



MINUTES – combined work session and regular meeting
Thursday, December 18, 2025

Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board

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Thursday, December 18, 2025
5:30 p.m.

The **combined work session and regular meeting** of the Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board was held on Thursday, December 18, 2025 at the Summit DD administrative offices located at 2355 2nd Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221. The **work session** convened at 5:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS

Jason Dodson, Board President

Allyson V. James, Board Vice-President

Gregg Cramer, Board Secretary

Tami Gaugler

Denise Ricks

Randy Briggs - *Absent*

Stacy Youssef

ALSO PRESENT

Lisa Kamlowsky, Superintendent

Drew Williams, Assistant Superintendent

Mira Pozna, Director of Fiscal

Billie Jo David, Director of
Communications & Quality

Holly Brugh, Assistant Superintendent

James Armstrong, Director of Legal Svcs.

Laura Gleason, Director of HR

Russ DuPlain, Director of IT & Facilities

Maggi Albright, Recording Secretary
and others

I. DENISE RICKS' RETIREMENT FROM SUMMIT DD BOARD

Superintendent Kamlowsky noted that Denise Ricks has served on the Summit DD Board for twelve years and is term limited; tonight will be her last meeting as a Board Member. The Superintendent commented how truly indispensable Mrs. Ricks has been to the mission of Summit DD stating she didn't just fill a seat on this board, she served with the expertise of a devoted teacher and the fierce love of a mother. Her insights were always grounded in what truly works for individuals and families and her commitment never wavered. The Superintendent thanked Mrs. Ricks for giving generously of her time, for her wisdom, and for her heart over the past decade. On behalf of the Board and staff, the Superintendent wished Mrs. Ricks, her husband, and their daughters all the very best. Mrs. Ricks said she is thankful for being able to live her passion by helping people with disabilities. She noted she has been on the Board serving with three Superintendents, helped to pass two levies and many Action Plans.

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WORK SESSION *(continued)*

I. DENISE RICKS' RETIREMENT FROM SUMMIT DD BOARD *(continued)*

She has served as the Board Secretary several times, the Board Vice President, and participated on many committees over the years. She thanked the Board and staff for everything Summit DD does for individuals with disabilities and their families and noted how rewarding it has been to see the impact Summit DD services have on her students and in the community.

II. 2026 SUMMIT DD ACTION PLAN

Superintendent Kamlowsky noted that 2026 is the second year of Summit DD's Vision 2030 Long Range Plan (LRP) with the focus for next year expressed throughout eighteen action items to lead the Agency closer to achieving the goals identified in the three priority areas of: Individual and Family, Stakeholder and Community, and Employee Focus. The 2026 Action Plan looks toward the future with continued innovation along with certain 2025 initiatives that are carried over. The 2026 Action Plan is currently posted for public comments through January 8, 2026. Any revisions that are incorporated into the Plan will be highlighted for the Board at the January meeting. Ms. James asked if Summit DD needed to modify any language in the Plan to comply with federal guidelines around DEI language. The Superintendent replied that staff are aware of the language limitations around DEI and federal grants and noted to date that is not an issue. The 2026 Action Plan has been recommended for approval by the December HR/LR, Finance & Facilities and Services & Supports Committees.

III. FAMILY & CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL/SUMMIT DD SHARED POOL AGREEMENT

The recommendation is to continue participation in the Summit County Family & Children First Council (FCFC) shared pool for calendar year 2026 in the amount of \$110,700. There is no increase in the amount of Summit DD's annual contribution. This arrangement shares funds provided by Summit DD, Children's Services Board (CSB), Juvenile Court and the ADM Board and is used to support children involved with multiple systems to provide support and resources to avoid out-of-home placement. About 90% of children served through FCFC remain in the family home. The FCFC shared pool agreement has been recommended for approval by the December Finance & Facilities and Services & Supports Committees.

IV. SUMMIT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB & FAMILY SERVICES (DJFS) CASE MANAGER CONTRACT

The request is to renew an annual agreement with the Summit County DJFS for a dedicated caseworker to be assigned to Summit DD. The dedicated caseworker will work exclusively with Summit DD staff, individuals, and families providing assistance that ensures barriers/delays and lapses in Medicaid eligibility are kept to a minimum.

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WORK SESSION *(continued)*

IV. SUMMIT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB & FAMILY SERVICES (DJFS) CASE MANAGER CONTRACT *(continued)*

The 2026 contract is in an amount not to exceed \$92,500, a \$2,500 increase over 2025 cost. Funds are available in the 2026 budget, and the contract has been recommended for approval by the November Finance & Facilities and Services & Supports Committee.

V. ADVANCED BEHAVIOR CONSULTING CONTRACT

The request is to renew a contract with Advanced Behavior Consulting for calendar year 2026 in an amount not to exceed \$185,000 for the provision of behavioral support services. Services are for both provider agencies who employ Registered Behavioral Therapists (RBT) serving individuals with complex needs as well as consultative in nature with Summit DD staff on specific cases. The Advanced Behavior Consulting contract has been recommended for approval by the November Finance & Facilities and Services & Supports Committee.

VI. NOVEMBER FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Revenue in November included an annual settlement from Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA) for properties it owns and second half house trailer tax settlement of \$33,200, along with Medicaid Administrative Claims (MAC) quarterly reimbursement of \$706,500. Property taxes had not been adjusted at the time the November financials were received but the County has now made the adjustment of \$7.5M. Expenditures for the month included payment of \$15,000 for renovations completed at a respite home, which is the home used by individuals with dual diagnosis, so those costs are shared with the ADM Board. There were also payments of \$14,500 for annual licensing, maintenance and support for the DocuWare system and \$10,000 to purchase new desktop computers. A budget transfer was completed through an Executive Order releasing \$120,000 from supplies and reallocating \$100,000 into direct contract services and \$20,000 into employee benefits to cover expenses for the remainder of 2025. November ended in a deficit position of \$6,689,916 with a fund balance of \$44,191,688. Included with the November financials is a revenue and expense comparative statement for 2025, projecting a year-end deficit position of \$12.6M and a fund balance of \$38.2M. The November financial statements have been recommended for approval by the December Finance & Facilities Committee.

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BOARD MEETING

The **regular monthly meeting** of the Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board convened at 5:53 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Leslie Frank, a parent and community member, thanked Denise Ricks for her many years of service on the Board and wished her well. She congratulated Mrs. Gaugler and Mr. Cramer for their reappointments to the Board. Ms. Frank thanked the Board for collaborating with the Akron Canton Food Bank to host drive through food pantries and also commented that she appreciates Summit DD continues to coordinate a *Giving Tree* each year. She wished all safe and happy holidays.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. NOVEMBER 17, 2025 (combined work session/regular meeting)

R E S O L U T I O N
No. 25-12-01

Resolved that the Board approve the minutes of the November 17, 2025 combined work session/regular meeting. Ms. James made the motion and Mrs. Gaugler seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. BOARD ACTION ITEMS

A. SUMMIT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB & FAMILY SERVICES CASE MANAGER CONTRACT

R E S O L U T I O N
No. 25-12-02

Resolved that the Board approve a contract with the Summit County Department of Job & Family Services for a dedicated case manager for calendar year 2026 in an amount not to exceed Ninety-Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$92,500), and that the Superintendent be authorized to sign said contract. Mrs. Gaugler made the motion and Mrs. Ricks seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

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BOARD MEETING *(continued)*

IV. BOARD ACTION ITEMS *(continued)*

B. ADVANCED BEHAVIOR CONSULTING CONTRACT

R E S O L U T I O N
No. 25-12-03

Resolved that the Board approve a contract with Advanced Behavior Consulting for calendar year 2026 in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$185,000) and that the Superintendent be authorized to sign said contract. Mrs. Ricks made the motion and Mr. Cramer seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. NOVEMBER FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

R E S O L U T I O N
No. 25-12-04

Resolved that the Board approve the November financial statements. Mr. Cramer made the motion and Mrs. Ricks seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. 2026 SUMMIT DD BOARD OFFICERS

Mr. Dodson asked Mr. Cramer to serve as the Nominating Committee to gather interest from other Board Members relative to Board Officer positions for 2026; Mr. Cramer accepted. 2026 Board officers will be elected at the January organizational meeting.

B. 2026 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Superintendent Kamlowsky noted Board Members will be receiving information from Maggi Albright relative to committee preferences for 2026. Mr. Dodson asked about committee assignments for the new board member. The Superintendent replied that Elizabeth Schrack will begin serving on a committee in February. Committee assignments will be made at the January organizational meeting and will be effective from February 2026 through January 2027.

C. MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES

Superintendent Kamlowsky mentioned Governor DeWine nominated Lyndsay Nash as Director of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD). Ms. Nash has been in the role of interim Director for the past several months and has been responsive and transparent in her communication.

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BOARD MEETING *(continued)*

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT *(continued)*

C. MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES *(continued)*

Superintendent Kamlowsky stated she appreciates Ms. Nash accepting the nomination as it is a challenging time for the Ohio DD system right now.

DODD communicated to county boards that state community capital assistance funds have been depleted, and no new money will be available for allocation until July 2026. Summit DD staff are working with Summit Housing Development Corporation (SHDC) to evaluate the impact on its operations. DODD also advised they have depleted the \$4M budgeted for "hardship" requests from county boards and currently have additional hardship requests on hold. DODD is revising the criteria used in evaluating those requests over the next fiscal year and that is anticipated to have a negative impact on county board allocations.

Superintendent Kamlowsky stated she continues to meet regularly with other county board superintendents regionally and statewide, along with the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB), to synthesize and prioritize cost reform concepts and proposed next steps. There are parallel reform conversations occurring statewide, and county boards are pressed to identify a small number of items to begin advancing relative to how to fund and manage the demands and to determine if there are doors that can be opened in the next budget with the next administration. Another Superintendent workday is scheduled in January in Columbus to continue this effort.

VI. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Mr. Dodson mentioned that while he will continue to serve on the Summit DD Board this is his last year as Board President. He thanked Mrs. Ricks for her many years of service and commitment on the Board and appreciates the time she has dedicated to serving the individuals and families in our community.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

R E S O L U T I O N No. 25-12-05

Resolved that the Board enter into Executive Session in compliance with Sunshine Law, Ohio Revised Code 121.22, Section G, Subsection (4) to discuss collective bargaining matters. Upon reconvening, the Board may or may not conduct additional business. Mr. Cramer made the motion and Mrs. Gaugler seconded.

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BOARD MEETING *(continued)*

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION *(continued)*

<u>Roll call vote:</u>	Mrs. Ricks – yes	Ms. James - yes
	Mr. Cramer – yes	Mrs. Gaugler - yes
	Mrs. Youssef - yes	Mr. Briggs – <i>Absent</i>
	Mr. Dodson – yes	

The motion was unanimously approved.

The regular meeting of the Board adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 6:04 p.m.

The Board meeting reconvened at 6:10 p.m.

VIII. ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEM

A. WEA I TENTATIVE AGREEMENT

R E S O L U T I O N
No. 25-12-06

Resolved that the Board approve the Tentative Agreement with Weaver Education Association (WEA) I collective bargaining agreement for the period January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028. Mr. Cramer made the motion and Ms. James seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. WWSA TENTATIVE AGREEMENT

R E S O L U T I O N
No. 25-12-07

Resolved that the Board approve the Tentative Agreement with Weaver Workshop and Support Association (WWSA) collective bargaining agreement for the period January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028. Mrs. Gaugler made the motion and Mrs. Ricks. The motion was unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the Board Meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.



Gregg Cramer, Secretary