

REGULAR MEETING Minutes July 24, 2025

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

Members Excused: Katherine Kelly; Michael Underwood

Members Virtual: Karen Wilkins

Staff Present: Dot Yeager; Angie Franke; Gwynn Kinsel; Larry Macintosh; Amy Magginis; Joe Petrarca; Rita Price; Elizabeth Roberto; 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 regular meeting minutes held on June 26, 2025, second by Ms. Swartz. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Straughter; Swartz; 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 June, 2025. The budget remains on track at 52.8% of revenue and at 44.3% of expenditures. Director of Fiscal Services Jennifer Schueneman and her team are working on 2026 agency budget, due to Franklin County Office of Management and Budget on August 8. The Waiver match is a large portion of that. Currently, we are at or below budget this year. New guidelines from the county include a baseline adjustment of \$2 million less for the 2026 budget, to account for the uncertainty in federal and state funding.

Superintendent Yeager shared the Human Resources report for the month of June, 2025. Activity is what would be expected for the month of May and summertime. Human Resources is gearing up for Fall and the return of seasonal staff. Superintendent/CEO Yeager introduced Elizabeth Roberto, Contracts Coordinator in our Legal Department. Amy Comford is the new West Central School Principal, replacing Rebecca Holthaus who recently retired.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Advocacy

National initiatives: Advocates, families urged to contact Congress this week

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 43223
614-276-8231

The proposed federal budget recommends drastic cuts or elimination of funding to [Disability Rights Ohio](#), the [Ohio State University Nisonger Center](#) and the [University of Cincinnati Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities](#). These programs provide vital services – education, dental care, early intervention services, rights investigations and more – that help more than 40,000 Ohioans live safer, healthier, more independent lives.

There's still time to make your voice heard during this Week of Action (July 14-18). Call, email, write a letter, or send a message to your member of Congress urging them to fully fund disability programs and reject cuts.

Learn more or take action here: https://secure.everyaction.com/3m4Mh5xAbkWFUIgvKoQK_A2

Statewide Collaborative: Funding for the Future workshop series

Board Member Marci Straughter and Superintendent/CEO Dot Yeager will join approximately 20 representatives from across the state for this workshop series. This four-part in-person workshop series is designed for county boards to collaboratively explore and address the long-term fiscal sustainability of the state's DD service delivery system, and in particular, the sustainability of county board funding streams and system expectations. The series brings together superintendents, business managers, SSA directors, board members, and people with developmental disabilities to examine funding risks, surface specific challenges, and propose bold, creative solutions.

ARC Industries now ARC Voyagers

ARC Industries is transitioning to ARC Voyagers, a name and brand to better reflect who ARC is today and where they are heading. The rebranding is more than just a name and logo, it signals the evolving mission to provide integrated, person-centered services that meet the needs of individuals across all walks of life.



ARC and Guardianship Restoration Grant

"Pathways to Progress: Community Outreach and Family Engagement for Individuals with DD" is a grant that would fund guardianship restoration classes for 40 individuals. Jeff Marinko-Shrivers will work with Christine Brown and OSDA to identify Restoration Advocates (either individuals who have developmental disabilities or those who support people with intellectual disabilities). This is a letter of support as a collaborator with no request for county board funding.

CORE Leadership to visit on-site

The leadership from CORE Solutions, Inc. will be visiting on-site at the end of July. CORE is the new case management system (CX360). This solution is expected to streamline the daily administrative tasks of over 200 service coordinators, so they can have more time to focus on the people we serve. This in-person visit will give the opportunity to develop meaningful relationships with the vendor.

Upcoming dates to note:

Franklin County DD Provider Fair

Save the date for September 2, 2025 for the Franklin County DD Provider Fair at the Ohio State Fairgrounds.

Community Star Awards 2025

October 8, 2025 at The Boathouse at Confluence Park. Blue Spectrum will provide entertainment.

RESOLUTIONS

(Due to virtual attendance of a board member, it is required to conduct a roll-call vote for each resolution).

- a. Ms. Wilkins moved to ratify bill payments approved by the Superintendent as presented to the Finance Committee on July 24, 2025, second by Ms. Straughter. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Straughter; Swartz; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Mr. Harshaw moved to authorize the Superintendent to renew agreement with The Learning Spectrum to provide medically necessary therapeutic services, which are not included in the child's Individual Education Plan and which exceed the service limits imposed by the child's health insurance coverage, to children with developmental disabilities who are not enrolled in a Medicaid waiver program, at various per-child, per-unit rates; including, but not limited to, occupational and speech therapy services, and summer program costs for the period beginning September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026, not to exceed \$120,000, second by Ms. Straughter. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Straughter; Swartz; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Mr. Harshaw moved to authorize the Superintendent to renew agreement with Dynamic Pathways for Human Rights Committee management consulting services beginning September 1, 2025 and ending August 31, 2026 for a total amount not-to-exceed \$171,000, second by Ms. Straughter. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Straughter; Swartz; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously.
- d. Ms. Swartz moved to authorize Superintendent to renew agreement with Children's Center for Developmental Enrichment for early intervention services beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, for total amount not to exceed \$140,000, second by Mr. Harshaw. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Straughter; Swartz; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously.
- e. Ms. Wilkins moved to authorize the Superintendent to accept the bid from T-Built Construction, Inc. for improvements to 1600 Watermark Drive in an amount of \$229,500 with a contingency of \$23,000, second by Ms. Swartz. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Straughter; Swartz; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously. Superintendent/CEO Yeager indicated that this was the lowest and best bid for phase 1. Phase 2 will include the universal changing space.
- f. Ms. Wilkins moved to authorize the Superintendent to go to bid for improvements to Early Childhood Learning Community, second by Ms. Harshaw. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Straughter; Swartz; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously. Egress and sprinkler modifications to 4141 Rudy Road are necessary due to serving children under the age of three.
- g. Mr. Harshaw moved to authorize the Superintendent to amend the November 2024 agreement with the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio, approving additional funds, in the amount of \$15,000 for the period from August 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025, second by Ms. Wilkins. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Straughter; Swartz; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously. This amount will serve an additional 60 individuals.
- h. Ms. Wilkins moved to authorize the Superintendent to enter into agreement with the State of Ohio for Internet Assistance. This agreement will help offset the cost of the broadband project with Creative Housing, Inc. and usage of contingency funds announced in the June 2025 meeting, second by Ms. Straughter. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Straughter; Swartz; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously.
- i. Mr. Harshaw moved to authorize Superintendent to enter into agreement with Family and Children First Council (FCFCFC) for funding Early Intervention for the period from July 1, 2025 through June

30, 2026 in the amount of \$821,988, second by Ms. Straughter. (Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Straughter; Swartz; Wilkins; Fadel) Motion carried unanimously. These are funds that we have not received. OACB was integral in advocating for the funding of county boards of DD direct provision of evaluation and service coordination in the budget process. These funds will be used to support evaluations of children under the age of three.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – none

NEW BUSINESS – none

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Board member Marci Straughter provided an update on the Independent Living Council's trek to Washington D.C. She was part of a march of individuals with disabilities and care providers from the hotel to Capitol Hill for a rally. Senator Bernie Sanders spoke in support. Ms. Straughter will return to Washington D.C. in September to visit with legislators. Ms. Straughter reported that the Tech First meeting went well with representation by Self-Advocate Christine Brown and Board Member Marci Straughter with OACB and other organizations. There will be an OACB event for individuals, families and providers with updates on the state budget and things happening at DODD.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC: Self-Advocate Christine Brown provided an update on the Waiver workgroup. Part of the ISP package is that testing for dementia will begin at 18 years of age. The Support Broker rule goes into effect on January 1, 2026, there may be a conflict of interest using the same service provider for more than one service; Medicaid rules require free choice of provider. More discussion is needed about Medicaid and increasing the unearned income disregard.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Wilkins
Secretary

KW/am