



*"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**

**March 19, 2026**

#### **PRESENT**

Board Members: David Danhoff, Pamela Hall, Mark Harrington, Eric Kibler, Mary Peters, and Stacie Schmid.

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

#### **VISITORS SIGNED IN**

Diane Corso, Jennifer Kinney, Mike Riggle, Suzy Stevenson, and Felicia Zendejas.

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

The March 19, 2026, Board Meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by President, Mr. Eric Kibler.

#### **II. ROLL CALL**

Roll Call was taken. All Board Members were present.

#### **III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no Public Comment.

#### **V. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 22, 2026 & FEBRUARY 19, 2026, MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Mark Harrington made a motion to approve the January 22, 2026 & February 19, 2026, Board Meeting minutes as submitted. Mrs. Mary Peters seconded the motion. With all members in favor, the motion passed.

#### **VI. BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

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

##### **B. Finance Committee**

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

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

- Annual expenses for our COG contract were paid.

- Discussed future state and local county board funds to assess sustainability of state and local services into the future.
- Waiver reconciliation anticipated in March or April.
- Discussed the Then & Now Resolution for MAC payments overpaid.

2. **Fiscal Report**

The Fiscal Report for Month Ending February 28, 2026, was provided for review and approval (handout). Mr. David Danhoff made a motion to approve the February Fiscal Report as submitted. Mr. Mark Harrington seconded the motion. With all members in favor, the motion passed.

3. **Authorized Employee Positions & Table of Organization**

The Authorized Employee Positions & Table of Organization were distributed (handout). These documents were revised to reflect the following changes, which were approved by the Union:

- 1 FT Speech Language Pathologist- removed/eliminated position. Total # of full-time positions reduced from 53 to 52. Reducing total # of positions from 59 to 58.
- 1 FT SSA Assistant- title changed to Individual & Family Support Specialist.
- 1 FT SSA Assistant- title changed to Provider Support Specialist.
- 1 FT SSA Program Specialist- title changed to MUI & Fiscal Support Specialist.
- 1 FT Individual & Family Support Specialist (open)- removed/eliminated position. Total # of full-time positions reduced from 52 to 51. Reducing total # of positions reduced from 58 to 57.

Mrs. Mary Peters made a motion to approve the revised Authorized Employee Positions & the revised Table of Organization with the above noted changes. Mrs. Stacie Schmid seconded the motion. With all members in favor, the motion passed.

4. **Then & Now Resolution Treasurer, State of Ohio/DODD**  
**Resolution #: 03-04-2026**

The Erie County Commissioners require a Board **THEN and NOW Resolution** for expenses that are being submitted for payment without a previously encumbered purchase order. This **THEN and NOW resolution** confirms that the DD Board had sufficient money on appropriation account #20110-6519-532000 Administrative Professional services line in the budget at year end **2025** (THEN) and has sufficient money in the expense line item in **2026** (NOW) to pay this invoice.

**RESOLUTION OF THE ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF DD FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO TREASURER, STATE OF OHIO/OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.**

The Erie County Board of DD met this **19<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2026**. Mrs. Stacie Schmid introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**WHEREAS, TREASURER, STATE OF OHIO/OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (reimbursement of MAC FEES FOR CLAIMS**

**PAID 3/31/25) requires payment for goods and/or services provided; NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF DD:**

**THAT TREASURER, STATE OF OHIO/OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES** is herewith approved for payment in the amount of **\$3,085.13 (three thousand, eighty-five dollars and 13/100 Cents)** provided for the Erie County Board of DD out of appropriation account **#20110-6519-532000 Administrative Professional Services Line.**

THAT the Erie County Board of DD hereby finds and determines that all formal actions relative to the adoption of this resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board; and that all deliberations of this Board and of its committees, if any, which result in formal action, were taken in meetings open to the public, in full compliance with the applicable legal requirements of the Revised Code.

Mrs. Mary Peters seconded the motion for the adoption of said resolution; and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

**Adopted: YES**

**C. Policy Committee Report:**

There are no policies due for review this month, and therefore the Policy Committee did not meet.

**VII. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Board Member Open Seat**

One Board Member seat remains vacant. This is an Erie County Commissioner appointed seat and per ORC guidelines shall be filled by an individual we serve. Carrie continues to reach out to the Commissioners to check on the status of filling this seat.

Carrie reported that she is offering sessions for individuals that receive our services, who may be interested in becoming a Board Member. Three sessions have been scheduled for 3/2, 5/6, and 8/3. A flyer was provided to Board Members (handout).

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. March Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**

Carrie Beier reported that March is DD Awareness month. The ECBDD celebrated by holding our Building Bridges Recognition Banquet on 3/12/26. We had approximately 140 guests in attendance, and it was a wonderful evening recognizing individuals we serve, collaboration, and inclusiveness in our community.

## B. OACB Spring Conference

Carrie Beier reported that the OACB Spring Conference will be held in Columbus on May 21-22, 2026. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact Michelle Kelley.

## C. DODD InterRAI Assessment

Carrie Beier spoke of the new assessment for individuals on a waiver and shared the DODD parent letter (handout). The new InterRAI Assessment will take the place of two assessments. Special training is required by staff to complete these assessments. The ECBDD will contract with the COG to complete assessments for individuals we serve.

## IX. 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 Advisory Council and Executive Meeting, OACB Intensive Needs Funding the Future committee, Region 1 Superintendent meeting, Superintendent OACB Levies meeting, Sandusky Library partnership meeting, Erie County Community Corrections Meeting, DODD Cost Report Training, Clearwater COG Board meeting, Rotary Pizza challenge volunteer/set up.
- **Media/Public Relations:**
  - Sandusky Register article- none
- **Personnel:**
  - Updated Table of Organization- see March Board Minutes.
  - Awareness Committee: Gifts of Generosity- Spring Cleaning collection of items (see attached).
- **Building Bridges Recognition Banquet:**

Held on March 12, 2026, we had approximately 140 guests in attendance.
- **OACB: Legislative Advisor, Jake Dowling – 3/11/26**

### **Property tax elimination discussions continue**

Republican gubernatorial candidate Vivek Ramaswamy (pictured) met with Citizens for Property Tax Reform at his home last week. The group discussed proposals aimed at reducing property taxes in Ohio. Citizens for Property Tax Reform, led by Brian Massie, is spearheading efforts to place a measure on the November 2026 ballot that would eliminate property taxes in Ohio.



Ramaswamy previously called for eliminating property taxes in 2025, but has since softened that position, saying property taxes should be reduced. He has not specified the extent of what those reductions could be.

[Eliminating property taxes would result in an estimated \\$24 billion loss in funds,](#) accounting for roughly 65% of Ohio's local tax revenue. During the meeting, members of Citizens for Property Tax Reform also discussed Ramaswamy's proposal to eliminate Ohio's income tax, which currently generates about \$10.1 billion annually. The Ohio

Office of Budget and Management estimates the state will collect about \$45.5 billion in revenue in fiscal year 2026.

Organizers of the ballot initiative asked Ramaswamy to sign their petition to eliminate property taxes. He said he was noncommittal and would consider the request.

Last month, [the Ohio Society of CPAs released a report](#) examining the potential impacts of eliminating property taxes. The report concluded that, without increases to other taxes, public services across the state would likely be reduced or eliminated. According to the report, replacing property tax revenue could require increasing the state sales tax from 5.75% to between 15% and 18%, or raising the income tax from 2.75% to between 11% and 15%. The report also noted that while property tax revenues tend to remain relatively stable over time, sales and income tax revenues are more susceptible to declines during recessions and economic downturns.

OACB has been meeting with legislators discussing several topics on policy implications:

**Early Intervention sustainability:** Initiating conversation around formally recognizing Early Intervention as a core, statutorily required county board service, while exploring a predictable and scalable state funding partnership, potentially including a minimum state share of service costs, to ensure consistent statewide access as federally mandated demand grows.

**Waiver funding balance:** Beginning discussion on potential parameters for sharing waiver costs between local property tax dollars and the state on a per-person basis by waiver type, with the state assuming additional costs above locally funded thresholds and applying review mechanisms to support service appropriateness, fiscal sustainability, and continuity of services statewide.

The state assuming additional costs above locally funded thresholds and applying review mechanisms to support service appropriateness, fiscal sustainability, and continuity of services statewide.

**Legislators weigh in on the amendment:** Speaking at an event last week, Ohio House Speaker Matt Huffman (R-Allen and Auglaize, pictured) said he does not believe the proposed constitutional amendment will necessarily make the November ballot. Huffman said that in his experience with statewide ballot initiatives, campaigns that collect large numbers of signatures typically publicize those totals to build momentum and attract additional support.



When asked about the number of signatures gathered so far, Citizens for Property Tax Reform organizer Brian Massie did not provide a total. The campaign must collect 413,487 valid signatures for the proposed amendment to move forward in the process to qualify for the November ballot. Huffman said local governments would likely need to

review spending and make difficult decisions to address the funding gap that eliminating property taxes would create.

**What does this mean for county boards?**

Efforts to eliminate property taxes in Ohio are ongoing. While the group proposing to eliminate the state's property tax is still in the process of collecting signatures, meeting with a gubernatorial candidate can highlight the seriousness of the proposal. An elimination of property taxes would result in roughly \$24 billion in revenue loss and an elimination of the state income tax is estimated to cause \$10.1 billion in revenue loss. This would result in drastic effects for local services, such as police and fire, as well as public education, health and human services operations (such as county boards), libraries, and programs for seniors. No plan to supplement the revenue loss has been suggested by petition organizers, although experts estimate that the state would need an average sales tax of 15-18% or an income tax rate of 11-15% to recover the lost funding. The scale of the potential loss highlights the significant fiscal implications such a change could have for local services across Ohio, including county boards. These cuts, if voted in, would have catastrophic consequences for people with developmental disabilities, their families, and their services.

**X. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no Executive Session.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Mark Harrington made a motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 6:18 p.m. Mrs. Stacie Schmid seconded the motion. With all members in favor, the motion passed and the March Board meeting was adjourned.

**XII. TRAINING**

Board Member Training was held following the meeting on the topics of: Strategic Initiatives & Facilities; Technology Report; Provider, MUI/UI & Employment Report; and SSA Report. The training began at approximately 6:25 p.m. and ended at 7:25 p.m.

---

 4-16-2024  
*Recording Secretary* *Date*