



*"The mission of the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities is to:  
Inspire, empower, and support individuals and their families."*

## **ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

4405 Galloway Road, Sandusky, Ohio 44870

### **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**February 19, 2026**

#### **PRESENT**

Board Members: Pamela Hall, Mark Harrington, Eric Kibler, Mary Peters, and Stacie Schmid (electronic).

ECBDD Staff: Carrie Beier, Rachel Malone, and Michelle Kelley.

#### **VISITORS SIGNED IN**

Steve Shoffner, Diane Corso, Mike Riggle, and Felicia Zendejas.

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The February 19, 2026, Board Meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by President, Mr. Eric Kibler.

#### **II. NEW BOARD MEMBER INSTALLMENT (OATH OF OFFICE)**

Erie County Commissioner, Steve Shoffner, administered the Oath of Office, to newly appointed Board Member Pamela Hall. Pamela was appointed by the Commissioners to serve a 4-year term through 12/31/29. Pamela replaces the open seat of Katelyn Miller, who was not reappointed by the Commissioners.

#### **III. ROLL CALL**

Roll Call was taken. Mr. David Danhoff was absent excused. All Board Members were present.

#### **IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no Public Comment.

#### **VI. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 22, 2026, MEETING MINUTES**

The review and approval of the January 22, 2026, was deferred to the March meeting.

## **VII. BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Ethics Committee Report:** The Ethics Committee did not meet.

### **B. Finance Committee**

#### **1. Finance Committee Report**

Rachel Malone reported the January financials were reviewed by the Finance Committee. Rachel shared the following:

- There were three pay periods in January.
- The Insurance line includes the annual EAP invoice.
- The Dues line includes payment to OABC for annual dues.
- There are 27 pay periods in 2026, which has been budgeted.
- A brief discussion was held on future levy revenue needs.

#### **2. Fiscal Report**

The Fiscal Report for Month Ending January 31, 2026, was provided for review and approval (handout). Mrs. Mary Peters made a motion to approve the January Fiscal Report as submitted. Mr. Mark Harrington seconded the motion. Roll call vote followed:

Pamela Hall	AYE
Mark Harrington	AYE
Eric Kibler	AYE
Mary Peters	AYE
Stacie Schmid	AYE

With all members in favor, the motion passed.

### **C. Policy Committee Report:**

Mrs. Mary Peters reported that the Policy Committee reviewed the following policies in February:

- Employment First Policy (reviewed and revised)
- Due Process for Medicaid Covered Services Policy (reviewed and revised)

Both policies were reviewed and revised, and the Policy Committee recommended Board approval. Mr. Mark Harrington made a motion to approve the Employment First Policy and the Due Process for Medicaid Covered Services Policy as revised. Mrs. Stacie Schmid seconded the motion. Roll call vote followed:

Pamela Hall	AYE
Mark Harrington	AYE
Eric Kibler	AYE
Mary Peters	AYE
Stacie Schmid	AYE

With all members in favor, the motion passed.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. 2026 Board Member Training Schedule**

The updated Board Member Training Schedule for 2026 was distributed and reviewed by Carrie Beier. The first training of the year will be a 1-hour training following the March Board Meeting on 3/19/26. Additionally, Carrie is planning to reach out to Rick Jeffrey, Erie Co. Auditor and Jake Dowling from OACB to inquire about training presentations for later in the year.

### **B. Board Member Open Seat Update**

Carrie Beier reported that on 2/17/26, we received notification from Erie County Commissioners office that Mark Harrington was reappointed to serve another term. This will be his third and final term ending on 12/31/29, Mark was welcomed back to the Board.

One seat remains vacant. This is a Commissioner appointed seat and per ORC guidelines shall be filled by an individual we serve. Carrie continues to reach out to the Commissioners office to check on the status of filling this seat. The updated 2026 Board Member Roster was provided for informational purposes (handout).

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Building Bridges Recognition Banquet**

Carrie Beier reported that the 2026 Building Bridges Recognition Banquet will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 5:00pm at Ten Fifty Eight Event Center in Sandusky. Over 50 nominees will be recognized and award winners will be highlighted. If available, Board Members and a guest, should plan to attend. Please RSVP to Michelle Kelley.

### **B. Board Committee Appointments**

Discussion ensued on our new Board Member Pamela Hall serving on a committee. Mrs. Mary Peters made a motion to appoint Pamela Hall to the Policy Committee. Mr. Mark Harrington seconded the motion. Roll call vote followed:

Pamela Hall	AYE
Mark Harrington	AYE
Eric Kibler	AYE
Mary Peters	AYE
Stacie Schmid	AYE

With all members in favor, the motion passed.

## **X. STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS REPORT**

Carrie Beier distributed a report including Dashboard Data updates for year end 2025 and Strategic Plan updates through year end 2025. Discussion ensued on the continued increase in demand for our services, particularly at the transition age range.

Mr. Mark Harrington made a motion to approve the Strategic Plan updates through year end 2025. Mrs. Mary Peters seconded the motion. Roll call vote followed:

Pamela Hall	AYE
Mark Harrington	AYE
Eric Kibler	AYE
Mary Peters	AYE
Stacie Schmid	AYE

With all members in favor, the motion passed.

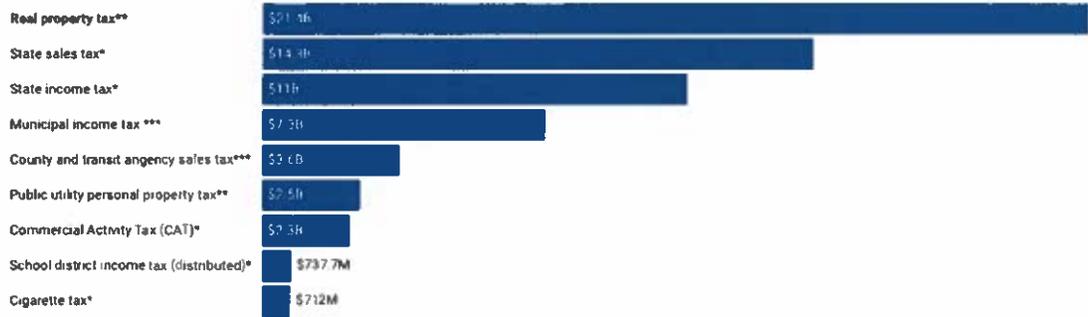
## **XI. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

- Carrie attended the following in-person/virtual/remote meetings, training, and activities: Ohio Provider Resource Association Provider Friday Five's virtual meeting, Erie County FCFC executive meeting, Superintendent OACB DCY meeting, Erie DCY Children's Advisory Council, DCY Early Identification Committee meeting, Night to Shine, and OACB SEC meeting.
- **Media/Public Relations:**
  - Sandusky Register article (handout):
    - 2/17/26- *Shining bright on Friday night*
  - Night To Shine Event on 2/13/26: 165 Honored Guests, 36 ECBDD volunteers, 400 Chapel volunteers (including Buddies), and 157 family members on-site respite.
- **Personnel:**
  - Sara Lalonde will start on March 2<sup>nd</sup> in the position of EI Service Coordinator. She fills the position of Kendra Schweck, who is retiring.
  - The SSA Department will be revising 3 job descriptions to better meet the needs of those we serve and improve workload efficiency.
- **OACB: Legislative Advisor, Jake Dowling - 1-29-26**

Brief highlights impact of property tax elimination

## Real property tax is Ohio's largest. Repealing it would gut services.

Revenue from major state and local taxes. Tax period varies as noted.



\*State Fiscal Year 2025 \*\*Tax Year 2024 \*\*\*Calendar Year 2024

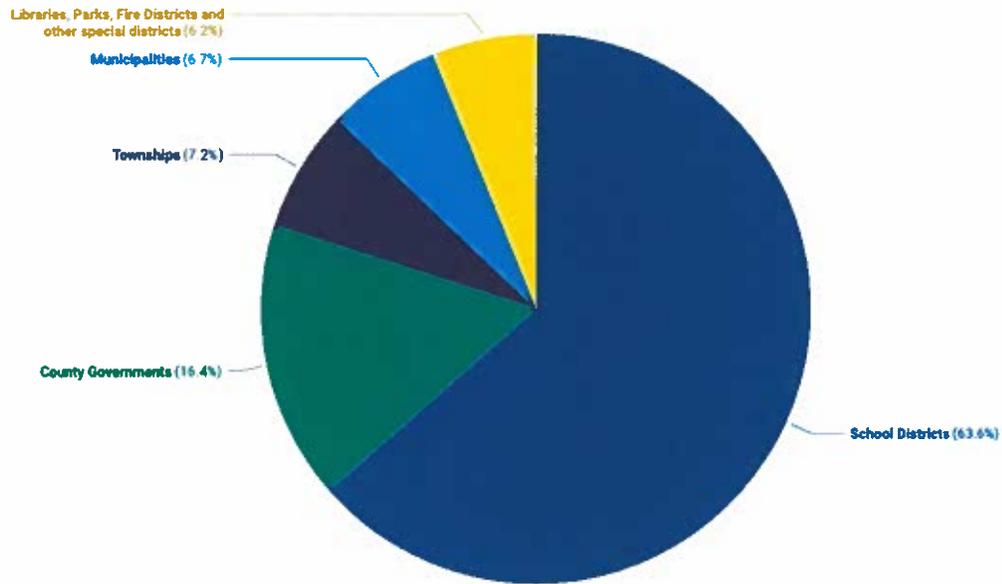
Source: Ohio Department of Taxation. [Get the data](#). Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Policy Matters Ohio, a statewide nonprofit think tank, [released a tax policy brief](#) that highlighted the dangers to services for people with developmental disabilities, school funding, and other local governments if property taxes were to be eliminated. The brief states that property taxes in Ohio account for the largest share of revenue, with collections of roughly \$21.4 billion during the 2024 tax year. Of the \$21.4 billion, 63% was used to fund schools, 16.4% to fund county governments, 13.9% to fund townships and municipalities, and 6.2% to fund libraries, parks, fire departments, and other special districts. The elimination of property tax dollars would leave gaps in funding for all collecting entities.

According to the brief, each county in Ohio receives roughly only one in six property tax dollars that have been collected. These funds are then distributed amongst the various taxing entities in the county, mostly through voter approval. The brief states that of those taxing entities that receive voter-approved property tax dollars, county boards of developmental disabilities are the only entities with at least one voted property tax levy in all 88 counties.

## Property taxes fund schools and many other services

Estimated Real Property Taxes for Tax Year 2024 by Jurisdiction



Source: Legislative Service Commission - [Get the data](#) Created with [Datawrapper](#)

The brief also highlights data from an [October 2025 report produced by the Tax Foundation](#) that explains if Ohio were to eliminate all property taxes by vote in November, the state would lose an estimated \$20.57 billion in revenue from 2027 taxes. This would require an alternative funding source be identified by 2028. It is estimated that the sales tax would need to be increased to an average of 14% across the state to make up for the loss in property tax revenue, with most counties increasing by 7%. As of now, no alternative funding source to fill the potential loss has been identified within the statewide proposal to eliminate property taxes, nor by the legislature.

The brief further warns that eliminating property taxes could increase utility costs for Ohio taxpayers. The proposal would not eliminate fixed-sum levies, which would remain payable by the remaining property tax base. That base would rely heavily on utility companies, still subject to tangible personal property taxes. The brief estimates these costs could total nearly \$2.5 billion, which utility companies could pass on to customers through higher rates.

What does this mean for county boards?

The effort to eliminate property taxes in the state of Ohio would have drastic effects on the funding for services provided to people with developmental disabilities and their families by county boards of DD. With \$21.4 billion in property tax being collected in the 2024 tax year, any elimination would mean that Ohio would have to come up with an estimated \$20.57 billion by 2028. With no alternative funding streams proposed, reports and studies have estimated that Ohio would need to increase its average statewide sales tax to nearly 14%, an increase of 7% in most counties. An elimination in property taxes could also impact utility rates with companies paying the remaining fixed property taxes and passing the costs to customers. This brief highlights the real danger to DD services in Ohio should property taxes be eliminated.

- **Ohio Developmental Disabilities System – Yesterday-Today-Tomorrow**  
Statewide Industry Discussion – Funding the Future-
  - What are the service costs drivers in Medicaid/Waiver system
  - Local dollars service costs clarity.
  - County Board operations and role clarification and realignment.
  - What concepts, concerns and strengths resonate across counties?
  - What are the service system gaps?
  
- **State Levy Update:** Twelve county boards of DD will have levy requests on local ballots in the upcoming Primary Election on Tuesday, May 5. Levy details are as follows:
  - Brown: 1.5 mill New (10 years)
  - Butler: 2.0 mill New (Continuous)
  - Champaign: 1.5 mill New (5 years)
  - Clermont: 0.75 mill New (Continuous)
  - Defiance: 2.0 mill New (Continuous)
  - Delaware: 2.0 mill Renewal plus .7 mill Additional (5 years)
  - Logan: 2.75 mill New (5 years)
  - Lorain: 0.85 mill Additional (5 years)

**XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no Executive Session.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Mark Harrington made a motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 6:46 p.m. Mrs. Mary Peters seconded the motion. Roll call vote followed:

Pamela Hall	AYE
Mark Harrington	AYE
Eric Kibler	AYE
Mary Peters	AYE
Stacie Schmid	AYE

With all members in favor, the motion passed and the February Board meeting was adjourned.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Recording Secretary

3/19/2024  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date