



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
December 4, 2025

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

Members Virtual: Becky Swartz; Karen Wilkins

Staff Present: Dot Yeager; Gwynn Kinsel; Larry Macintosh; Amy Magginis; Joe Petrarca; Elizabeth Roberto; Jennifer Schueneman; Lee Childs

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

MINUTES

Ms. Kelly moved to approve the regular meeting minutes held on October 23, 2025, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote of yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins and Fadel.

Agency Updates by Superintendent/CEO Dot Yeager

Budget & Finance:

Superintendent/CEO Dot Yeager provided agency finance updates.

Revenues: Total revenues through October 31, 2025, were \$226 million, 93.4% of annual estimate, which is consistent as expected this time of year, since both installments of property tax collections have been received as well as state reimbursement. Expenditures are at 75% of our budget or \$216 million. Next month we will see final installment of the year for the waiver match. This is consistent with what is expected.

Projected 2026 waiver allocations will be brought to the board with the number of individuals to be enrolled on waivers in 2026. This analysis is completed by multiple departments across the agency. Approximately 300 new enrollees are expected this year.

The annual budget has been in process with Franklin County for several months, is anticipated to be approved at the December 2025 commissioners meeting.

Our budget forecast for 2026 is slightly less than in 2025. Recommendation for 2026 moving forward by county administration is \$287 million, we were able to achieve that by deferring some expenditures while not adversely impacting social service types of expenditures.

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

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

Human Resources:

The Human Resources report is typical for new hires, resignations and retirements this month. Negotiations continue related to the OAPSE agreement; we have a tentative agreement with the union members and expect that union members will ratify next week. Once union members vote to ratify, we will then send the agreement to Franklin County Commissioners for consideration.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Michael Underwood and Marci Straughter reappointed to board

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners reappointed Michael Underwood and Marci Straughter to the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities at their meeting on November 18, 2025. Mike will begin his third four year term on the board and Marci will begin her second term four year. Marci Straughter was elected as a trustee to the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB). Congrats to Marci and Mike.

Advocacy

Trunk or Treat

The second annual disability-friendly “Trunk or Treat” event, held October 29 at Johnstown Road, was a big hit: despite the frightful weather – hundreds of people turned out. Our co-sponsors included ARC Voyagers, Creative Housing | Creative Renovations, Encova Insurance, Franklin County Special Olympics and Upreach LLC. It was great to have staff members, families we serve, providers and Special Olympians passing out a variety of treats, from non-food items to healthy snacks and candy, as well as ramen noodles and other food items. Thanks to Ryan Phillips, Rita Price and all who opened their trunks. Special thanks to Brandon Grandominico in Transportation for the “Touch a Bus” experience. Board members Katherine Kelly and Becky Swartz were on hand, and Jackie Fadel represented Team Fadel. Funds raised in conjunction with this event will be directed to supporting our self-advocates.

Self-Advocate Advisory Council (SAAC)

The next SAAC meeting will be held on December 11 and will be a gift exchange.

OACB Annual Convention – November 19-21

The OACB Annual Convention was held on November 19-21 at the Easton Hilton, 3900 Chagrin Drive. Congratulations to Christine Brown, along with five other disabilities professionals, for receiving the Partners in Excellence Award for their work on the F.E.A.R. Factor training series. This training helps professionals, families and people with disabilities to better understand and overcome fears about losing benefits when pursuing employment.

2025 Community Survey Focus Group

On November 18, Ryan Phillips, Director of Communications, Advocacy and Community Relations and Superintendent Yeager hosted a focus group as a result of requests generated from the 2025 Community Survey. The annual Community Survey gives Franklin County DD feedback from families, individuals served, providers and community partners and helps direct the agency’s Annual Action Plan. This feedback will be used by Dot Yeager, Superintendent/CEO to provide a progress report on the 2025 Action Plan and draft the 2026 Action Plan.

Franklin County DD Staff Survey

Led by John Broer from Real Good Ventures, Franklin County DD’s leadership team met together to learn more about the departmental results from the recent staff survey. Each department leader will

meet with their staff to discuss results and follow-up. Overall results from the survey, which had a 72% response rate, showed the following strengths: employees feel the work they do makes the most of their talents and skills and the organization provides opportunity for learning and development. Areas that need attention include: senior leadership needs to do a better job communicating the vision for the future of the agency and to earn and hold the trust of our staff. These are very important and we will continue to work on those areas. This is a process that will continue – feedback is valued and will use it to take appropriate action.

Combined Charitable Campaign

Franklin County DD staff members gave generously to this year's Combined Charitable Campaign, pledging more than \$47,200 to help nonprofits meet important community needs. The agency zoomed past its goal of \$40,700. Franklin County DD's campaign was led by Early Childhood Education administrative specialist Anne Albrecht, who headed the effort for the first time.

Ohio ISP upload status

Kudos to those in the Service Coordination department who have worked so hard over the last twelve months to upload Ohio ISP (Individual Service Plan) to the State of Ohio. Franklin County DD has now uploaded over 6,000 Ohio ISPs. That represents 97% of the 6,181 individuals enrolled on Home and Community Based waivers. Special thanks to Crystal Schneider and everyone in Service Coordination for their hard work to achieve the goal.

RESOLUTIONS

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

- a. Mr. Underwood moved to ratify bill payments approved by the Superintendent as presented to the Finance Committee on December 4, 2025, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote of yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins and Fadel.
- b. Ms. Wilkins moved to authorize the Superintendent to renew a Memorandum of Understanding with county agency partners to provide funding and other support for youth who are served by Multiple Systems (MSY) for the period beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026, with an option to renew for one (1) additional term, ending on December 31, 2027, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried by roll call vote: Harshaw (ABSTAIN); Vote of Yes: Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins and Fadel.
- c. Ms. Wilkins moved to authorize the Superintendent to renew a contract with iamBoundless to provide services to youth who are served by Multiple Systems (MSY) for the period beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026, with an option to renew agreement for one (1) additional twelve (12) month period, commencing January 1, 2027 and ending on December 31, 2027, at an estimated amount of \$4.7 million, if all youth were served for the entire year, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried by roll call vote: Harshaw (ABSTAIN); Vote of Yes: Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins and Fadel.
- d. Mr. Underwood moved to authorize the Superintendent to renew a contract with iamBoundless to provide specialized services, family resources and other services not to exceed the amount of \$2,733,406, for a period beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026, second by Ms. Wilkins. Motion carried by roll call vote: Harshaw (ABSTAIN); Vote of Yes: Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins and Fadel.

*included in this proposal is \$620,317 in capital improvements that were approved in 2025 but will be completed in 2026. Additionally, \$483,026 to complete additional unexpected field conditions that arose and needed to fully complete the improvements. (The total amount is \$2,733,406)

- e. Ms. Wilkins moved to authorize the Superintendent to enter into contract for facility-based respite services, including emergency respite, with iamBoundless for the period beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026 for homemaker personal care and room and board, not otherwise reimbursed by Medicaid, in an amount not to exceed \$1,610,000, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried by roll call vote: Harshaw (ABSTAIN); Vote of Yes: Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins and Fadel.
- f. Ms. Wilkins moved to authorize the Superintendent to renew agreement with iamBoundless to provide enhanced in-home respite, not otherwise reimbursed by Medicaid, not to exceed \$100,000, for the period beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026, second by Mr. Underwood. Motion carried by roll call vote: Harshaw (ABSTAIN); Vote of Yes: Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins and Fadel.
- g. Ms. Wilkins moved to authorize the Superintendent to renew a contract with Creative Housing to provide housing, rent subsidy, family home renovations, and other services not to exceed the amount of \$7,408,772, for a period beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026, second by Ms. Swartz. Motion carried by roll call vote: Straughter (ABSTAIN); Vote of Yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins and Fadel.
- h. Ms. Swartz moved to authorize the Superintendent to renew vehicle, liability, violence and property insurance coverage with the Ohio School Plan, for the period beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$165,150, second by Ms. Wilkins. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote of yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins and Fadel.
- i. Ms. Wilkins moved to authorize the Superintendent to renew an agreement with Goodwill Columbus for adult day services, in an amount not to exceed \$1,345,401, of which \$595,401, has been identified as ancillary services, for a period beginning ^{Carol Wilkins} January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026, second by Ms. Swartz. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote of yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins and Fadel.
- j. Ms. Wilkins moved to authorize the Superintendent to renew an agreement with Goodwill Columbus for Work and Community Services, in an amount not to exceed \$1,855,100, for a period beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote of yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins and Fadel.
- k. Mr. Underwood moved to authorize the Superintendent to renew an agreement with Goodwill Columbus for facilities usage at 6633 Doubletree Avenue, for a two-year period beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2027, unless extended, modified or terminated, with an option to renew for one year at the end of the initial term, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote of yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins and Fadel.
- l. Ms. Wilkins moved to authorize the Superintendent to renew an agreement with ARC Industries, Inc. for facilities usage at various locations, for a two-year period, beginning January 1, 2026 and

ending on December 31, 2027, per square foot in 2026 is \$2.50 per square foot and in 2027 \$5.00/square foot, second by Ms. Swartz. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote of yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins and Fadel.

- m. Ms. Wilkins moved to authorize Superintendent to renew agreement with the Franklin County Probate Court for guardianship services for the period beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026 in an amount not to exceed \$437,091, second by Mr. Underwood. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote of yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins and Fadel.
- n. Ms. Wilkins moved to table the following resolution for clarification as to the wording of the type of agreement. Resolution to authorize Superintendent to approve the addendum to the January 1, 2025 agreement with Advocacy and Protective Services, Inc. for guardianship and supported decision-making services and technical assistance, in an amount not to exceed \$90,250 for the year 2026, second by Ms. Kelly. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote to table resolution: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins and Fadel.
- o. Ms. Wilkins moved to authorize the Superintendent to renew an agreement with Furniture Bank of Central Ohio, in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 for the period beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote of yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins and Fadel..
- p. Mr. Underwood moved to approve the 2026 annual waiver allocation projection per O.R.C. 5126.04 related to the Current Needs Waiting List, projected that 296 individuals would be enrolled to the wavier. A projected estimated annualized local cost of services of \$5,695,937, anticipated at 75 individuals per quarter with a total enrollment of 6,500 by the end of the year, second by Ms. Kelly. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote of yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins and Fadel.
- q. Ms. Swartz moved to authorize Superintendent to approve market adjustments for non-bargaining unit staff, to salary ranges for 2026, contingent on Commissioner approval of 2026 budget, second by Ms. Kelly. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote of yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins and Fadel.
- r. Ms. Wilkins moved to authorize the Superintendent to submit the Ohio Association of Public School Employees bargaining unit agreement for the period beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2028, to the Franklin County Commissioners pending ratification by the OAPSE membership, second by Mr. Underwood. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote of yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins and Fadel.
- s. Ms. Wilkins moved to authorize the Superintendent to enter into two 60-month lease agreements for multi-function devices at 2879 Johnstown Road, second by Ms. Swartz. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote of yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins and Fadel.
- t. Ms. Swartz moved to authorize the Superintendent to amend the agreement with DSACO Adult Literacy agreement entered into on May 1, 2025. This amendment will extend the terms of the agreement through May 31, 2026, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote of yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins and Fadel.

BOARD PRESIDENT FADEL ASKED FOR A MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS A PERSONNEL MATTER, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote of yes to enter into executive session: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins and Fadel.

- u. Ms. Straughter moved to authorize the Superintendent to settle a workers compensation matter discussed in executive session on December 4, 2025, second by Ms. Wilkins. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote of yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins and Fadel.
- v. Mr. Underwood moved to authorize the Superintendent to adopt a two-year partnership agreement with Franklin County Childrens Services for the two-year period from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$450,000 annually, second by Ms. Kelly. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote of yes: Harshaw; Kelly; Straughter; Swartz; Underwood; Wilkins and Fadel.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Board Member Katherine Kelly announced support of the Polar Plunge to take place on February 7th at 'The Fortress' in Obetz, Ohio. Three Franklin County Special Olympics athletes are participating in the plunge with a goal to raise funds for Franklin County Special Olympics.

Board Member Marci Straughter on behalf of OSDA gave special thanks to Franklin County DD for supporting the state-wide training for Project STIR (Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility). Marci was able to be an ally during the Project STIR training. Ms. Straughter announced that she was also re-elected to the Ohio Association of County Boards at the delegate assembly.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC: Self-Advocate Christine Brown provided an update on ISP changes, the Support Broker rule, and billing changes. The assistive tech rule has some changes to include some adaptive equipment (max per year \$5,000 in entirety); and the Support Broker rule. Christine provided the 2026 Synergy Conference Dates: September 30, 2026 through October 2, 2026. Remote supports will go from billing on an hourly rate to quarter hour rates. Upcoming trainings will occur on Support Broker Rule, IO to Level 1. Jennifer Kucera (chair of DD council) will be planning a candidate's day and will request the support of the board. Kelly Shuck and Christine Brown will be talking to Service Coordination about survey participation. Christine wishes the board a good holiday.

Board President asked for any others in attendance if they would like to speak and no one indicated or requested to address the board.

Ms. Wilkins motioned to adjourn the meeting, second by Ms. Straughter with no objections.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Wilkins

Karen Wilkins
Secretary

KW/am