



Helping people to live, learn, and work in our community

Dot Yeager
Superintendent/CEO
fcbdd.org

Administration
2879 Johnstown Rd.
Columbus, OH 43219
614-475-6440

REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
January 22, 2026

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

Board Member Excused: Katherine Kelly; Karen Wilkins

Staff Present: Dot Yeager; Gwynn Kinsel; Larry Macintosh; Amy Magginis; Elizabeth Roberto;
Jennifer Schueneman; Lee Childs; Rita Price; Ryan Phillips

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

MINUTES

Ms. Swartz moved to approve the regular meeting minutes held on December 4, 2025, second by
Ms. Straughter. Motion carried unanimously.

Agency Updates by Superintendent/CEO Dot Yeager

Budget & Finance:

Superintendent/CEO Dot Yeager provided agency finance updates. Financial results through the end of
December, 2025 were \$240M in revenue, \$270M in expenditures. There was a \$30 million dollar
difference, we budgeted for a \$45M difference, results were more favorable than planned. We have a
cash balance to address the shortfall. We are in the latter phase of levy cycle and common to have
revenue flat and expenditures increase. Also, on the agenda is a resolution for the estimate for
Medicaid Waiver match. That amount is \$120M comparatively to \$117M last year. We will closely
monitor to be sure that the authorizations are as reflective of actual activity as possible. The 2023 Cost
Report Audit results are in, corrective action plan that will be submitted to DODD to address 800,000
units of TCM resulting in a very nominal amount of findings for small amount of errors.

Human Resources:

Superintendent/CEO Dot Yeager provided agency Human Resource updates reviewing
7 bus drivers were hired, pleased to grow the capacity in our Transportation Department.
David Ott's last board meeting; Shemaine Bakir, new HR Director begins work on March 2, 2026. The
team will look forward to her start date. Joe Petrarca, Director of Educational and Shared Services has
resigned. We have forwarded the OAPSE agreement to the County Commissioners for consideration.

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
1600 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

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

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Advocacy

Self-Advocacy Advisory Committee

The SAAC will meet on Thursday, January 15, 2026 to review plans for the 2026 year. Ryan Phillips, Director of Communications, Advocacy and Community Relations will lead the group.

March DD Awareness Month

Franklin Park Conservatory Community Day – March 1, 2026

Conservatory admission is free to residents of Columbus and Franklin County on the first Sunday of every month. This year, the theme for the March Community Day will be Autism and Arts. Participants of Band Together (autism/disability friendly open mic group), including Blue Spectrum, will perform throughout the day. A resource fair will also be held with 8 different organizations serving those with autism. A changing table is available.

Ohio Statehouse DD Awareness & Advocacy Day Kick Off – March 4, 2026

DD Awareness and Advocacy Day will be held at the Ohio Statehouse on March 4, 2026 at 10 a.m. Registration fills up quickly and will open in late January. If board members need assistance registering for the event, please let Amy Magginis know. We look forward to seeing you at the Statehouse!

Columbus Museum of Art – March 12

Franklin County DD Day at the Columbus Museum of Art from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Open Door, March 6-7 have been working with OSU graduate students, stage and screen component. They will be performing at OSU – Barnett Theater “Stitching a Quilt of Armor”

Inclusion Seekers

We are pleased to announce our collaboration with the Starfire Council to launch an Inclusion Seekers program. Starfire Council has led several of these initiatives in other counties. The goal is to create more inclusive lives and local connections with people with disabilities and their families. The first phase is a virtual learning series open to families, staff and providers. The second phase will include micro-projects for 10 children and adults and their families to expand their individual community.

Franklin County Special Olympics Polar Plunge

This year's Polar Plunge fundraiser for Special Olympics will be held on February 7, 2026 at a new location: the Fortress Obetz. Our Franklin County Special Olympics volunteers generally lead others in their fundraising totals.

1650 Watermark Move

After successful renovation, Franklin County DD's Intake department moved from their offices at 1650 Watermark Drive to the main Service Coordination building at 1600 Watermark Drive on January 12, 2026. The Major Unusual Incident (MUI) department had relocated to 2879 Johnstown Road in mid-December. Many thanks to those departments, as well as the Facilities and Information Technology teams for making this happen.

2026 Annual Action Plan being drafted

The Franklin County DD 2026 Annual Action Plan / Progress report is being drafted and will be presented to Board Members for review. It is consistent with the board's long term strategic plan and

will incorporate feedback, including the community survey results and focus group meeting that was held in December. A public hearing will be held on January 28 at 4 p.m. at 2879 Johnstown Road, for comment and inclusion in the plan.

RESOLUTIONS

- a. Mr. Underwood moved to ratify bill payments approved by the Superintendent as presented to the Finance Committee on January 22, 2026, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Ms. Swartz moved to approve the Superintendent's Professional Development Plan for 2026, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Mr. Harshaw moved to authorize Superintendent to approve the expenditure of up to \$120,578,191 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, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026, second by Mr. Underwood. Motion carried unanimously.
- d. Mr. Underwood 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 \$62,886, for the period beginning February 1, 2026 through October 31, 2026, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried unanimously.
- e. Ms. Swartz 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. Straughter. Motion carried unanimously.
- f. Ms. Swartz moved to participate in and authorize META Solutions (META) to advertise and receive bids on said Board's behalf, for the cooperative purchase of four (4) 48-passenger conventional propane buses, at a cost of \$170,562 per bus and a total of \$682,240, second by Mr. Underwood. Motion carried unanimously.
- g. Mr. Harshaw moved to approve sponsorship of the Ohio SIBS 'Sibling Support Initiative' program, providing sibling support for children and teen siblings of individuals with disabilities, in Franklin County, providing for 10 spots their summer camp, in amount not to exceed \$2,000, on an annual basis, second by Ms. Swartz. Motion carried unanimously.
- h. Mr. Underwood moved to authorize Superintendent to enter into agreement with Summit Housing for development of community housing capacity, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried unanimously.
- i. Mr. Harshaw moved authorize Superintendent to approve the addendum to the Advocacy and Protective Services, Inc. Memorandum of Understanding from January 1, 2025, for guardianship and supported decision-making services, to include technical assistance, in an amount not to exceed \$90,250 for the fiscal year 2026. The original document was a Memorandum of Understanding, this addendum will change the document to reflect that it is an agreement and not a Memorandum of Understanding, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Mr. Harshaw moved to approve the revision to Board Policy 11.27 Expenditure of Agency Funds for Public Purpose, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Board Member Gene Harshaw announced that on February 1, 2026 there is a Polar Plunge 'Pre-Party' with fund-raising and silent auctions. This is held at Nocterra Brewing Company - Audubon at 161 Maier Place, Columbus.

Board Member Marci Straughter announced that the Ohio Tech Ambassadors are looking for individuals to record their stories on how technology has impacted them.

A Night to Shine is being held on Friday, February 13.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC:

Christine Brown, Self-Advocate provided updates on Property Tax concerns. State Representative Thomas is interested in getting rid of Property Taxes, Christine has asked for a plan to fund services if property taxes were removed. Her suggestion is having a Human Services tax on gas stations, restaurants, hair salons, etc. Ms. Brown indicated that those who are on a Medicaid waiver are actual workers, giving back into the community, learning job skills, using non-medical transportation. Board Member Marci Straughter and Self-Advocate Christine Brown will speak at the National Self-Advocate Conference. Ms. Brown indicated that SSAs and their teams need to learn more about the 'Low Tech' rule.

Ms. Swartz motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Wilkins

Karen Wilkins
Secretary

KW/am