

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

February 19, 2026 - 4:00 p.m.

The February 19, 2026, Regular Board Meeting of the Paulding County Board of Developmental Disabilities was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Roll call: Shenia Mesker (absent), Tim Sinn (absent), Marcia Hernandez, Stacy Mangette, Lora Lyons, Andrew Parker, and Kevin Albright.

Agenda

To approve the February 19, 2026 meeting agenda:

Motion: 11

Motion: Kevin Albright

Second: Marcia Hernandez

Motion approved unanimously.

Minutes

To approve the January 15, 2026 meeting minutes:

Motion: 12

Motion: Stacy Mangette

Second: Marcia Hernandez

Motion approved unanimously.

Financial Reports

To approve the January 2026 financial reports:

Motion: 13

Motion: Kevin Albright

Second: Stacy Mangette

Motion approved unanimously.

Reports

Early Intervention:

One referral in January. We are still working through the intake process with the child. Early Intervention continues to host a monthly playgroup open to all families in our community with children under the age of 5. See flyer. We are co-hosting a Parenting presentation with our local FCFC program and our infant mental health consultation organization (CRC). This is free and open to anyone who would like to attend. A flyer is included. The County Board will be attending the upcoming Health and Business Fair on 3/18.

Superintendent:

House Bill 144, also known as Keith's Law, went into effect last month. This bill builds upon Communication Disability Law, enabling first responders to have information shared by people with disabilities when responding to countywide 9-1-1 calls. Any person with a diagnosed disability, who drives or regularly has someone with a communication disability in their vehicle, can voluntarily enroll in a database that connects to the Law Enforcement Agencies Data System (LEADS). The law enforcement officer can then be made aware that the driver or a person in the vehicle may have difficulty communicating and can approach the vehicle with awareness to reduce any potential misunderstandings or problems. This information has been shared on social media and we have forms available for anyone in need. Part of the form needs completed by a healthcare provider.

OACB met with individuals from SETWorks to finalize the terms of the soon-to-be-announced pilot project between the national DD software company and OACB. The project will develop and test an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered compliance checker/SSA support tool designed to increase quality and accuracy of Ohio Individual Service Plans (ISPs), with the goal of expanding into other areas that will improve quality of service plans and reduce administrative burden on SSAs (while also reducing accreditation and compliance

issues overall). The pilot initiative is set to launch in February with the goal of being made available to all county boards to purchase after significant testing over a two-month period. We are excited to see how this plays out and the cost factor as this has the potential to be very beneficial to the SSA department.

We have submitted our Plan of Correction Verification to DODD for our accreditation. This is how we prove that we are making changes to address our citations. Our verification was approved. SSA Director Shannon Timmerman and I also had a virtual meeting with DODD Technical Assistance team to discuss possible assistance they could provide in areas we were cited. This is a relatively new service DODD is offering to County Boards who receive a 1-year citation. We declined their assistance at this time based on our citations and changes we have already made. If our verification was not approved, we would have requested assistance at that time.

A tax policy brief was released by Policy Matters Ohio, a statewide nonprofit think tank. The brief highlights the dangers to services for people with developmental disabilities, school funding, and other local governments if property taxes were to be eliminated. As it currently stands, if the property tax elimination initiative is passed, Ohio would have to come up with an estimated \$20.57 billion by 2028. With no alternative funding streams proposed, reports and studies have estimated that Ohio would need to increase its average sales tax to nearly 14%. We are continuing to monitor the initiative and are actively taking steps to get information out to individuals and families so they understand how much the County Board of DD relies on property taxes and the negative impact of lost revenue.

- OACB Mandate for Change Resolution and Funding the Future Concepts discussion.

New Business

NOWAC Addendum

To approve the NOWAC Contract Addendum

Motion: 14

Motion: Lora Lyons

Second: Marcia Hernandez

Motion approved unanimously.

Adjournment

To adjourn the February 19, 2026 regular Board meeting at 5:02 p.m.

Motion: 15

Motion: Lora Lyons

Second: Marcia Hernandez

Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lora Lyons, Secretary