

MINUTES – annual organizational meeting and combined work session and regular meeting
Thursday, January 15, 2026

Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board

MINUTES

Thursday, January 15, 2026
5:30 p.m.

The **annual organizational meeting** of the Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board was held on Thursday, January 15, 2026 at the Summit DD administrative offices located at 2355 2nd Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221. The **annual organizational meeting** convened at 5:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS

Jason Dodson - *Excused*
Allyson V. James
Gregg Cramer
Tami Gaugler
Randy Briggs
Stacy Youssef
Elizabeth Schrack - *Excused*

ALSO PRESENT

Lisa Kamlowsky, Superintendent	Drew Williams, Assistant Superintendent
Laura Gleason, Director of HR	James Armstrong, Director of Legal Svs.
Mira Pozna, Director of Fiscal	Russ DuPlain, Director of IT & Facilities
Maggi Albright, Recording Secretary	and others

I. NEW BOARD MEMBER – ELIZABETH SCHRACK

Elizabeth Schrack, Summit DD's new Board Member, was not able to attend the meeting tonight due to the inclement weather. The Superintendent noted that Ms. Schrack has received a short orientation with additional orientation meetings to follow. Maggi Albright will be disseminating an updated board roster and Board Members should feel free to reach out to Ms. Schrack. Mr. Cramer also encouraged other Members to reach out to Ms. Schrack to welcome her to the Board. He noted he has spoken with her, and she is looking forward to serving.

II. CALL TO ORDER ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING – ROLL CALL

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

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ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING *(continued)*

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Superintendent thanked Mr. Cramer for serving as the Nominating Committee to collect information regarding Board Members interested in serving in an officer position in 2026. Mr. Cramer announced the proposed slate of officers for 2026:

President – Allyson V. James
Vice-President – Gregg Cramer
Secretary – Tami Gaugler

There were no objections to the proposed slate of officers.

RESOLUTION No. 26-01-01

Resolved that the election of Board Officers for 2026 be approved, as follows: President – Allyson V. James; Vice President – Gregg Cramer; Secretary – Tami Gaugler. Mr. Briggs made the motion and Mrs. Youssef seconded.

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

The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. ETHICS COMMITTEE

The Ethics Committee is advisory to the Board with the purpose of reviewing situations where Summit DD staff also work secondary employment for a provider agency or where a potential conflict of interest exists regarding a board member or a board member's family member receiving services. Historically there have been few issues to come before this committee, as the majority of Summit DD staff hold service & support administration certification and are precluded by Ohio law from working for a provider agency. Ethics Committee meets as needed and the Superintendent noted the last time the committee convened was in February 2024. Meetings are usually held directly after a regularly scheduled board meeting when needed. It was proposed that Randy Briggs, Jason Dodson, and Stacy Youssef serve on Ethics Committee in 2026; all agreed.

RESOLUTION No. 26-01-02

Resolved that the Board Members appointed to serve on the Ethics Committee in 2026 are: Randy Briggs, Jason Dodson, and Stacy Youssef. Mrs. Gaugler made the motion and Mr. Cramer seconded.

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ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING (continued)

IV. ETHICS COMMITTEE (continued)

Roll call vote:

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

The motion was unanimously approved.

V. ASSIGNMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS TO SUPERINTENDENT COMMITTEES

The Finance & Facilities, Services & Supports and HR/LR Committees are advisory committees to the Superintendent. These meetings will continue to be held virtually once a month. Proposed committee assignments for 2026 are as follows:

- ✓ Finance & Facilities Committee: Tami Gaugler and Jason Dodson
- ✓ HR/LR Committee: Allyson V. James, Randy Briggs, and Stacy Youssef
- ✓ Services & Supports Committee: Gregg Cramer and Elizabeth Schrack

All Board Members agreed to these assignments. A 2026 meeting schedule for each committee will be developed and disseminated as soon as possible.

VI. BOARD MEMBER DECLARATIONS AND CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT

Individuals appointed or reappointed to serve on county developmental disabilities boards are required by Ohio Revised Code to provide a Declaration of Eligibility to serve upon appointment or reappointment. The Declaration is designed to identify any potential conflicts of interest. Summit DD requests all Board Members review and sign this document annually as best practice. Additionally, Summit DD Board Members are also asked to sign a Code of Ethics and Conduct each year. Board Members were asked to review the documents then sign and return them to Maggi Albright when they are able.

The annual organizational meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

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WORK SESSION

The **work session meeting** of the Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board convened at 5:39 p.m.

I. 2026 SUMMIT DD ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan identifies specific initiatives for 2026 that work toward the goals of the Agency's Long-Range Plan. There are eighteen action items that staff will be focusing on including several carry-over items from 2025. The Action Plan was shared with numerous stakeholders with no substantive feedback received. The 2026 Action Plan was recommended for approval by the December HR/LR, Finance & Facilities and Services & Supports Committees.

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

Summit County Family & Children First Council (FCFC) administers a pool of funds comprised of contributions from Summit DD, Children Services Board, Juvenile Court and the ADM Board. The funds are allocated to provide needed supports to children involved with multiple systems in Summit County to avoid out-of-home placement of the child. The 2026 request of \$110,700 is the same amount Summit DD contributed in 2025. Superintendent Kamlowsky commented that earlier today she attended the FCFC Parent Panel and in hearing their stories was reminded how important these shared pool funds are and the positive difference wraparound services are making for families in crisis in our community with one family reporting "*FCFC services transformed her family from crisis management to healing and thriving*". Ms. James, who also attended the FCFC Parent Panel, concurred that the stories were heart-wrenching and it was also very satisfying to see that the necessary resources are available for families who need them. The FCFC shared pool agreement has been recommended for approval by the December Finance & Facilities and Services & Supports Committees.

III. DECEMBER FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Revenue in December included \$620,700 for quarterly reimbursement of Medicaid Administrative Claims, \$3,378,900 for the 2022 Cost Report settlement and \$86,100 for quarterly Title XX reimbursement. The County also posted a correction of tax collections in the amount of \$7,511,300 which was better than anticipated. Expenditures for the month included payment of \$39,100 for annual licensing, maintenance and support for IT systems, County chargeback of \$25,000 for annual audit fees, \$10,000 to renew a contract with Oswald Company for insurance brokerage fees, and \$10,000 for crisis prevention training with the Ohio State University Nisonger Center. This \$10,000 was fully funded with a grant. December was a premium holiday month realizing a cost benefit of \$592,900 for medical and dental coverages. December ended in a deficit position of \$12,052,983 with a fund balance of \$38,828,621.

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WORK SESSION *(continued)*

III. DECEMBER FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*

Year end balances in other funds included: Gifts and Donations fund - \$86,478; Medicaid Reserve fund - \$9,659,347; Permanent Improvement Fund - \$1,516,004. Mr. Cramer asked where the Medicaid reserve funds are held. Ms. Pozna replied that this money is in a separate fund and slated to be used in the event the Agency requires it to pay its Medicaid match obligation. Mr. Cramer asked if it is an interest-bearing account. Ms. Pozna responded that it is an interest bearing account but that the County gets the interest earned on those funds.

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

BOARD MEETING

The **regular monthly meeting** of the Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board convened at 5:50 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. BOARD MEMBER CAUCUS

Mr. Cramer thanked Mr. Dodson for serving as Summit DD Board President for the past two years and remarked that Mr. Dodson is a very dedicated person who puts his heart into whatever he does. He has a sharp mind and deep commitment, and Summit DD is fortunate to have him as part of the Board. Mr. Cramer also thanked Ms. James for agreeing to serve in the President role in 2026 stating that he has served on the Board with Ms. James for the past four years and is very impressed with her commitment.

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BOARD MEETING *(continued)*

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Leslie Frank, a parent and community member, thanked the Board for agreeing to the recent WEA I and WWSA contracts noting she was a former WWSA member for many years. Ms. Frank also commented on the 2026 Action Plan and hopes the general public will learn more about Summit DD's core services.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. DECEMBER 18, 2025 (combined work session/regular meeting)

RESOLUTION No. 26-01-03

Resolved that the Board approve the minutes of the December 18, 2025 combined work session/regular meeting. Mr. Cramer made the motion and Mrs. Gaugler seconded.

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

The motion was unanimously approved.

V. BOARD ACTION ITEMS

A. 2026 SUMMIT DD ACTION PLAN

RESOLUTION No. 26-01-04

Resolved that the Board approve the 2026 Summit DD Action Plan. Mrs. Gaugler made the motion and Mr. Briggs seconded.

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

The motion was unanimously approved.

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BOARD MEETING *(continued)*

V. BOARD ACTION ITEMS *(continued)*

B. FAMILY & CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL/SUMMIT DD SHARED POOL CONTRACT

R E S O L U T I O N

No. 26-01-05

Resolved that the Board approve a contract with Summit County Family & Children First Council for the period January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Ten Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$110,700) and that the Superintendent be authorized to sign said contract. Mrs. Youssef made the motion and Mr. Cramer seconded.

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

The motion was unanimously approved.

C. DECEMBER FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

R E S O L U T I O N

No. 26-01-06

Resolved that the Board approve the December financial statements. Mr. Cramer made the motion and Mr. Briggs seconded.

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

The motion was unanimously approved.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Kamlowsky noted the Ohio legislature experienced one of its most active years in recent history with 955 bills introduced in the House and Senate compared to 578 bills introduced in the prior operating budget year. Property taxes emerged as a top priority for both the House and Senate. County board superintendents and the OACB provided testimony on fourteen separate occasions across five different bills and held over forty official meetings with state legislators.

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BOARD MEETING *(continued)*

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT *(continued)*

Testimony & meeting topics included the importance of state funding for EI services, maintaining the state's contribution to the previously approved direct support professional rate increase, and continued support for Ohio's DD system. OACB provided testimony urging legislators to remove language from the budget bill that expanded the authority of county budget commissions, along with the elimination of replacement levies. Despite this advocacy, the language on both issues remained but following the passage of the budget Governor DeWine vetoed the elimination of replacement levies and the expanded authority of county budget commissions. Lawmakers voted to override the veto on replacement levies, making that change effective this month. The topic of expanded county budget commission powers was ultimately incorporated in House Bill 309 which will become effective March 20, 2026, authorizing the county budget commission to adjust collections on voted levies to an amount within levels the commission finds reasonable and prudent to avoid unnecessary or excessive collections. Other notable legislation in 2025 includes House Bill 144, known as Keith's Law, that expands the communications disability database to include all disabilities and provides access to all county 9-1-1 systems. The database was previously limited to people who have a communication disability only. Senate Bill 35 would establish supported decision-making agreements as the least restrictive alternative to guardianship for people with developmental disabilities. The bill passed in the Senate and is awaiting hearings in the House Children and Human Services Committee. Finally, House Bill 225 would establish a process to eliminate subminimum wage employment in Ohio. This bill awaits further hearings in the House Commerce and Labor Committee. Numerous other bills remain under consideration in the Ohio Legislature that could directly or indirectly impact people with disabilities, their families and county boards. There will be many opportunities for interested parties to engage in advocacy efforts throughout 2026. Federal legislative actions in 2025 included significant proposed changes to Medicaid that could affect people with disabilities and their families along with proposals to eliminate or significantly reduce funding for key programs. Advocacy efforts have emphasized the need to preserve Medicaid funding for developmental disability services specifically opposing cuts to the Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP), stressing the need for stability in the amounts shared between county boards and the federal government. Implementation of federal Medicaid changes will also continue to be a focus in 2026 and beyond. Ohio is awaiting additional guidance from the federal government relative to rules outlining the parameters of the Medicaid work requirements beginning January 1, 2027. This guidance is expected by June 1st. Ongoing discussions continue about eliminating the U.S. Department of Education which have raised concerns about oversight of special education programs.

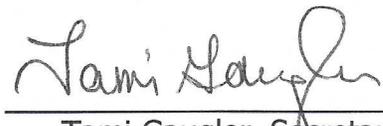
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BOARD MEETING *(continued)*

VII. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Ms. James echoed Mr. Cramer's remarks regarding outgoing President Dodson; Mr. Dodson did tremendous work, and she respects all that he has done for Summit DD. She commented that she won't be able to fill Mr. Dodson's shoes but will create her own. Ms. James noted that she has served on many boards, but this will be her first time chairing, and she looks forward to serving, supporting the Superintendent and her team and the community. She thanked everyone for putting their trust in her and stated she will do her best to serve well.

There being no further business, the Board Meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.



Tami Gaugler, Secretary