

**Paulding County Board of Developmental Disabilities
Meeting Minutes**

August 21, 2025 - 4:00 p.m.

The August 21, 2025 Regular Board meeting of the Paulding County Board of Developmental Disabilities was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

Roll call: Tim Sinn, Marcia Hernandez, Sheniah Mesker, Stacy Mangette, Cindy Peters, Lora Lyons, and Kevin Albright.

Guests Present: None

Agenda

To approve the August 21, 2025 meeting agenda:

Motion: 33

Motion: Kevin Albright

Second: Marcia Hernandez

Motion approved unanimously.

Minutes

To approve the June 26, 2025 meeting minutes:

Motion: 34

Motion: Stacy Mangette

Second: Kevin Albright

Motion approved unanimously.

Financial Reports

To approve the June and July 2025 financial reports:

Motion: 35

Motion: Marcia Hernandez

Second: Cindy Peters

Motion approved unanimously.

Reports

Early Intervention:

We completed our SFY25 Early Intervention Service Coordination Report

In SFY25 we had 66 referrals, compared to SFY24 we had 50

The biggest referral source in SFY25 came from family/caregiver (11), whereas in SFY24 the biggest referral source was the physician (9)

SFY25 we had 57 kids enrolled compared to SFY24 we had 46

We continue to be fully staffed

We completed our 45-day compliance with no citations

For our Annual Performance Report (APR) we met requirements

We continue to have a close relationship with the local school systems

We are co-hosting a resource fair in September, anyone interested please reach out for an application as spots are limited. The flyer is attached.

We will be doing our Young Athletes Program again this fall.

Superintendent:

Local Updates

1. We received two additional resources from Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) for drivers and passengers with communication challenges. One is an informational card on the Law Enforcement Agencies Data System (LEADS). This is a voluntary database where an individual can provide their personal information to alert a law enforcement agency of a potential communication challenge. The other resource is a communication visor card that a driver can use to communicate with law enforcement.
2. Renovations are coming along on the West Harrison Street. We anticipate renovations on the home being completed by the end of September; however, the fence may not be done until later. There is a large tree on

the property line that needs to come down before the fence is installed. The quotes to remove the tree and stub have been a lot higher than expected, so they are trying to obtain a few more quotes.

Summit Housing was contacted by an individual looking to sell his home. He currently rents his house to two individuals we serve. Summit met with the owner at the end of July. The meeting went well and an offer was accepted. They are starting the process to purchase.

State/Federal Updates

1. **MUI Rule (OAC 5123-17-02):** The updated MUI Rule went into effect 7/1/2025. Some of the changes include streamlining the MUI process, updated definition for unanticipated hospitalization, and ending annual county board member training.
2. **InterRAI:** The state is in the process moving away from the AAI and DDP assessments. These assessments are used to determine the appropriate funding level and services for individuals receiving DD services. The state plans on replacing these two assessments with a single assessment called InterRAI. This assessment will identify the individuals' unique support needs while standardizing the way services and funding are aligned with individuals receiving services. DODD has said this change should not increase costs of services for County Boards. They acknowledge that services for some individuals may increase and some may decrease, but it should balance out and not be an increased cost to County Boards. There is still uncertainty around finalized details of the implementation. The state wants to limit the number of assessors in order to maintain interrater reliability, so this may be a service we receive from NOWAC. DODD has town halls scheduled to discuss the upcoming changes. August 25th at 12pm and 6pm are town halls for individuals and families, August 27th is the town hall for providers, and then September 2nd is the town hall for County Boards and SSAs. We are encouraging SSAs to attend the town halls on August 25th and 27th as schedules allow so they can answer questions from individuals, families, and providers.
3. **Governor Budget:** Governor DeWine signed House Bill 96, the FY26-27 operating budget. Over the next two years, Ohio will provide \$5.5 billion in FY26 and \$5.75 billion in FY27 to fund Ohio's DD services. The funding in this bill maintains the budget increases from the previous budget for DSPs and other service providers. It also allows for normal growth in service enrollment and use of services during those fiscal years.
The Governor also line item vetoed several items of interest to County Boards, including language empowering county budget commissions and language prohibiting replacement levies after January 1, 2026. Governor DeWine formed a Property Tax Reform Working Group. The purpose of the workgroup is to thoroughly examine how to provide meaningful property tax relief to home owners and business while ensuring adequate funding for local schools, fire, police, EMS, libraries, and DD services. The Governor has requested a report with proposals by September 30th. The Legislature has until December 31, 2026 to override the Governor vetoes. In order to override a Governor veto, each chamber must approve an override by a three-fifths majority vote.
4. **Federal Budget**
The federal budget passed the U.S. House with a vote of 218-214 and then moved onto the Senate where it passed with a 51-50 vote, with Vice President Vance casting the deciding vote. As part of the overhaul of Medicaid, the legislation imposes nationwide Medicaid work mandates starting December 2026. The law exempts individuals with disabilities; however, experts note that the complexity of verifying exemptions, coupled with stricter eligibility rechecks, could lead to unintentional loss of coverage. We are continuing to monitor proposed changes to Medicaid funding as any push toward increased state participation, directly impacts our local Medicaid match responsibilities.
5. **Fiscal Sustainability of DD Services:** OACB hosted a Budget Symposium on August 6th to discuss Governor DeWine's final biennium budget and its impact on the County Board system. The Superintendent Summer Conference was held August 7th and 8th and focused on the sustainability of the DD system. There is a political movement to eliminate property taxes. Property taxes are a lifeline for county boards of DD as the majority of our revenue comes from voter-approved levies on property taxes. Ending them without a real replacement plan would create a funding gap that directly impacts the people we serve by reducing the services, programs, and supports they depend on every day. The threat to funding comes at a time when the cost of services is increasing due to both rising provider rates and the growing number of high-acuity individuals being served by County Boards. OACB and County Boards across the state are working together to identify threats to the DD system and potential solutions that provides long-term fiscal sustainability.

Strategic Plan

To approve the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan.

Motion: 36

Motion: Cindy Peters

Second: Stacy Manette

Motion approved unanimously.

Adjournment

To adjourn the August 21, 2025 regular Board meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Motion: 37

Motion: Marcia Hernandez

Second: Lora Lyons

Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Peters, Recording Secretary