

MINUTES – combined work session and regular meeting
Thursday, April 16, 2026

Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board
MINUTES

Thursday, April 16, 2026
5:30 p.m.

The **combined work session and regular meeting** of the Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board was held on Thursday, April 16, 2026 at the Summit DD administrative offices located at 2355 2nd Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221. The **work session** convened at 5:32 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS

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

ALSO PRESENT

Lisa Kamlowsky, Superintendent	Drew Williams, Assistant Superintendent
Holly Brugh, Assistant Superintendent	Laura Gleason, Director of HR
Mira Pozna, Director of Fiscal	Russ DuPlain, Director of IT & Facilities
Maggi Albright, Recording Secretary	and others

I. SUCCESSION PLANNING

The succession planning discussion is specific to planning for the recruitment and hire of a Superintendent to lead Summit DD beginning January 2027. To assist the Board in this process, we are fortunate to have the expertise of the Ohio Association of County Board of Developmental Disabilities (OACB), with John Trunk serving in the role of Board Leadership Advisor. Mr. Trunk has assisted county boards across Ohio with 25 superintendent searches over the past four years and he joins the meeting tonight virtually to provide an overview of the search process, proposed timelines, and to answer any questions Board Members may have about the search and transition process. The search process involves four major components: advertising, collection of applications and resumes once a state-wide notice is published; helping the board prepare for interviews; selecting top candidates; and the transition process. The entire process takes about 3-4 months, and the notice should go out no later than July to begin conducting a statewide search.

MINUTES – combined work session and regular meeting
Thursday, April 16, 2026

WORK SESSION

I. SUCCESSION PLANNING (*continued*)

Interviews would be held in August with follow-up interviews in September. By the end of September candidates should be narrowed down to the top contenders. Mr. Trunk proposed that he come to Summit DD in person to have a deeper conversation around the Board's expectations for the next Superintendent. Ms. James stated she understands that deeper conversation is needed and welcomes having Mr. Trunk come in person to further discuss this topic. Mr. Trunk reminded the Board there is no charge for his services since Summit DD is a member of OACB. Mr. Briggs noted he has gone through this process several times and OACB has been helpful in narrowing down candidates. The Superintendent suggested that Mr. Trunk meet with the HR/LR Committee to continue these discussions. Ms. James replied she likes the idea of using this committee to assist with the process.

II. NEW POLICY 2039 – PAID PARENTAL LEAVE

Proposed new Policy 2039 – Paid Parental Leave (PPL) extends parental leave benefits to Summit DD's employees whose employment is not covered by one of the three collective bargaining agreements. This policy is modeled after the benefits negotiated in the labor agreements that were ratified in 2025 and will provide up to six weeks of paid leave for the birth of an employee's child with leaves of lesser duration for other parental obligations. To be eligible for these benefits an employee must be full-time and have worked at least 1,250 hours over the past 12 months. As mentioned last month, based on current non-bargaining headcount and demographics, the utilization rate is anticipated to be low and because the positions are already budgeted the primary cost will be the temporary redistribution of duties during the employee's absence. Adoption of this policy ensures internal equity of fundamental family benefits for all Summit DD employees. New policy 2039 has been recommended for approval by the March HR/LR Committee.

III. RING CENTRAL PHONE SYSTEM CONTRACT

The recommendation is to purchase a new phone system by migrating to Avaya Cloud Office by Ring Central under a purchase agreement beginning April 30, 2026 through April 29, 2029 at a total cost not to exceed \$168,835. This cloud-based system is compatible with the current phone system and offers capabilities that Summit DD currently does not have. It will unify calling, faxing and text messaging using employees' Summit DD phone numbers. It is anticipated this purchase will result in cost savings in excess of \$20K each year of the agreement as compared to the current cost for phone system maintenance and stand-alone fax costs. The Ring Central contract has been recommended for approval by the March Finance & Facilities Committee.

MINUTES – combined work session and regular meeting
Thursday, April 16, 2026

WORK SESSION *(continued)*

IV. MARCH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Relative to revenue in March, Ms. Pozna noted there is nothing to report out of the normal course of business. She added that about 50% of property tax settlement is anticipated in April. Expenditures in March included payment of \$110,700 for the shared pool agreement with FCFC, payment of \$36,400 for annual contract renewal of the UKG Ready payroll and talent management application and payment of \$104,300 for annual OACB membership dues. There were also exit cost payouts of \$254,700 for staffing reductions. There was a budget transfer of \$24,500 through an Executive Order to cover unanticipated expenditures not included in the 2026 budget. March ended in a deficit position of \$20,844,406 with a fund balance of \$17,984,215. The March financial statements have been recommended for approval by the April Finance & Facilities Committee.

The work session adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

BOARD MEETING

The **regular monthly meeting** of the Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board convened at 6:03 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Leslie Frank, a parent and community member, said she is pleased to hear that Mr. Trunk will be involved in the upcoming superintendent search as she was very impressed with his leadership when he was superintendent at Summit DD. She commented that Superintendent Kamlowsky has done a great job and hopes the next superintendent will be as good as the previous two. Ms. Frank thanked Superintendent Kamlowsky for inviting her to be a guest at the recent Summit DD Community Appreciation Breakfast. She said it was a great event and was amazed at all the community participation.

MINUTES – combined work session and regular meeting
Thursday, April 16, 2026

BOARD MEETING *(continued)*

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. MARCH 19, 2026 (combined work session/regular meeting)

R E S O L U T I O N

No. 26-04-01

Resolved that the Board approve the minutes of the March 19, 2026 combined work session/regular meeting. Ms. Schrack made the motion and Mr. Dodson seconded.

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

The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. BOARD ACTION ITEMS

A. NEW POLICY 2039 – PAID PARENTAL LEAVE

R E S O L U T I O N

No. 26-04-02

Resolved that the Board approve new Policy 2039 – Paid Parental Leave, as presented. Mrs. Gaugler made the motion and Mr. Briggs seconded.

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

The motion was unanimously approved.

B. RING CENTRAL PHONE SYSTEM CONTRACT

R E S O L U T I O N

No. 26-04-03

Resolved that the Board approve a three-year contract with Ring Central for the period April 30, 2026 through April 29, 2029, in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Sixty-Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty-Five Dollars (\$168,835) and that the Superintendent be authorized to sign said contract. Mr. Cramer made the motion and Ms. Schrack seconded.

MINUTES – combined work session and regular meeting
Thursday, April 16, 2026

BOARD MEETING *(continued)*

IV. BOARD ACTION ITEMS *(continued)*

B. RING CENTRAL PHONE SYSTEM CONTRACT *(continued)*

Roll call vote: Mr. Cramer – yes Ms. Schrack – yes
 Mrs. Gaugler - yes Ms. James – yes
 Mr. Dodson – yes Mrs. Youssef - *Excused*
 Mr. Briggs - yes

The motion was unanimously approved.

C. MARCH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RESOLUTION

No. 26-04-04

Resolved that the Board approve the March financial statements. Mrs. Gaugler made the motion and Mr. Dodson seconded.

Roll call vote: Mr. Dodson - yes Mr. Cramer - yes
 Mr. Briggs - yes Mrs. Gaugler - yes
 Ms. Schrack – yes Mrs. Youssef - *Excused*
 Ms. James - yes

The motion was unanimously approved.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. SYSTEM UPDATES

Superintendent Kamlowsky commented that the state of Ohio is at a critical crossroads regarding the sustainability of the Medicaid waiver system operated under the guidance of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), which has delegated much of the administration of the Medicaid waiver program to county boards. DODD is expressing significant concerns over statewideness, as well as pending and anticipated hardship requests from some county boards. There continues to be growing disparity statewide in resources. Relative to Medicaid match, 20 counties are effectively carrying the system paying 80% of the total statewide match while the remaining 68 counties contribute only 20%. In response to these performance and financial gaps, the state and seven small counties have agreed to explore a regionalized concept wherein the state would pay the local match costs for those counties in exchange for the relinquishment of local Medicaid administrative functions to one unnamed oversight entity.

MINUTES – combined work session and regular meeting
Thursday, April 16, 2026

BOARD MEETING *(continued)*

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. SYSTEM UPDATES

This created concern about the larger system impacts of such a move and what kind of snowball effect it could have statewide. There is much urgency to move from analysis into action and an acknowledgement that the system must look different in the future, but the reality is that none of the concepts being discussed address the differences between counties and their levy income. Local property tax levies are the primary funding source for county developmental disabilities boards, and of the 252 levies currently funding the Ohio DD system, totaling about \$696M, 186 are continuing levies. Pending legislation to eliminate continuing levies (HB 420) and a 2026 ballot initiative to eliminate property taxes put the vast majority of county board funding at risk. Additional concepts continue to be explored but there is no silver bullet to reset the system. There is some agreement that regionalization with certain Medicaid functions should be explored but there are lots of questions in terms of what that might look like for county boards moving forward, what would need to be revised in rule, what would need to be revised in statute, what would need to be requested as state budget appropriation, etc. Superintendent Kamlowsky noted this is a complex topic with ongoing discussion and she will continue to keep the Board updated on developments.

B. QUARTERLY UPDATE

Superintendent Kamlowsky noted there is an Executive Summary in Board books outlining key information for Summit DD's first quarter in 2026. She noted Summit DD is serving just under 6,000 individuals with the overall demand remaining steady. What is notable in the first quarter is the profile of those newly entering the system with 80% of the individuals between the ages of 3-21 and over half with an Autism diagnosis. There is an increase in a younger demographic with complex, lifelong support needs, which is a trend that will drive long-term service projections and cost modeling. The Referral and Support Specialist (RSS) model is being utilized to manage this volume with about 75% of individuals now successfully using the RSS team approach. This allows for a responsive, as needed, contact system that keeps Summit DD agile and involved with families as their needs ebb and flow. Summit DD has transitioned to 300 FTEs, which aligns precisely with the sustainability plan, ensuring that we remain right sized to manage the balance between service delivery and fiscal responsibility. Relative to MUIs, the numbers show a significant decrease with 85 fewer cases than this time last year.

MINUTES – combined work session and regular meeting
Thursday, April 16, 2026

BOARD MEETING *(continued)*

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT *(continued)*


B. QUARTERLY UPDATE *(continued)*

This can be attributed to the July 2025 rule changes in the definition of what constitutes a MUI. The current needs list remains a dynamic area with 122 assessments during the first quarter and the current needs list now has over 120 people. To clarify the gap in those waiting, 50% are receiving some support through local funding; 10% are receiving support through a Level 1 waiver but are waiting for an IO waiver; and the remaining 80 individuals on the current needs list are primarily transition-age students still in high school. Relative to the big picture of sustainability, Medicaid match remains the primary cost driver at 45% of expenses with local revenue relatively flat. Both Holly Brugh and Drew Williams are participants in statewide workgroups for purposes of system enhancement. The Superintendent noted she is closely involved in the Funding the Future Committee and bringing those concepts out of the discussion stage and into action steps. These initiatives will define how services are funded and assess needs in the coming years. The Superintendent said she will keep the Board updated as these transformations take shape.

VI. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Ms. James commented that it was a privilege to attend Summit DD's Community Appreciation Breakfast and said that it was a moment of pride as well as the opportunity to recognize community partners. She thanked the Superintendent and the team involved in organizing the event. Mr. Cramer commended the Executive Leadership Team and specifically Russ DuPlain for the three-year savings on the Ring Central contract. It sends an important message to the community and taxpayers that we are aware of the financial situation.

There being no further business, the Board Meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.



Tami Gaugler, Secretary