



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

Dot Yeager
Superintendent/CEO

fbdd.org

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

**REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
April 23, 2026**

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

Staff Present: Dot Yeager; Shemaine Bakir; Lee Childs; Angie Franke; Gwynn Kinsel;
Larry Macintosh; Amy Magginis; 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. Swartz moved to approve the regular meeting minutes held on March 26, 2026, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried unanimously.

Agency Updates by Superintendent/CEO Dot Yeager

Budget & Finance:

Superintendent/CEO Dot Yeager provided agency finance updates through March, 2026. The first half of tax revenue has not been received, we expect to receive mid-May. We are at 21.4% of expenditures. Special thanks to Rachel Buske, Budget Analyst from Franklin County Office of Management and Budget. We requested supplemental appropriations from the Franklin County Commissioners for the 2026 budget related to Waiver Modernization. This specifically is for 6 InterRai assessors in the Service Coordination department. This comes in at approximately \$473,000 and will be offset by DODD Targeted Case Management revenue at \$471,000.

Human Resources Report:

Superintendent/CEO Dot Yeager provided agency Human Resource updates for March, 2026. The Human Resources report is typical for new hires, resignations and retirements are as expected. Thanks to Shemaine Bakir, Director of Human Resources, the Supervisor / Management Roadmap is taking shape. We plan to discuss at the next All Manager meeting in May.

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 met on Thursday, April 16, 2026. Ryan Phillips, Director of Communications, Advocacy and Community Relations led the group. There was a presentation by David Ellsworth from Nisonger and the meeting was well attended.

Inclusion Seekers update

February 17, 2026 was the first of the Inclusion Seekers virtual training series available to families, staff and providers. The goal of this program is to create more inclusive lives and local connections with people with disabilities and their families. The final virtual session was completed on March 10, 2026. The second phase will include micro-projects for 10 children and adults and their families to expand their individual community. Please contact Lee Childs, Kathy Lawton or Ryan Phillips if interested.

Lawrene Harchaoui, Communications & Brand Specialist hired

Lawrene Harchaoui, a veteran marketing professional with years of experience in graphic design and interactive media, has joined Franklin County DD as the agency's new Communications and Brand Experience Specialist. She replaces Communications Coordinator Rita Price, a former local journalist who retired after five years at Franklin County DD. Harchaoui has worked for companies large and small, including McGraw-Hill, Encova, Nationwide and several advertising agencies. She also owned her own agency for 15 years. Lawrene is a resident of Hilliard, she is married with three children, ages 10, 14 and 18. Her youngest has autism and is minimally verbal. With lived experience, she definitely understands the mission.

Family Support

Family Support meetings are held by the Superintendent for family members of individuals who are served by Franklin County DD, meetings are every other month, on the first Wednesday of the month at Noon. For those who have difficulty attending a noon-time meeting, we have planned a virtual evening Family Support meeting on April 29 at 6 p.m. Please contact Amy Magginis at 614-342-5950 or by email at amy.magginis@fcbdd.org for details.

Operation Feed campaign

Ryan Phillips, Director of Communications, Advocacy and Community relations will head the agency's Operation Feed Campaign this year. Our staff have always been a strong supporters of Operation Feed, an annual county-wide fund raising effort with Mid-Ohio Food Collective. Our campaign will run from May 4 through May 22, we are looking forward to the creative and fun events to support the campaign.

Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) 'Funding for the Future' update

OACB has developed an outline of proposals needed for sustainable funding of County Boards for the long-term. Superintendent Yeager will update the Board members during the committee meetings.

Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) Spring Conference

OACB Spring Conference is being held May 21 and 22, 2026 at the Columbus Hilton, Downtown. Registration is open and Amy Magginis can assist board members in registering for the conference. The 'schedule at a glance' is included in your packet with details on topics covered throughout the conference.

Johnstown Road parking lot - safety crosswalk project

During the week of spring recess, a project providing more safety for the Johnstown Road parking lot was completed. Two crosswalks for designated pedestrian foot traffic were added to the Johnstown Road parking lot. Thanks to Early Childhood Education for the suggestion.

Public Service recognition week – May 4th through 8th

The first week of May is dubbed 'Public Service Recognition Week'. Our agency is filled with staff having differing job descriptions, but all deserve recognition for the great work they do daily. Each department will highlight and celebrate their staff. Service Coordination has decided to bump their date of recognition until June, in hopes of warmer weather for an outdoor gathering. Early Childhood Education, West Central school, Transportation and Administration departments all have events planned.

Summer Planning

- Early Childhood Summer Center (June 8-25)
- West Central Summer Center (June 1-July 2)
- Transition to Work (TTW) (July 6-25)
- **New:** building usage at Johnstown Road for "Buddy Camp" Nationwide Childrens Summer Camp for children with autism (June 8-17) (details pending on sharing space)

Accreditation planning – MEORC

MEORC is assisting us with our plans for the August accreditation process. Lee Childs, Director of Service Coordination, Larry Macintosh, Director of Administrative and Support Services and Marla Battiste, Manager of Provider Support and Review, along with others are involved in the in depth review. MEORC's Accreditation Mastery Program will help us with areas of focus.

RESOLUTIONS

- a. Mr. Underwood moved to ratify bill payments approved by the Superintendent as distributed to the Finance Committee on April 23, 2026, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Ms. Swartz moved to go to bid for West Central school concrete and asphalt repair, second by Ms. Wilkins. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Ms. Wilkins moved to sponsor the 2026 12th Annual 'All Disabilities Festival' put on by Unlimited Possibilities for All Disabilities (UPFAD) in an amount not to exceed \$500, second by Ms. Swartz. Motion carried with abstention by Board Member Harshaw.
- d. Mr. Underwood moved to adopt the 'Hearing of the Public' rules with changed incorporated from the discussion during committee meeting, for use during the Franklin County DD Board meetings, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried unanimously.
- e. Mr. Underwood moved to approve the purchase of 26 licenses for Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID) from I Am Boundless, Inc., in an amount not to

exceed \$910,000, second by Ms. Swartz. Motion carried with abstention by Board Member Harshaw.

- f. Ms. Wilkins moved to approve funding for Creative Housing, Inc. for improvements to the Winchester Pike respite facility, in an amount not to exceed \$638,735, second by Mr. Underwood. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Underwood moved to authorize the Superintendent to renew an agreement with OSU Department of Educational Studies in the College of Education and Human Ecology, in an annual amount not to exceed \$52,368 for a twelve month period to begin August 1, 2026 and ending July 31, 2027, second by Ms. Straughter. Motion carried with abstention by Board Member Kelly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

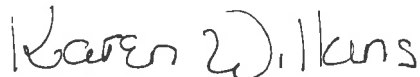
Board member Kelly provided special thanks to Ryan Phillips, Director of Advocacy, Communications and Community Relations, self-advocates Christine Brown and Max Damron for presenting to her class at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC:

Member of the virtual audience, Doug Fletcher asked "What is the plan for possible cuts to Medicaid with the 'Big Beautiful Plan'?" Board President Fadel indicated that Medicaid match and property taxes are matters tracked by our Board for now. Board Member Straughter suggested following the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities' (OOD) website for Family Resource meetings that include updates from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD).

Board President Fadel adjourn the meeting with no objections.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Wilkins, Secretary

KW/am