's vacancy tour
- FCCS Childhood Abuse Breakfast

- OSU Nisonger Smart Home tour
- Blendon Woods "Exclusive/Inclusive" accessible playground grand opening
- Staff survey feedback meetings at Service Coordination

RESOLUTIONS

- a. Mr. Underwood moved to ratify bill payments approved by the Superintendent as presented to the Finance Committee on April 24, 2025, second by Ms. Straughter. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Ms. Wilkins moved to authorize the Superintendent to renew an agreement with The Ohio State University for the OSU Buckeye Behavior Support program, in an amount not to exceed, \$93,569 from August 1, 2025 through July 31, 2026, second by Ms. Straughter. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Kelly (abstain); Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried with abstention by Ms. Kelly.
- c. Ms. Swartz moved to authorize the Superintendent to enter into the fourth amendment of the Agreement with the Columbus Regional Airport Authority from August 1, 2005, to extend the lease of the property at 2879 Johnstown Road, from August 1, 2025 through July 31, 2030, in an annual amount not to exceed the noted amounts per year charted below, second by Ms. Straughter (Vote of Yes: (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins; Fadel). Motion carried unanimously. This property is for the bus lot and backside parking lot at Administration and is owned by the airport.

8/1/2025-7/31/2026	\$57,168.71
8/1/2026-7/31/2027	\$58,883.77
8/1/2027-7/31/2028	\$60,650.28
8/1/2028-7/31/2029	\$62,469.79
8/1/2029-7/31/2030	\$64,343.88
- d. Mr. Underwood moved to authorize the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with Franklin County, Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services transitional housing pilot project, second by Ms. Straughter. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously.
- e. Mr. Underwood moved to approve the changes to Board Policy 11.25 Purchasing, second by Ms. Swartz. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously.
- f. Mr. Harshaw moved to approve the changes to Board Policy 4.2 Probation, second by Ms. Swartz. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously.
- g. Mr. Underwood moved to authorize the Superintendent to go to bid for building improvements for 1600 Watermark for relocation of the Intake Department, second by Ms. Straughter. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – none

NEW BUSINESS –

a. Ms. Swartz moved to authorize the Superintendent to extend for 12 months, beginning May 25, 2025, at the rate of \$196.71 per month, for the Canon multi-function device, based on State of Ohio State Term Schedule 800546, to coincide with the lease termination dates of the other equipment in the fleet, seconded by Mr. Harshaw. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS -

Board member Ms. Straughter announced the Tech Ambassadors will host a meeting at the Hilliard Library on May 21, 2025.

The Synergy Conference is scheduled for October, 2025.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC -

Christine Brown provided updates and thanked those that attended Legislative Advocacy Day. There is a meeting to review outcomes. Board President Fadel agreed that the library was a great venue for this event. Ms. Brown also thanked the board members and Franklin County DD staff who were able to tour the Nisonger Smart Home/ Discovery Place, Early Intervention center and the Dental Clinic. In January, 2026, the self-waiver will be in all 3 waivers. Vehicle modifications will be redefined July 1, 2025, changes will occur in December, 2025. DODD will possibly plan to attend the Franklin County DD Provider Fair this year (scheduled for Sept. 2). Discussion on the differences between SSA; Service Coordinators and Support Brokers will be happening. Clarity on Medicaid Work requires is needed, what is 'able-bodied'? Clearer language and definitions are needed.

President Fadel moved to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Wilkins
Secretary

KW/am