

REGULAR MEETING Minutes March 27, 2025

Members Present: Gene Harshaw; Dean Fadel; Katherine Kelly; Marci Straughter;
Karen Wilkins; Michael Underwood

Members Excused: Becky Swartz

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 meeting held on February 27, 2025, second by Ms. Straughter. 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 February 28, 2025. Ms. Yeager provided an update on the 5-Year Cost Projection required by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) is due to be submitted by April 1, 2025. We work closely as a team to forecast Medicaid Match. Special thanks to Director of Administrative Services Larry Macintosh, Director of Service Coordination Lee Childs and Director of Fiscal Services Jennifer Schueneman for working together to forecast Medicaid Match. Currently, we are at .7% of revenue and at 17.4% of our expenditures.

Superintendent Yeager shared the Human Resources report. Our HR department hired three new staff and reported two resignations. Our agency's Operation Feed campaign will kick off in April, historically our staff have strongly supported this effort. The insurance committee met and good ideas were generated from that meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Family Support

Superintendent Dot Yeager held the March Family Support meeting, which included the following topics: the 2023 DSP wage survey results; 2025 waiver amendments; 2025 Legislative Advocacy Day on April 4; and the upcoming events related to March 2025 DD Awareness month.

An in-person **Charting the LifeCourse** overview for families was held this morning (March 27) at 10:30 a.m. at Johnstown Road. The Family Resource Network of Ohio (FRNO) provided the training.

Advocacy

Self-Advocate Advisory Committee

The SAAC met on Thursday, March 13. Ryan Phillips, Director of Communications, Advocacy and Community Relations, led the group. Focus remained on preparation for Legislative Advocacy Day, as well as opportunities to reflect on "What is Important to Me."

March DD Awareness Month event at the Statehouse was well attended. Board member Marci Straughter participated in a role play/ skit for the event. Participants were able to schedule meetings with legislators to discuss their concerns.

March 26 – Columbus Museum of Art hosted DD Awareness Day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Individuals, family and providers were not charged for admission and hundreds attended. Self-Advocate Jeremy Pauley was integral in setting up this event. There was great feedback on the event.

Reminder: 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.

DODD Waiver Work Group – Marci Straughter and Christine Brown participated in the quarterly meeting to discuss Medicaid waiver changes to take effect July 2026, including adding PDGS to IO, and to also describe the difference between support broker and SSA roles.

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

Friday, April 18 is a parent/teacher/virtual day for the school programs, Transportation staff will have an in-service. Spring Break 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.

Food Drive-Through at ECEFC and ECLC

Both Early Childhood Education on Johnstown Road and Early Childhood Learning Community (ECLC) on Rudy Road are now both hosting Food Drive-Through events monthly in collaboration with Mid-Ohio Food Collective. Johnstown Road continues to be on the third Thursday of each month and Rudy Road (ECLC) is on the third Wednesday of the month.

Franklin County DD Learning Center

Franklin County DD Human Resources department will have a virtual presentation on Assistive Technology in April, with Franklin County DD Board member Marci Straughter and Kelly Shuck from DODD.

OACB Spring Conference at the Hilton Downtown

The Ohio Association of County Boards Spring Conference will be held on May 8 & 9, 2025 at the Columbus Downtown – Hilton. Registration deadline is April 25. Board Members can contact Amy Magginis for assistance in registering for this event.

Superintendent's "Out and About"

March:

- (rescheduled) Read to several classrooms at Early Childhood Learning Community – Rudy Road
- Attended Columbus City Council with Board Member Marci Straughter and Self-Advocate Christine Brown, declaring March as DD Awareness Month
- Attended Legislative Advocacy Day at the Statehouse
- Attended superintendent discussion about waiting list rule changes proposed by State of Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and met with Director Hauck and staff, as well as discussions about pending legislation
- Visited Jackson Middle school collaborative classroom in South-Western City Schools
- Participated in Self-Advocate Advisory Council meeting
- Charting the LifeCourse overview is scheduled on March 27

RESOLUTIONS

- a. Mr. Underwood moved to ratify bill payments approved by the Superintendent as presented to the Finance Committee on March 27, 2025, second by Ms. Wilkins. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Ms. Wilkins moved to authorize the Superintendent to renew a contract with The Ohio State University Nisonger Center for dental services for a one-year term, ending June 30, 2026, for an amount not to exceed \$396,459, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried with abstention by Ms. Kelly.
- c. Mr. Underwood moved to authorize the Superintendent to renew a contract with The Ohio State University Nisonger Center for clinical support services at an hourly rate of \$118.20, not to exceed the amount of \$300,000, for the period beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried with abstention by Ms. Kelly.
- d. Mr. Harshaw moved to authorize the Superintendent to renew a contract with The Ohio State University Nisonger Center for the PIECE Transition Services project for the period beginning August 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, not to exceed the amount of \$57,743, second by Mr. Underwood. Motion carried with abstention by Ms. Kelly.
- e. Ms. Wilkins moved to authorize the Superintendent to renew a contract with The Ohio State University Nisonger Center for behavior support services, not to exceed the amount of \$2.1 million,

for the period beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$118.20, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried with abstention of Ms. Kelly.

- f. Mr. Underwood moved to authorize the Superintendent to renew a contract with The Ohio State University Nisonger Center for social support and recreation services, including Next Chapter Book Club, not to exceed the amount of \$224,290, for the period beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried with abstention of Ms. Kelly.
- g. Ms. Wilkins moved to increase YMCA early intervention services from the amount of \$146,792.73 to \$165,575 to better align with early intervention best practices, second by Ms. Straughter Motion carried unanimously.
- h. Resolution to authorize the superintendent to enter into an agreement with Franklin County, Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services transitional housing pilot project. Resolution was tabled.
- i. Ms. Wilkins moved to approve changes to Board Policy 11.23 Equipment Usage, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried unanimously.
- j. Mr. Underwood moved to accept landscape bid from The Clover Landscape, LLC, for an estimate of \$107,919.64 for mowing and landscaping, for a three year term, April 1, 2025 through February 28, 2028, at fixed rates per service (per mow, spring clean-up, fall clean-up etc.) with the option of three additional one-year extensions at 1% maximum increase each year, second by Ms. Wilkins. Motion carried unanimously.
- k. Ms. Wilkins moved to sponsor The Center for Disability Empowerment in celebrating the 35- year anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on July 11, 2025, in the amount of \$2500.00, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – none

NEW BUSINESS – none

ANNOUNCEMENTS –

Board Member Marci Straughter testified for the health committee about being on this board, DSPs and technology. Marci gave a demonstration on technology at Delaware County Board of DD and was keynote speaker for their self-advocacy group.

Superintendent/CEO Dot Yeager announced that Blendon Woods Metro Park has installed an inclusive playground. Franklin County DD participated in the effort by using state grant money to install a universal changing area. The grand opening is to be held on April 10th at 10 a.m.

Ryan Phillips,

Marci Straughter and Christine Brown taped a segment with Spectrum News. Ryan will visit the Gahanna Next Chapter Book club next week. Board President Dean Fadel was a facilitator of one of the book clubs and commented on the community gathering nature of the event, which utilized Starbucks in Bexley. This is now an international program.

Board member Gene Harshaw announced that there is an autism friendly open mic at Gatsby's in Gahanna every 2nd Sunday at 2:00 p.m. It started 2 ½ years ago. It was inspired by Band-Together Pittsburgh program. It is not a contest or talent show, people can have their time on stage. It is

expanding into other Ohio areas as well. Autism Society of Columbus (ASCO) provides pizza for everyone.

Michele Jamison, Director of Operations for Freedom Family Healthcare introduced herself.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC -

Self-Advocate Christine Brown provided updates on various topics: Christine shared information that explains earned, unearned and accounted income, Medicaid buy-in and workability (65 and older). The Social Security Administration Windfall Elimination Provision affects Medicaid benefits, following passage of the federal Social Security Fairness Act. Connie's Law to address this gap. Representative Lett in Franklin County is leading the effort to pass. Effective July 1, 2025, Vehicle modifications will be a waiver service. We are excited about the Legislative Advocacy Day on April 4.

President Fadel moved to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Wilkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen Wilkins
Secretary

KW/am

