

MINUTES – combined work session and regular meeting
Thursday, July 17, 2025

Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board

MINUTES

Thursday, July 17, 2025
5:30 p.m.

The **combined work session and regular meeting** of the Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board was held on Thursday, July 17, 2025 at the Summit DD administrative offices located at 2355 2nd Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221. The **work session** convened at 5:36 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS

Jason Dodson, Board President
Allyson V. James, Board Secretary
Gregg Cramer, Board Secretary
Tami Gaugler
Denise Ricks
Randy Briggs
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. 2026 SUMMIT DD BUDGET

The Superintendent explained that the 2026 budget projects a \$12.6M deficit at the end of 2026 and adjusts spending by doing two things; the first is the elimination of 10.5 full-time equivalent positions that are currently vacant and do not represent mission critical functions - of those FTE's, four (4) have been converted to roles that are mission critical in nature resulting in a net reduction of 6.5 FTE's. The second area where spending is adjusted downward is contracts and that is a general, across-the-board reduction to the dollar amount of most contracts. Even with these changes this level of deficit spending is not sustainable and there needs to be further reductions next year above what is reflected in the budget document. The drastic increase in the cost of services, coupled with increased needs of individuals coming to the Board for support, requires additional steps to re-direct levy tax dollars towards the Medicaid match line item. That budget line represents the Board's cost to provide legally mandated home and community-based waiver services for people living in the community, and it has increased by 54% over the last three years.

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WORK SESSION *(continued)*

I. 2026 SUMMIT DD BUDGET

A plan is under development to prioritize funding with a financial impact in 2026 to bring our fund balance closer to where it needs to be at the end of the levy cycle. To guide us in this analysis, feedback received from all stakeholders from the long-range planning process will be used. That data-gathering process anticipated the necessity to evaluate and refine service offerings to maintain long-term sustainability. In addition, the 2025 individual/parent/guardian satisfaction survey was just completed and that feedback will be incorporated as well. The 2026 budget request is in the amount of \$91,048,488 for the operating fund, \$9,659,347 for the Medicaid reserve fund, \$1,929,257 for the permanent improvement fund and \$78,943 for the gifts and donations fund. Revenue is expected to be relatively flat overall with a small increase for targeted case management (TCM) reimbursement offset by an anticipated decrease in the other receipts and refund categories to align with averages in prior years. The salary budget includes a reduction of 6.5 FTEs which is offset by an overall 3% wage increase. Employee benefit costs for 2026 include an annual increase of 6% for medical insurance offset by one premium holiday month. Additionally, the workers compensation budget has increased compared to 2025. Medicaid costs are budgeted to increase in line with state service cost projections which is a reflection of the higher payment rates for waiver services as well as typical waiver growth. The quarterly invoice was just received and is higher than anticipated at \$9.5M so a request for additional appropriation will need to be made to the County to adjust the budget this year. The projected fund balance at the end of 2026 is \$35,351,895. The 2026 staffing report has been reviewed by the July HR/LR Committee, and the full 2026 budget has been reviewed and recommended for approval by the July Finance & Facilities and Services and Supports Committees.

II. REVISED POLICY 1119 – BOARD PAYOR OF LAST RESORT

Under the current policy individuals are encouraged but not required to pursue Medicaid eligibility. As revised, this policy will require individuals to pursue Medicaid eligibility in order to access funding for services through a waiver. SSAs are being trained and will begin having conversations with individuals and affected families immediately to ensure they have the information necessary to move forward without interruption in services. Revised policy 1119 has been recommended for approval by the May Services & Supports and Finance & Facilities Committees.

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WORK SESSION *(continued)*

III. AKRON CHILDRENS HOSPITAL HELP ME GROW CONTRACT

The agreement with Akron Children's Hospital is to provide service coordination for Part C early intervention services. This is the first year the grant agreement is coming to county boards from Ohio's Department of Children & Youth (DCY), as the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) previously oversaw this grant. DCY's grant agreement has some new administrative requirements that are still being worked through with DCY and will need to be incorporated into this agreement once those items have been resolved; examples include requirements relative to if there is a vacancy in a position working under the grant agreement how DCY involves itself in filling that vacancy and cyber insurance requirements that aren't able to be met. What will not change is the request to authorize \$1,248,533 to be paid to ACH for service coordination for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Included in the grant this fiscal year is an additional \$300,000 for the county board allocation to support assessment and evaluation for eligibility. The request is for approval of this dollar amount, as the term of the grant began July 1st. DCY is running a little behind but as long as everything is resolved by the end of the month, we have been told there will be no interruption in our ability to receive reimbursement. Funds have been budgeted and are available and the ACH contract has been recommended for approval by the July Finance & Facilities and Services & Supports Committees.

IV. SURPLUS INVENTORY

Summit DD has certain assets that are either at the end of their life cycle or are no longer of use and the request is for approval to dispose of the assets, identified in attachment #4, by various means, including donation, auction or sale to other local government entities. Most of the items are laptops/notebooks that are damaged or have reached the end of their useful life. Mr. Cramer asked that the Board be advised how much money is raised from the sale of these assets when that information becomes available. Superintendent Kamlowsky replied she will report back as soon as that information becomes available. The surplus inventory identified in attachment #4 has been recommended for disposal by the July Finance & Facilities Committee.

V. MAY/JUNE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Revenue in May/June included receipt of first half homestead exemption tax settlement of \$628,100 and first half trailer tax settlement of \$18,800 as well as quarterly reimbursements for Medicaid Administrative Claiming of \$490,200 and Title XX of \$72,300. There was also reimbursement of \$30,100 from the Multi-System Youth Intensive Treatment Grant for training and consultative services and supports. Expenditures in May/June included payment of \$189,100 for County chargeback for Workers Compensation insurance and payment of \$94,500 for the Adult Guardianship Services contract.

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WORK SESSION *(continued)*

V. MAY/JUNE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

There were also payments of \$14,300 for Special Olympics administrative expenses, \$46,100 for security monitoring of IT systems, \$42,000 for HR contract services, \$40,600 for County chargebacks for half year of licensing for the Munis financial software, and \$52,100 for three-year warranty and tech support of firewall devices. June ended in a positive position of \$4,508,469 with a fund balance of \$55,390,073. The May/June financial statements have been recommended for approval by the July Finance & Facilities Committee.

The work session adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

BOARD MEETING

The **regular monthly meeting** of the Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board convened at 5:55 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Mrs. Ricks - Present	Mr. Dodson - Present
Mr. Cramer - Present	Ms. James – Present
Mr. Briggs - Present	Mrs. Gaugler – Present
Mrs. Youssef - Present	

II. BOARD MEMBER CAUCUS

Mrs. Ricks commented she has received positive feedback from several parents at the school where she works about the July 23rd meeting being held for individuals with disabilities interested in serving as a Summit DD Board Member. Mrs. Ricks stated she thinks it is a good thing to bring someone with lived experience onto the Board.

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BOARD MEETING *(continued)*

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. MAY 15, 2025 (combined work session/regular board meeting)

R E S O L U T I O N

No. 25-07-01

Resolved that the Board approve the minutes of the May 15, 2025 work session/regular board meeting. Ms. James made the motion and Mr. Cramer seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. BOARD ACTION ITEMS

- A. REVISED POLICY 1119 – BOARD PAYOR OF LAST RESORT

R E S O L U T I O N

No. 25-07-02

Resolved that the Board approve revisions to Policy 1119 – Board Payor of Last Resort. Mrs. Gaugler made the motion and Mr. Briggs seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

- B. AKRON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL HELP ME GROW CONTRACT

R E S O L U T I O N

No. 25-07-03

Resolved that the Board approve a contract with Akron Children's Hospital for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, in an amount not to exceed One Million Two Hundred Forty-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Thirty-Three Dollars (\$1,248,533), and that the Superintendent be authorized to sign said contract. Mr. Cramer made the motion and Mrs. Ricks seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

- C. SURPLUS INVENTORY

R E S O L U T I O N

No. 25-07-04

Resolved that the Board approve the disposal of surplus inventory identified in attachment #4, and authorize the Superintendent to transfer, sell or scrap said assets in accordance with Ohio law. Mr. Briggs made the motion and Mr. Cramer seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

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BOARD MEETING *(continued)*

IV. BOARD ACTION ITEMS *(continued)*

D. MAY/JUNE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RESOLUTION

No. 25-07-05

Resolved that the Board approve the May/June financial statements. Ms. James made the motion and Mrs. Youssef seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Kamlowsky outlined a preliminary perspective of the operational and financial impacts happening at the federal level for individuals with disabilities. Relative to Medicaid cuts contained in the Federal bill, while there appears to be no direct impact it would be disingenuous to say there is no impact on individuals Summit DD supports. The legislation imposes nationwide Medicaid work mandates which exempt people with disabilities; however, the complexity of verifying that individuals are exempt, coupled with stricter and more frequent income and eligibility rechecks could lead to coverage interruptions, which is just another layer of stress for families navigating complex care systems. There is no information to suggest that eligibility for home and community-based services (HCBS) will be changing, but Ohio is going to be tasked with reducing its overall Medicaid spending and the potential that cuts to HCBS services could be considered in that exercise is unsettling. The bill also reduces the ability for states to collect certain provider taxes on Medicaid services, which Ohio currently uses in part to fund the increase in waiver rates. Mr. Dodson asked how much money annually Ohio will need to offset the federal prohibition around collecting provider taxes on Medicaid services. Superintendent Kamlowsky indicated this is unknown at this time, but she is watching and will report back when the information becomes available. In the state budget Ohio increased the hospital tax franchise fee in FY26 and 27 which will be illegal in 2028, so there is a direct line to this loss of revenue and funding for HCBS services, albeit three years out, that Ohio will need to address; in addition to a reduction in food stamp assistance to individuals with the impact of that remaining unclear at present.

Additionally, there are some programs anticipated to be cut or eliminated under the Department of Health and Human Services which exist in Ohio to protect the rights of people with developmental disabilities and ensure independence within the community, including Disability Rights Ohio that helps people with disabilities exercise their rights and advocate for access to independent living in the community, Ohio State University Nisonger Center and the University of Cincinnati Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities also did not get funding restored; both provide training, support and work to improve quality of life for people with disabilities.

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BOARD MEETING *(continued)*

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT *(continued)*

These programs were created over fifty years ago and people rely on them for innovation, self-advocacy and legal support.

Superintendent Kamlowsky reported the Department of Labor has withdrawn its proposal to eliminate 14C subminimum wage certificates at the federal level. To date that has not affected Ohio HB 225 that proposes to do the same thing at the state level. Mr. Dodson asked if committee hearings have been held. The Superintendent replied she would follow up and report back.

Relative to the state budget and potential operational and financial impacts, county boards did see additional allocation targeted for assessment and evaluation in early intervention services of around \$300K. There is also statutory language change around SSA training related to how it is completed and when, requiring it to occur within 30 days of hiring.

Superintendent Kamlowsky stated the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) Director, Kim Hauck, resigned from her role at the end of June. Assistant Deputy Director Lyndsay Nash has been appointed as Interim Director until Governor DeWine names a permanent successor.

Summit DD continues to be active in engaging partners, sharing best practices and collaborating to find innovative solutions at both the state and local level. A few of those activities included:

Summit DD hosted a state-wide training highlighting the collaboration in Summit County between our agency, provider partner Louisa Ridge, and Advocacy & Protective Services (APSI) to expand assistive technology and remote supports for individuals. This training highlights the positive impact incorporating technology has had on increasing people's independence, the provider's ability to build capacity, and how it has changed the way providers are able to support people with disabilities. Summit DD staff sought and were awarded grant funding from DODD for this pilot project.

Summit DD was invited to participate in an interactive Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) Fall Partnership Forum. OPRA is a trade association representing providers supporting individuals with disabilities in Ohio. The Forum is to strengthen collaboration between county boards and providers. Summit DD will represent our district along with Blick Center and Weaver Industries as provider representatives and will present at OPRA's statewide fall conference on best practices.

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BOARD MEETING *(continued)*

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT *(continued)*

Summit DD is represented by Fiscal Director Mira Pozna in Columbus participating in a Funding the Future series to explore and address the long-term fiscal sustainability of Ohio's DD service delivery system and specifically the sustainability of county board funding streams and system expectations to culminate in policy recommendations that will be shared at the statewide policy and budget symposium for Ohio superintendents and business managers August 6th.

Summit DD is collaborating with Summit County Public Health to inform on data collection strategies to ensure they are inclusive of people with disabilities such that those specific needs are identified and addressed in community health assessments and improvement plans. This is the first time Summit DD has had a seat at the table to inform the content of the community health assessment, and staff are excited to see what kind of information can be gathered and what metrics are available.

Summit DD is the recipient of a 2025 Arts Alive award, *Summit Artspace Champion*, in recognition of the partnership cultivated over the past couple of years with Summit Artspace that has unlocked new opportunities for local artists with and without disabilities to create and connect. Drew Williams presented at the National Conference for Americans for the Arts held in Cincinnati in June along with ArtsNow and Summit County Public Library. The presentation, *From Ideation to Implementation*, talked about the accessibility library to an audience of nationwide not-for-profit community organizations, state/municipality and community development partners.

Lastly, and unfortunately for us, Mrs. Ricks' service on the Summit DD Board will end in December 2025 when she will be term limited having served three consecutive four-year terms for a total of twelve years of volunteer service. This circumstance creates an opportunity for an individual with lived experience to join the Board. The Superintendent is working with the County Executive's office to identify an individual who receives services from Summit DD to fill the vacancy. A "board mixer" has been scheduled in August to give individuals who have expressed an interest in serving on the board an opportunity to meet with and ask questions of current Board Members.

VI. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Mr. Dodson acknowledged staff have put a lot of time and effort into the 2026 budget and thanked everyone for the work that has been done so far. He noted Summit DD will continue to face many financial challenges going forward and there will be more work ahead to do.

There being no further business, the Board Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.



Gregg Cramer, Secretary