

## Paulding County Board of Developmental Disabilities - Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2025 - 4:00 p.m.

The June 26, 2025 Regular Board meeting of the Paulding County Board of Developmental Disabilities was called to order at 3:57 p.m.

**Roll call:** Tim Sinn, Marcia Hernandez, Shenja Mesker, Cindy Peters, Stacy Mangette, Lora Lyons (absent), and Kevin Albright.

**Guests Present:** None

### Agenda

To approve the June 26, 2025 meeting agenda:

**Motion: 29**

**Motion: Cindy Peters**

**Second: Marcia Hernandez**

**Motion approved unanimously.**

### Minutes

To approve the April 17, 2025 meeting minutes:

**Motion: 30**

**Motion: Cindy Peters**

**Second: Marcia Hernandez**

**Motion approved unanimously.**

### Financial Reports

To approve the April 2025 and May 2025 financial reports:

**Motion: 31**

**Motion: Kevin Albright**

**Second: Marcia Hernandez**

**Motion approved unanimously.**

### Superintendent Report

#### Local Updates:

1. An offer was accepted to purchase a home on W. Harrison Street. The offer of \$158,400 was accepted; Summit will receive \$142,560 from the state for the purchase. We received a quote to complete renovations on the home prior to individuals moving in. The quote was around \$110,000. Summit will submit the necessary paperwork to get approved for capital money and then we will move forward with renovations.
2. All County Boards in the NOWAC region agreed to split the cost for the Disability Download movie. This was presented at an OACB webinar. Disability Download is a movie offering practical guidelines, best practices, and compelling personal stories to enhance understanding and interactions with people with disabilities. It was very well received. Due to the expense, we felt it was best to have NOWAC purchase so we could share the cost. NOWAC has the link for it, but they have to keep it and send out a link that will be time limited. We are going to look into using this for training opportunities for staff and potential future board member trainings.
3. We received materials for the Blue Envelope Program to distribute to interested individuals. The Blue Envelope Program was designed by the San Diego Sheriff's Department and has been implemented by other agencies throughout the United States. The program first appeared in Ohio with a program developed by the Mahoning County Prosecutor's office in 2024. The Southern Ohio Advocacy Group (SOAG) learned of the program and saw the benefit of expanding it throughout Ohio. A grant from Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council has allowed for materials from the program to be available for free to all county DD offices. The Blue Envelope Program seeks to allow for easier to communicate with officers and reducing anxiety during a traffic stop by having all important information in one place. There are 3 components: blue envelope, car decal, wallet card.  
**Blue envelope** has space on the outside for information about the disability and/or medical conditions of the driver or passenger of the automobile. A copy of an ID/driver's license, vehicle registration, and vehicle insurance card can be kept inside the envelope which would be handed to a law enforcement officer during a traffic stop.

**Car decal** goes on the lower corner of the back window and alerts staff that someone in the vehicle may have a disability or communication difficulties.

**Wallet card** is a smaller version of the envelope that can be used anywhere. Local law enforcement agencies will be notified of the program and sent a sample of the envelope contents. A press release will also be sent out regarding this program coming to Paulding County.

4. We have our accreditation review on September 24th & 25th. We received the sample list for their review. They are reviewing files of 7 individuals receiving services (5 with SSAs and 2 through EI for Title XX) and 6 staff.

#### **State/Federal Updates:**

5. Representatives David Thomas (R-Ashtabula County) and Bill Roemer (R-Summit County) introduced House Bill 335. This bill combines several other property tax bills Rep. Thomas has already introduced into a single, multi-subject piece of legislation. As currently proposed, the bill could have negative impacts on long-term financial sustainability for essential services for people with DD and their families. Included with this bill is the expansion of county budget commission authority to reduce revenues for local taxing authorities. OACB and County Boards are advocating against this expansion of authority. The language is vague, lacks clear guidance, and threatens the financial stability of Ohio's DD system, which depends on local property tax revenue to fund nearly half of the state's Medicaid match for home and community-based services (HCBS) waivers. OACB is advocating for the provision to be removed entirely or, at a minimum, support an amendment that exempts entities that are statutorily responsible for funding a portion of the state's Medicaid waiver match. County Boards have contacted their Senators urging them to oppose the provision.
6. **House Bill 96 Update:** Ohio Senate voted to advance their version of House Bill 96, the FY 26-27 Operating Budget. Their version included language that expands county budget commission powers and mandates 30-day SSA training. OACB and County Board Superintendents advocated against the expansion of county budget commission powers and requested the SSA training go from 30 days to 90 days. I sent a letter to Senator Rob McColley expressing concerns of the language for expanding budget commission powers. Advocacy efforts were unsuccessful on both accounts. OACB and Superintendents contacted House legislatures encouraging them to adopt the House version of the budget when it comes to Section 5705.32-35 (County Budget Commission power expansion). The letter to Senator McColley and an email to House legislatures are attached. The conference committee passed its final version yesterday and will go to full house and senate votes today. *See attached OACB Policy Brief for details of House Bill 96.*
7. The U.S. House of Representatives passed its budget reconciliation bill 215-214, with Representatives Warren Davidson (R-Ohio) and Thomas Massie (R-Kentucky) joining all Democrats in voting against the legislation. Among the notable changes within the bill amendment is a provision to implement Medicaid work requirements for able-bodied adults beginning at the end of 2026. The bill contains nearly \$700 billion in cuts to federal funding for Medicaid. It remains unclear whether any of these cuts could impact people with developmental disabilities, as few details have been shared and most discussion points from lawmakers have targeted enrollees outside the DD population. The bill is currently in the Senate. Senators have expressed concerns over proposed Medicaid cuts and other parts of the reconciliation bill, indicating the legislation is likely to change. President Trump has expressed his expectation of the bill being passed for him to sign by July 4<sup>th</sup>.
8. DODD Director, Kim Hauck, announced her retirement effective the end of June. Lyndsay Nash, Assistant Director was appointed Acting Director. She will step in as acting Director beginning June 28, 2025. She will serve in this acting position as the formal appointment process for the next Director moves forward.

#### **Early Intervention Report**

- We had 12 referrals come through last month. Of those 12, we evaluated 8. (One parent would not respond to us, two refused services, and one we are still trying to contact)
- We currently have 36 kids enrolled.
- We started the Young Athletes program in May. We had 9 attend the weekly sessions, which were an hour long. The program will be Thursday evenings from 6-7 at First Christian Church in Paulding.

**Discussion regarding 2025 Strategic Plan. Board Members will review and decide whether to approve at August meeting.**

**No motions.**

**Adjournment**

To adjourn the June 26, 2025 regular Board meeting at 4:46 p.m.

**Motion: 32**

**Motion: Marcia Hernandez**

**Second: Cindy Peters**

**Motion approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Peters, Recording Secretary