

MINUTES – combined work session and regular meeting
Thursday, February 19, 2026

Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board

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Thursday, February 19, 2026
5:30 p.m.

The **combined work session and regular meeting** of the Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board was held on Thursday, February 19, 2026 at the Summit DD administrative offices located at 2355 2nd Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221. The **work session** convened at 5:37 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS

Allyson V. James, Board President
Gregg Cramer, Board Vice President
Tami Gaugler, Board Secretary
Jason Dodson
Randy Briggs
Stacy Youssef
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
Billie Jo David, Director of Communications & Quality	Maggi Albright, Recording Secretary and others

I. WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER – ELIZABETH SCHRACK

Superintendent Kamlowsky welcomed Elizabeth Schrack, Summit DD's newest Board Member who was appointed by County Executive Shapiro to serve her first term beginning January 2026 through December 31, 2029. Ms. Schrack is an experienced advocate and social services professional working as a behavioral health clinician at the Blick Center. The Superintendent noted that Ms. Schrack's appointment is historical for Summit DD and we are excited to have her as part of the governing body. Her knowledge and personal experiences will bring value and perspective to the conversations. Ms. Schrack said she is excited to serve and learn how things work at a deeper level and to contribute based upon her community perspective.

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WORK SESSION

II. OHIO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY BOARDS (OACB) ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

The OACB is a non-profit organization providing advocacy, training and professional development, communication support, and other assistance to Ohio's eighty-eight county boards of DD and on behalf of all individuals served by county boards across the state of Ohio. OACB engages with legislators, provider partners, and advocacy organizations to offer education relative to the state of the system of DD services in Ohio and concerns with respect to the sustainability of services, which is more important than it has ever been, also ensuring that voices of county boards and people served and their families are heard and considered in future decisions. In addition, this year the Board will identify and select its next Superintendent, and managing the search process is a service afforded to the Board as part of its OACB membership. Dues for 2026 remain flat at last year's cost of \$104,250. The 2026 OACB annual membership dues have been recommended for approval by the February Finance & Facilities Committee.

III. SHIFTABLEITY CONTRACT

ShiftAbility is a Cincinnati-based technology consulting company that partners with DD service providers to offer the tools and expertise needed to transform from typical caregiving models to technology-first models of service. This smart living model begins with a comprehensive review of an individual's needs and identifies technology-based solutions that promote independence, enhance quality of life and reduce reliance on in-person staffing. Summit DD previously received grant funding for a pilot project that supported ShiftAbility working with local provider Louisa Ridge, which was successful in its implementation. While grant funding is no longer available, the 2026 budget contemplates expanding this consultative support to five local providers that have expressed interest in shifting their service model and have committed resources toward the transformation process. The outcome will be increased capacity to serve more individuals in a manner that supports people to live a more independent and inclusive life. The request is to contract with ShiftAbility for the period March 1, 2026 through February 28, 2027 in an amount not to exceed \$90,000. Funds to support this contract are included in the 2026 budget and the contract has been recommended for approval by the February Finance & Facilities and Services and Supports Committees.

IV. HOPE HOMES FOUNDATION BLANKET HOUSING AGREEMENT

The request is to enter into a blanket housing agreement with Hope Homes Foundation for the period March 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. Hope Homes Foundation is a non-profit organization with a mission of developing, acquiring, renovating and managing housing that is affordable for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

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WORK SESSION *(continued)*

IV. HOPE HOMES FOUNDATION BLANKET HOUSING AGREEMENT *(continued)*

Hope Homes is eligible to receive capital assistance funding from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD). Capital funds are made available to county boards to assist in acquiring housing for individuals receiving community-based support services with funds used to cover a percentage of the purchase price allowing the organization to set a more affordable rent. An agreement between the county board and the non-profit is required to access these state funds. There are no local dollars attached to this agreement. Hope Homes currently owns eleven homes in Summit County all for the specific purpose of providing housing for individuals with developmental disabilities. The Hope Homes Foundation blanket housing agreement has been recommended for approval by the February Finance & Facilities Committee.

V. JANUARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Relative to revenue in January, there was nothing out of the normal course of business to report. Ms. Pozna noted that about 50% of the property tax settlement is anticipated in March or April. Expenditures in January included payment of \$476,600 to DODD for the quarterly Medicaid waiver administrative fee and \$9,748,200 for quarterly Medicaid waiver match. There was also a quarterly payment of \$14,300 to the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services for the dedicated case worker agreement. January was a three-pay month along with annual sick and vacation conversion payouts. January ended in deficit spending of \$14,516,044 and a fund balance of \$24,312,577. The January financial statements have been recommended for approval by the February Finance & Facilities Committee.

VI. EXCEPTION TO POLICY 2032 – UNUSED SICK LEAVE

Summit DD Policy 2032 affords non-bargaining employees the option to elect at the time of retirement from the Board's employ and with ten (10) or more years of service, to be paid fifty percent (50%) of the value of any unused, accumulated sick leave at the employee's current rate of pay. The recommendation is to waive both the requirement of separation by retirement status and the ten-year service requirement for seven non-bargaining unit employees impacted by the Board's March 1, 2026 layoff action. Bargaining unit employees impacted by the layoff are eligible to receive this benefit as all three of Summit DD's collective bargaining agreements (WEA I, WEA II, and WWSA) contain less restrictive language. There is no length of service requirement for bargaining unit employees to receive this benefit, and the benefit is not limited to an employee's retirement from the Board's employment.

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WORK SESSION *(continued)*

VI. EXCEPTION TO POLICY 2032 – UNUSED SICK LEAVE *(continued)*

Mr. Cramer asked what the total dollar amount would be. The Superintendent responded that the maximum amount is approximately \$40,000. Mr. Dodson asked if all seven employees meet the ten-year requirement. The Superintendent replied that two of the seven staff do not meet the ten-year requirement. She noted most of the seven employees are classified employees and added that of the 29 positions impacted by the layoff, fourteen will take the layoff (seven bargaining unit and seven non-bargaining). The seven bargaining unit employees are eligible to cash out sick time irrespective of years of service. Board policy does not offer the same benefit to the seven non-bargaining employees. The Superintendent clarified that she is not recommending revisions to the policy at this time but seeks to make an exception for the seven non-bargaining employees impacted by the March 1st layoff. Mr. Dodson asked if any of the seven non-bargaining employees are seeking employment at other public entities after separation. Ms. Gleason replied that no notice of such has been received. Mr. Dodson asked if this action would impact unemployment costs. Ms. Pozna replied any impact would be immaterial. Ms. James commented the policy seems lopsided and there may be benefit in reviewing the policy as a whole for consistency. Mr. Briggs noted this is a unique situation and employees are not leaving of their own accord so they should be treated the same as the union employees who are being laid off. It is a good policy that may not need changed but, in this situation, it is fair to strongly consider waiving the requirement for these specific seven employees.

The work session adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

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BOARD MEETING

The **regular monthly meeting** of the Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board convened at 5:56 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Leslie Frank, a parent and community member, welcomed Ms. Schrack to the Board. She noted it is a very cohesive Board who work well together. She thanked Ms. Schrack for agreeing to serve.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. JANUARY 15, 2026 (annual organizational meeting and combined work session/regular meeting)

RESOLUTION No. 26-02-01

Resolved that the Board approve the minutes of the January 15, 2026 annual organizational meeting and combined work session/regular meeting. Mr. Cramer made the motion and Mr. Briggs seconded.

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

The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. BOARD ACTION ITEMS

- A. 2026 OACB ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

RESOLUTION No. 26-02-02

Resolved that the Board approve payment of the 2026 OACB annual membership dues in the amount of One Hundred Four Thousand Two Hundred Fifty dollars (\$104,250), and that the Superintendent be authorized to execute said payment. Mrs. Gaugler made the motion and Mr. Dodson seconded.

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BOARD MEETING *(continued)*

IV. BOARD ACTION ITEMS *(continued)*

A. 2026 OACB ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES *(continued)*

Roll call vote:

Mr. Briggs - yes	Mr. Cramer - yes
Mrs. Youssef - yes	Mrs. Gaugler - yes
Ms. Schrack - yes	Mr. Dodson - yes
Ms. James - yes	

The motion was unanimously approved.

B. SHIFTABLEITY CONTRACT

RESOLUTION No. 26-02-03

Resolved that the Board approve a contract with ShiftAbility for the period March 1, 2026 through February 28, 2027 in an amount not to exceed Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000) and that the Superintendent be authorized to sign said contract. Mr. Dodson made the motion and Mr. Briggs seconded.

Roll call vote:

Mrs. Youssef - yes	Mrs. Gaugler - yes
Ms. Schrack – Abstain	Mr. Dodson – yes
Ms. James - yes	Mr. Briggs – yes
Mr. Cramer - yes	

The motion was unanimously approved.

C. HOPE HOMES FOUNDATION HOUSING AGREEMENT

RESOLUTION No. 26-02-04

Resolved that the Board approve a blanket housing agreement with Hope Homes Foundation for the period March 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, and that the Superintendent be authorized to sign said agreement. Mr. Cramer made the motion and Mr. Dodson seconded.

Roll call vote:

Ms. Schrack - yes	Mr. Dodson - yes
Ms. James - yes	Mr. Briggs – yes
Mr. Cramer - yes	Mrs. Youssef – yes
Mrs. Gaugler - yes	

The motion was unanimously approved.

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BOARD MEETING *(continued)*

IV. BOARD ACTION ITEMS *(continued)*

D. JANUARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

R E S O L U T I O N

No. 26-02-05

Resolved that the Board approve the January financial statements. Mr. Dodson made the motion and Mrs. Youssef seconded.

Roll call vote:

Ms. James – yes	Mr. Briggs - yes
Mr. Cramer – yes	Mrs. Youssef – yes
Mrs. Gaugler – yes	Ms. Schrack – yes
Mr. Dodson - yes	

The motion was unanimously approved.

E. EXCEPTION TO POLICY 2032 – UNUSED SICK LEAVE

R E S O L U T I O N

No. 26-02-06

Resolved that the Board approve an exception to Policy 2032 and authorize payment of unused, accumulated sick leave to be paid at fifty percent (50%) of its current value to specific non-bargaining employees impacted by the March 1, 2026 layoff. Mr. Briggs made the motion and Mr. Dodson seconded.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Cramer – yes	Mrs. Youssef – Abstain
Mrs. Gaugler – yes	Ms. Schrack – yes
Mr. Dodson – yes	Ms. James – yes
Mr. Briggs - yes	

The motion was unanimously approved.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Kamlowsky noted follow up with the Board as to where Summit DD currently stands relative to waiver counts. In December Assistant Superintendent Holly Brugh reviewed with the Board the process by which waivers are allocated including performing assessments for immediate and current needs. Ms. Brugh provided data comparing the number of waivers Summit DD budgeted for last year against the number of waivers allocated to meet immediate needs, along with the number of people who are identified as having a current need but not yet allocated a waiver. There was a request to keep the Board updated relative to these data points, and moving forward this data will be provided to the Board quarterly.

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BOARD MEETING *(continued)*

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT *(continued)*

In the meantime, Superintendent Kamlowsky presented information for the Board to think about as a baseline for the beginning of this calendar year.

Census

- Summit DD currently supports 5,932 people.
- 3,242 individuals have a SSA with the majority receiving Medicaid funded services; 1,886 individuals have RSS staff supporting them and many are still in school receiving a small amount of local funding or community resources; 656 families receive EI services; and 267 people are going through the eligibility process.
- 61 graduates are anticipated to request funding from the Board in 2026 as they move from their school district into adult services.

Wait List Assessment and Waiver Allocation

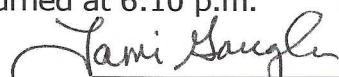
- The wait list assessment is the process county boards are required to use to determine an individual's level of need. In 2024, SSAs completed 272 assessments resulting in 56 people with immediate needs compared to 652 assessments and 219 people who had immediate needs in 2025. This is more than double the number of wait list assessments and almost four times the number of people who presented with a service need requiring immediate funding.
- Summit DD allocated an additional 69 waivers over what was budgeted in 2025 due to the number of people assessed to have immediate needs.
- As of end of January, 213 individuals have been identified as having current needs. When Ms. Brugh presented this information in December 2025, there were 180 individuals identified as having current needs.

Ms. Youssef asked why there has been such a large increase in waivers. Ms. Brugh responded the increase is due to the increasing needs of individuals and some individuals were converted from local funding to waiver funding which has had an impact. Ms. Youssef asked how many SSAs are doing wait list assessments. Ms. Brugh said there are 3-4 SSAs completing those assessments. Superintendent Kamlowsky said that she would bring a complete report to the Board in April.

VI. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Ms. James thanked Adam Herman, OACB Executive Director, for his Board in-service presentation on Ohio County Boards Fiscal Sustainability. She said that Superintendent Kamlowsky and her team have been keeping the Board informed and his presentation puts everything into perspective, and it was very helpful. Ms. James also thanked Superintendent Kamlowsky and her management team for their thoughtfulness and compassion relative to the recent employee layoffs. She said she knows it has been very difficult and these decisions are never easy. Ms. James thanked Leslie Frank for her regular attendance at Board Meetings and for sharing her kind words.

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


Tami Gaugler, Secretary