



*"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

April 16, 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

Jennifer Kinney, Mike Riggle and Felicia Zendejas.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The April 16, 2026, Board Meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by President, Mr. Eric Kibler.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll Call was taken and all Board Members were present.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

V. APPROVAL OF MARCH 19, 2026, MEETING MINUTES

Mr. David Danhoff made a motion to approve the March 19, 2026, Board Meeting minutes as submitted. Mr. Mark Harrington 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 the March financials were reviewed by the Finance Committee. Rachel shared the following:

- 1st half taxes were received.
- Revenue and expenditures are on track for YTD.

2. Fiscal Report

The Fiscal Report for Month Ending March 31, 2026, was provided for review and approval (handout). Mr. Mark Harrington made a motion to approve the March Fiscal Report as submitted. Mrs. Mary Peters seconded the motion. With all members in favor, the motion passed.

C. Policy Committee Report:

Mrs. Mary Peters reported that the Policy Committee reviewed the following policy in March:

- Administrative Resolution of Complaints for Individuals Policy (reviewed and revised)

The Administrative Resolution of Complaints for Individuals Policy was reviewed and revised. The Policy Committee recommended Board approval. Mr. Mark Harrington made a motion to approve the policy as revised. Mrs. Stacie Schmid seconded the motion. With all members in favor, the motion passed.

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 or plan for appointment of this seat.

B. DODD InterRAI Assessment Update

Carrie Beier updated Board Members on the InterRAI process for individuals on a waiver. Two individuals from Erie County have been chosen to receive the new assessment. The COG will complete these assessments, per our contract.

C. Board Member Training

Carrie Beier reported that following the May Board Meeting on 5/21/26, we will hold our next Board Member Training. Rick Jeffrey, Erie County Auditor, will be presenting on the topics of levy funding and property taxes. A draft agenda was distributed for Board Member review (handout).

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Funding the Future OACB

Carrie Beier shared a handout from OACB on an initiative called Funding the Future. Funding the Future is a plan with ten priority concepts supporting the DD system

sustainability. The concepts are framed around stronger partnerships, maximizing funding and expanding options strategically.

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, OACB Intensive Needs Funding the Future committee, Region 1 Superintendent meeting, Clearwater Board meeting, SEC Supt. meeting, Statewide Behavior Support Workshop, HR networking /S. Postalakis, Director Nash – OACB Supt. mtg.
- Media/Public Relations:
 - Sandusky Register articles (handout):
 - *Bridge Award winners support locals* 3/23/26
 - *Raising awareness for child abuse* 4/2/26
- Personnel:
 - Currently interviewing for SSA and Provider Support Specialist.
- **DODD**
 - **Waiver Modernization Goals:** The goal of the Waiver Modernization Project is to simplify current processes related to funding, rate setting, and establishing individual budgets for Medicaid waivers. We want to make these processes easier to make sure the person served is getting the services they need and want. We began this project in February 2023. Since then, we have met with stakeholders, conducted rate studies, and assessed leading practices in other states to identify areas for improvement in Ohio. There are four focus areas and goals for the Waiver Modernization Project:
 1. Implement a single needs-based assessment to create individual budgets;
 2. Streamline and refresh the billing process for providers;
 3. Create data-sharing technology;
 4. Support the sustainability of the waiver program and County Board funding.
 - **InterRIA Assessment**

Will these changes impact a person's waiver eligibility? No. Waiver eligibility will not be impacted by the implementation of the interRAI as a new needs-based assessment. Waiver eligibility will continue to be determined through the Level of Care assessment. Similarly, County Board eligibility will not be impacted and the C/OEDI and OEDI assessments will continue to be used for this.

How will this transition impact capped waivers like SELF and Level One? SELF and Level One waivers will continue to have budget caps. This will not change with the new assessment process. What is changing is that someone will be assigned a support level based on the result of the interRAI assessment and providers will be paid based on the support level with acuity-based rates.

Does the assessment transition impact Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs)? At this time, ICFs will continue to use the ODDP for assessments.

What happens if I do not agree with the results of my assessment? The due process and prior authorization request process will still be in place similar to current processes with the ODDP. If the reasoning for a change in needs is due to a significant change in condition, an individual can work with their SSA to schedule a re-assessment.

Myth vs. Fact

Myth	Fact
The transition to interRAI is a cost-cutting measure.	The purpose of the transition to the interRAI is not to reduce costs. The goal is to refresh the assessment process to better understand a person's support needs.
People served will receive less funding and services because of the new interRAI assessment.	The interRAI will help to better identify a person's support level and service needs. The person-centered service plan will continue to be developed through the OhioISP process to define services that meet a person's needs.
The new assessment may change someone's eligibility to receive waiver services.	Eligibility for waiver services will remain the same. Waiver eligibility will continue to be determined through the Level of Care (LOC) assessment, which is not changing at this time.
An interRAI assessor will conduct a home inspection as a part of the assessment.	The environmental assessment portion of the interRAI is not the same as a home inspection. The purpose of this section is to understand supports a person may need where they live and to check if there are any safety risks.
InterRAI assessors will not be able to accurately identify a person's needs.	DODD is training a select group of assessors to specialize in administering the interRAI assessment. They will be highly trained in the assessment and work with the person served and their team to complete the assessment.
DODD will share personal assessment information with interRAI, which subjects people receiving an assessment to research without their consent.	DODD will not share personal health information, otherwise known as PHI, with interRAI. DODD will send de-identified information to interRAI to ensure continued integrity of the assessment tools. The use of de-identified information is not considered human subjects research, does not compromise privacy rights, and does not violate Section 5123.62 of the Ohio Revised Code, which references individual rights related to research. Information sharing between DODD and interRAI is an important process that ensures the quality of the assessment tools.

- **OACB: Legislative Advisor, Jake Dowling**

- **Proposed President's Federal Budget for 2027**: Notable provisions include:
 - 12.5% decrease (\$111.1 billion) in discretionary spending for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS);
 - Defunding HHS Community Services Block Grants;
 - Elimination of the Administration for Community Living, which funds state DD councils and University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs);
 - \$539 million increase in special education funding through the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) program; and
 - \$30 million to support the newly established National Fraud Division
- **House Bill 585**: Carmen Shelton, a member of the OACB's Policy Advisory Committee; Belmont, Harrison and Noble County Superintendent Gloria Llewellyn; and Jake Dowling testified on Tuesday in support of House Bill 585.

House Bill 585 would expand housing options for people with disabilities. The legislation builds upon a process allowing county boards to use Community Capital Assistance funds to acquire housing for people receiving supported living services.

What does this mean for DD services? House Bill 585 would increase funding flexibility for county boards to provide housing for people receiving supported living services. The bill also requires county boards to ensure those receiving services have the opportunity to meaningfully participate in choosing their housing. This approach helps ensure people with developmental disabilities maintain choice and self-direction in where and how they live.

- **House Bill 420**: Introduced by State Rep. Gary Click (R-Sandusky, Seneca, pictured), received a proponent hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee on Wednesday. The bill would eliminate continuing levies after 2030.

Supporters, including Sandusky County Auditor Jerri Miller, testified that layering multiple levies with varying rates and durations has made the property tax system more complex and difficult for taxpayers to understand. The bill would limit levies to terms of no more than 10 years. An amendment adopted during the hearing clarifies that if a continuing levy expires under the bill but is renewed for a fixed term, it will retain existing property tax reductions. These include the nonbusiness property tax rollback and the owner-occupied home rollback, if previously applicable. The bill now awaits further committee consideration.

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.

- **Misc.- Spring Cleaning Drive:** The ECBDD is hosting a Spring Cleaning Drive. Staff are encouraged to bring in items from their home to donate to the following: Cinderella's Closet, Erie County Dog Pound, Erie County Humane Society, Grace Episcopal Thrift Shop, and area schools (handout provided).

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION


There was no Executive Session.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Mark Harrington made a motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 6:25 p.m. Mrs. Stacie Schmid seconded the motion. With all members in favor, the motion passed and the April Board meeting was adjourned.

XII. TRAINING

Board Member Training was held following the meeting on the topics of: IT & Records; Customer Care; Children's Options. The training began at approximately 6:30 p.m. and ended at 7:30 p.m.



Recording Secretary

5/21/2024

Date