

MINUTES – combined work session and regular meeting  
Thursday, May 15, 2025

## Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board

# MINUTES

Thursday, May 15, 2025  
5:30 p.m.

The **combined work session and regular meeting** of the Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board was held on Thursday, May 15, 2025 at the Summit DD administrative offices located at 2355 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221. The **work session** convened at 5:34 p.m.

### BOARD MEMBERS

Jason Dodson, Board President  
Allyson V. James, Board Vice President  
Gregg Cramer, Board Secretary  
Tami Gaugler  
Denise Ricks - *Excused*  
Randy Briggs - *Excused*  
Stacy Youssef

### ALSO PRESENT

Lisa Kamlowksy, Superintendent	James Armstrong, Director of Legal Svs.
Drew Williams, Assistant Superintendent	Russ DuPlain, Director of IT & Facilities
Holly Brugh, Assistant Superintendent	Mira Pozna, Director of Fiscal Services
Billie Jo David, Director of Communications	Maggi Albright, Recording Secretary
Laura Gleason, Director of HR	and others

## I. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Superintendent Kamlowksy recognized several guests from the Emerging Leaders Program Class III who attended the meeting. Christina and Lindsey are Class III participants and Tricia coordinates the program. The Emerging Leaders Program was created to assist self-advocates take the next step in their journey to gain skills for leadership roles. She thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

## II. REVISED POLICY 1119 – BOARD PAYOR OF LAST RESORT

Summit DD is reviewing processes around how services for individuals are authorized and one recommendation is reflected in revisions to Policy 1119 related to the use of local funds. Currently individuals are encouraged but not required to pursue Medicaid eligibility. Individuals not funded through Home & Community Based Services waivers receive a reduced level of services at a cost capped at the amount the Board would be paying for services if the individual was on a waiver. The proposed revisions to Policy 1119 will require individuals to pursue Medicaid eligibility which is a prerequisite to receiving services funded through a waiver.

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## **WORK SESSION** *(continued)*

### II. REVISED POLICY 1119 – BOARD PAYOR OF LAST RESORT *(continued)*

Services funded through a waiver are paid at a rate of .38 cents on the dollar with the federal government paying the remaining portion. Services funded using local levy dollars cost the board 100%. Upon revision of this policy, the Board will no longer use local funds in this manner, except for extenuating circumstances, and instead will work with individuals to take the necessary steps to become Medicaid eligible which will more cost-effectively access the same services funded through a waiver. This will more effectively & equitably direct local funds toward waiver match. There are about 175 individuals served by Summit DD who are currently not Medicaid eligible, and staff will work with those individuals/families to make this adjustment over a period of time. Mr. Cramer commented that in many ways this will be in the best interest of the individual. Ms. James noted there was extensive conversation in committees around the process and the grace period to become Medicaid eligible. Revised policy 1119 has been recommended for approval by the May Services & Supports and Finance & Facilities Committees.

### III. BINARY DEFENSE CONTRACT EXTENSION

The request is to extend the current contract with Binary Defense Systems through May 5, 2028 for the total contract amount not to exceed \$138,216. Binary Defense provides security monitoring of the components of Summit DD's IT environment and by committing to a three-year contract Summit DD will receive a price lock that will result in cost savings of \$23,080 as compared to annual agreements. Summit DD has been contracting with this organization for about ten years. Funds have been budgeted and are available and the Binary Defense contract extension has been recommended for approval by the April Finance & Facilities Committee.

### IV. SUMMIT DD SUMMER YOUTH WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

The next two contracts are for service providers working with Summit DD for the five-week summer program offering work experience and/or job exploration for youth ages 14-20 who are in school or newly graduated. Participants will be employed at local businesses in the community and will be paid at least minimum wage. Job coaching will be provided as well as transportation, if needed.

#### A. TOTAL EDUCATION SOLUTIONS SUMMER YOUTH WORK EXPERIENCE CONTRACT

The contract with Total Education Solutions (TES) is in an amount not to exceed \$88,560. TES will support 16 youth up to 20 hours per week. Funds have been budgeted and the TES Summer Youth Work Program contract has been recommended for approval by the April Finance & Facilities Committee.

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## **WORK SESSION** *(continued)*

### **IV. SUMMIT DD SUMMER YOUTH WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM *(continued)***

#### **B. RESOURCE EMPOWERMENT CENTER SUMMER YOUTH WORK EXPERIENCE CONTRACT**

The contract with Resource Empowerment Center (REC) is in an amount not to exceed \$88,560. REC will support 16 youths up to 20 hours per week. Funds have been budgeted and the REC Summer Youth Work Program contract has been recommended for approval by the April Finance & Facilities Committee.

### **V. ADVANCED BEHAVIOR CONSULTING CONTRACT**

The request is to increase the amount of the current Summit DD contract with Advanced Behavior Consulting for a total amount not to exceed \$185,000 through the end of this calendar year. This agreement affords access to specialized services to support individuals with more complex needs so they can successfully maintain their current day and/or residential supports. Behavioral expertise is provided through this contract in a variety of ways including consulting with and providing specialized training to DSPs who work for provider agencies and participating as part of the Intensive Treatment Team (ITT) collaborative to work through specific cases. Funds have been budgeted and are available and the Advanced Behavioral Consultants contract increase has been recommended for approval by the April Finance & Facilities Committee.

### **VI. JUDGE ROTENBERG CENTER 2025 CONTRACT AMENDMENT**

The request is to increase the current contract with the Judge Rotenberg Center (JRC) in the amount of \$157,366 for cost of services. The original amount requested assumed a decrease in the amount of one-to-one services for the individual who resides at JRC but that has not been able to be fully effectuated resulting in the need for the increase. Funds are available in the budget and the JRC contract amendment has been recommended for approval by the May Finance & Facilities Committee.

### **VII. JUDGE ROTENBURG CENTER 2026 CONTRACT**

The request is to renew a contract with JRC for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 to ensure this same individual continues to receive residential and school services. This individual has made progress but is not yet able to be safely discharged back to Summit County. A similar methodology as last year was used to project the cost of this contract, which assumes reducing the amount of one-to-one services required.

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## **WORK SESSION** *(continued)*

### **VII. JUDGE ROTENBURG CENTER 2026 CONTRACT** *(continued)*

The school district will again fund its portion of this contract and additional funding assistance is being pursued through both the State Multi-System Youth Team and the local Family & Children First Council (FCFC). Summit DD has also initiated a request for the State Transition Team to assist in transitioning this individual back to Ohio at the appropriate time. Mr. Cramer asked how long this individual has been supported through JRC. Mrs. Brugh responded this individual has been supported at JRC since 2023. Funds have been budgeted and the 2026 JRC contract has been recommended for approval by the May Finance & Facilities and Services & Supports Committees.

### **VIII. FAMILY & CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT AGREEMENT**

The request is to renew the annual agreement between Summit DD and FCFC authorizing Summit DD to serve as Administrative Agent (AA) for SFY2026. Ohio law requires each county to designate an administrative agent to perform certain services for its local FCFCs, including employing FCFC staff, financial reporting and contracting on FCFC's behalf. The contract language remains the same as in past years. The FCFC AA Agreement has been recommended for approval by the May Finance & Facilities Committee.

### **IX. APRIL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Revenue in April included receipt of the first half property tax settlement in the amount of \$41,226,900. Mrs. Pozna noted the second half property tax settlement will be around \$25M. Quarterly reimbursement of \$581,300 for Medicaid Administrative Claims was also received. Expenditures for the month included payments to DODD of \$476,600 for quarterly Medicaid waiver administrative fees, \$8,356,800 for quarterly Medicaid waiver match and \$567,900 for fiscal year 2023 waiver match reconciliation. Providers have 350 days to submit claims, so Summit DD makes payments based on estimates. Typically, Summit DD receives a refund; this is the first year Summit DD has had to pay. The goal is to estimate at break even. April expenditures also included payment of \$16,600 for the DJFS dedicated caseworker contract, payment of \$29,200 for annual licensing, maintenance and technical support, laptop purchases of \$34,000 as part of the four-year computer refresh project and payments of \$130,000 for various Agency insurances. April ended in a positive position of \$9,958,993 with a fund balance of \$60,840,597. The April financial statements have been recommended for approval by the May Finance & Facilities Committee.

The work session adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

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## **BOARD MEETING**

The **regular monthly meeting** of the Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board convened at 5:33 p.m.

### I. ROLL CALL

Mrs. Gaugler – Present	Ms. James – Present
Mr. Cramer – Present	Mrs. Ricks - <i>Excused</i>
Mrs. Youssef - Present	Mr. Briggs - <i>Excused</i>
Mr. Dodson – Present	

### II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Leslie Frank, a parent and community member, attended the annual Special Olympics vs. staff basketball game where the Warriors beat staff in a fun and competitive game. She said the event was well attended by staff, families and the community. Ms. Frank asked if the Advanced Behavioral Consulting contract is separate from the Merakey contract. Superintendent Kamlowksy replied that it is.

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### A. APRIL 17, 2025 (combined work session/regular board meeting)

#### RESOLUTION

No. 25-05-01

Resolved that the Board approve the minutes of the April 17, 2025 work session/regular board meeting. Mrs. Gaugler made the motion and Mr. Cramer seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

### IV. BOARD ACTION ITEMS

#### A. BINARY DEFENSE CONTRACT EXTENSION

#### RESOLUTION

No. 25-05-02

Resolved that the Board approve a contract extension with Binary Defense for the period May 6, 2025 through May 5, 2028 in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Thirty-Eight Thousand Two Hundred Sixteen Dollars (\$138,216), and that the Superintendent be authorized to sign said contract extension. Ms. James made the motion and Mrs. Gaugler seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

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## **BOARD MEETING** *(continued)*

### IV. BOARD ACTION ITEMS *(continued)*

#### B. TOTAL EDUCATION SOLUTIONS SUMMER YOUTH WORK EXPERIENCE CONTRACT

##### RESOLUTION

No. 25-05-03

Resolved that the Board approve a contract with Total Education Solutions for the period May 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 in an amount not to exceed Eighty-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$88,560), and that the Superintendent be authorized to sign said contract. Mr. Cramer made the motion and Mrs. Youssef seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### C. RESOURCE EMPOWERMENT CENTER SUMMER YOUTH WORK EXPERIENCE CONTRACT

##### RESOLUTION

No. 25-05-04

Resolved that the Board approve a contract with Resource Empowerment Center May 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 in an amount not to exceed Eighty-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$88,560), and that the Superintendent be authorized to sign said contract. Ms. James made the motion and Mr. Cramer seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### D. ADVANCED BEHAVIOR CONSULTING CONTRACT AMENDMENT

##### RESOLUTION

No. 25-05-05

Resolved that the Board approve a contract amendment with Advanced Behavior Consulting for the period December 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025 for the total contract amount not to exceed One Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$185,000), and that the Superintendent be authorized to sign said contract amendment. Mr. Cramer made the motion and Mrs. Gaugler seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.



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## **BOARD MEETING** *(continued)*

### IV. BOARD ACTION ITEMS *(continued)*

#### E. JUDGE ROTENBERG CENTER 2025 CONTRACT AMENDMENT

##### **R E S O L U T I O N** **No. 25-05-06**

Resolved that the Board approve a contract amendment with the Judge Rotenberg Center for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 for the total contract amount not to exceed Five Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand One Hundred Seventy-Seven Dollars (\$536,177), and that the Superintendent be authorized to sign said contract amendment. Ms. James made the motion and Mrs. Youssef seconded. The motion was approved with dissension from Mrs. Gaugler

#### F. JUDGE ROTENBERG CENTER 2026 CONTRACT

##### **R E S O L U T I O N** **No. 25-05-07**

Resolved that the Board approve a contract with the Judge Rotenberg Center for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 in an amount not to exceed Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000), and that the Superintendent be authorized to sign said contract. Mr. Cramer made the motion and Mrs. Youssef seconded. The motion was approved with dissension from Mrs. Gaugler.

#### G. FAMILY & CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT AGREEMENT

##### **R E S O L U T I O N** **No. 25-05-08**

Resolved that the Board approve the Administrative Agent Agreement between Summit DD and Family & Children First Council for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, and that the Superintendent be authorized to sign said agreement. Mrs. Gaugler made the motion and Mr. Cramer seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### H. APRIL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

##### **R E S O L U T I O N** **No. 25-05-09**

Resolved that the Board approve the April financial statements. Ms. James made the motion and Mrs. Gaugler seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

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## **BOARD MEETING** *(continued)*

### V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Step into Autism Walk & Resource Fair will be held Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m.- noon at the downtown Cuyahoga Falls amphitheater. Summit DD's Cuyahoga Falls building is along the walking route and will have a water station, resource table, games and crafts for kids and the sensory bus will also be onsite. All are welcome to attend!

Superintendent Kamlowsky reminded all that there are no committee meetings or Board Meeting in June. She noted there will be a first draft of the Summit DD 2026 budget for review in July.

### VI. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Mr. Dodson thanked Emerging Leaders Class III for attending the meeting tonight. He asked Board Members to make every effort to attend the July Board meeting to be part of the 2026 budget discussion, as it will be important to work through the budget process for 2026 and throughout the next several years.

There being no further business, the Board Meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

  
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Gregg Cramer, Secretary