



*"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

May 21, 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, Mike Riggie, Mark Wroblewski, and Rick Jeffrey.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The May 21, 2026, Board Meeting was called to order at 6:04 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 APRIL 16, 2026, MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Mark Harrington made a motion to approve the April 16, 2026, Board Meeting minutes as submitted. Mr. Dave Danhoff 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 April financials were reviewed by the Finance Committee. Rachel shared the following:

- Waiver revenue and waiver reconciliation were discussed.
- Revenue and expenses are on track for YTD.
- Discussions continued on the need to pursue a levy in the upcoming year and how to best communicate future funding needs to the community.

2. Fiscal Report

The Fiscal Report for Month Ending April 30, 2026, was provided for review and approval (handout). Mr. Dave Danhoff made a motion to approve the April 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 policies in May:

- Fiscal Policy (reviewed and revised)
- Proper Use of Public Funds (reviewed and revised)
- Incident Reporting (reviewed and revised)
- Early Intervention for Children Birth to Age 3 (reviewed and revised)
- Administrative Resolution of Complaints for Individuals (reviewed and revised)

All policies were reviewed and revised, and the Policy Committee recommended Board approval. Mrs. Mary Peters made a motion to approve these policies as revised. Mrs. Stacie Schmid seconded the motion. With all members in favor, the motion passed.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Board Member Open Seat Update

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 Beier continues to reach out to the Commissioners to check on the status or plan for appointment of this seat. Applications have been resent to the Commissioners, per their request.

B. DODD InterRAI Assessment Update

Carrie Beier updated Board Members on the new InterRAI process for individuals on a waiver. The COG will complete these assessments, per our contract for shared services.

C. OACB Funding the Future Update

Carrie Beier shared that OACB continues to work on the Funding the Future initiative, prioritizing concepts supporting the DD system. Carrie shared four future concepts:

stabilize EI in DD system, shared services, cap of local waivers, and targeted case management formula/system updates.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Home Visiting Service Contract Extension with Ohio Department of Children & Youth SFY 2027

Mrs. Stacie Schmid made a motion to continue the provision of the Ohio Department of Children & Youth (DCY) Home Visiting Services for State Fiscal Year 2027 (July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027) and enter into contract extension with the Ohio Department of Children & Youth (DCY) to provide Home Visiting Services. Mr. Mark Harrington seconded the motion. With all members in favor, the motion passed

B. Early Intervention (EI) Service Coordination Services Contract with Erie County Commissioners/ Erie County Family and Children First Council SFY 2027

Mr. Mark Harrington made a motion to continue the provision of the Ohio Department of Children & Youth (DCY) Early Intervention (EI) Service Coordination Services, for State Fiscal Year 2027 (July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027) and enter into contract with the Erie County Commissioners/ Erie County Family and Children First Council to provide Early Intervention (EI) Service Coordination Services. Mrs. Stacie Schmid seconded the motion. With all members in favor, the motion passed.

C. Ohio DD System Council of Governments

Carrie Beier shared financial data regarding cost savings. This information was put together by the Superintendents/ Boards of COGs to be shared with DODD.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Carrie attended the following in-person/virtual/remote meetings, trainings, and activities: Trauma Training EHOVE, Early Intervention Superintendent Committee. Meeting, Superintendent SEC OACB meeting, CYAC EI Advisory quarterly meeting, Ohio Provider Resource Association Provider Friday Five's virtual meeting, FCFC Executive Committee meeting, and Behavior Support Dynamic Pathways Tech meeting.

Media/Public Relations:

- Sandusky Register article: *A kind heart for kids*- 5/9-5/10/26 (attached)

Personnel: Positions filled-

- Kate Pando – Provider Support Specialist
- Derek Rangel – SSA

Local Opportunities (see attached):

- Football Camp – 6/18/26
- F.E.A.R. Factor – 6/24/26

DODD – Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM)

• Governor DeWine Announces New Medicaid Fraud Prevention Initiatives

May 13, 2026 - Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced that he is implementing several new fraud prevention initiatives to strengthen and build-upon long-standing efforts to fight fraud, waste, and abuse in the Ohio Medicaid system.

“Ohio has long been a national leader in fighting Medicaid fraud. Ohio has one of the best Medicaid Fraud Control units in the country, and, in 2018, Ohio became the first state to implement Electronic Visit Verification in home health care,” said Ohio Governor Mike DeWine. “Today, we are ready to begin several new initiatives long in development that will enhance this nation-leading work and further protect taxpayer funds from those trying to defraud the State. I thank the Trump Administration for their partnership and collaboration that is allowing us to proceed with these reforms much faster than previously possible.”

- **New Initiatives**

Governor DeWine announced that he is directing the Ohio Department of Medicaid to implement the following:

- **Statewide New Provider Moratorium.** The Ohio Department of Medicaid will today ask the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) so Ohio may implement a six-month moratorium on new home-healthcare and hospice businesses being able to become Medicaid providers. This will allow Ohio Medicaid to stop enrollment of new providers and assess existing providers to help remove those at high risk for having committed fraud.
- **Immediate Payment Suspension to High-Risk Providers.** Ohio Medicaid will today begin a policy of immediately removing and suspending payment to providers whose billing practices show “red flags” that indicate a high probability of fraud. Ohio Medicaid already has a robust payment suspension protocol that is currently used to stop payments to questionable providers. In January, Ohio Medicaid began the process of implementing new data analytics tools to help identify billing data anomalies that could better identify fraud. To date, this process has identified 87 providers who will be subject to further review and potential payment suspension.
- **Executive Order for Emergency Rules.** The Governor will be issuing an Executive Order that will allow the Ohio Department of Medicaid to implement emergency rules to require more frequent revalidation of providers being identified as higher-risk for committing fraud. Governor DeWine sent a letter to CMS on May 1 committing Ohio to partnering with the Trump Administration and using a more stringent revalidation process to better prevent fraud.
- **Mandatory GPS Requirement for Electronic Visit Verification.** Ohio Medicaid will file rules to require GPS for all providers using Electronic Visit Verification (EVV). Since March 2025, Ohio Medicaid has begun phasing in EVV as a mandatory requirement for home healthcare provider payment. In December, DeWine authorized Ohio Medicaid to begin the information technology investments needed to make GPS mandatory for EVV. Ohio Medicaid now ready to make this rule change to implement the requirement. Ohio Medicaid has worked collaboratively with Ohio Auditor Keith Faber on identifying solutions to issues identified in the Auditor’s audits of Ohio Medicaid, and this new rule will implement a key recommendation of the audits.
- **Mandatory EVV for Live-In Caregivers.** Ohio Medicaid will begin the rulemaking process to require live-in caregivers to use EVV during home healthcare and as a requirement for payment. Currently, family and live-in caregivers are exempt from this requirement.
- **Ohio’s Work in Prosecuting Medicaid Fraud**
Ohio’s been a national leader in catching and prosecuting Medicaid fraud thanks to

a strong partnership between Ohio Medicaid and the Ohio Attorney General's Office and its Medicaid Fraud Control Unit. Since the beginning of 2023, Ohio has secured 444 Medicaid fraud indictments, 481 convictions, and 146 civil settlements and judgments resulting in \$78.4 million in recovered taxpayer funds. Under Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost, the unit received a U.S. Office of the Inspector General's Award for Excellence in Fighting Fraud, Waste, and Abuse in 2022, and it ranked #1 in the nation for number of convictions secured in 2015 under then-Attorney General Mike DeWine.

Utilizing Home Healthcare to Protect Taxpayer Dollars

Home and community-based care programs have been a core component of Medicaid services for decades since they were initiated under the Reagan Administration. Ohio is one of 47 states and the District of Columbia that provides such care under a waiver granted by CMS. Ohio's home and community-based care programs are grounded in data showing that legitimate in-home care is typically safer for individuals and significantly more affordable for taxpayers. In 2024, Ohio saved more than \$600 million in taxpayer funds that would have been expended had patients receiving home healthcare been diverted to skilled nursing or other residential care services, saving several billion dollars over the course of the DeWine Administration. On average, home health care costs half as much as placement in a nursing facility. Ensuring access to appropriate home-based care is both a responsible use of public resources and a critical part of meeting the needs of our most vulnerable Ohioans who otherwise would require placement in higher-cost nursing facilities.

Additional Efforts Implemented to Fight Fraud, Waste, and Abuse

Providing care in a home setting requires a robust set of controls to detect and prevent fraud. Ohio Medicaid has been proactively evaluating all program integrity initiatives to ensure taxpayer dollars are well spent and that quality care is being provided. The Department has been engaged in a thorough review of programs and policies to evaluate any risks to the integrity of the program, identify potential gaps that could be exploited, and explore opportunities to leverage new and emerging AI and data analytic tools to stay one step ahead of anyone looking to exploit the system.

As part of that work, since the start of 2026, the Department has initiated new prior authorization requirements for high-risk services to ensure medical necessity. Ohio Medicaid launched efforts to build new data analytic capabilities to identify unique outliers in billing patterns, better assess vulnerable business ownership structures, and improve coordination of fraud fighting efforts. These efforts are designed to improve the early detection of potential fraud and identify future areas of inherent program risk.

To confirm that billed services are actually rendered, Ohio Medicaid relies on an extensive set of safeguards, including:

- Comprehensive provider screening and continuous compliance monitoring.
- Mandatory electronic visit verification capturing date, time, and service location.
- Advanced analytics that flag unusual billing patterns or service trends.
- Routine and targeted audits performed by program integrity staff.
- Coordination with state and federal partners when concerns arise.

- **DeWine issues Medicaid provider Executive Order**

Following an announcement of Medicaid provider revalidation initiatives made late last week, Governor Mike DeWine has issued an Executive Order directing the Department of Medicaid (ODM) to establish emergency rules around Medicaid provider revalidation. The order, issued Monday afternoon, requires ODM to immediately amend Ohio Administrative Code rules to:

- Permit ODM to terminate the provider agreements of Medicaid providers that have not administered Medicaid services or billed the Medicaid program in more than one year;
- Require Medicaid providers at a higher risk for committing fraud to revalidate enrollment more frequently to confirm compliance with Medicaid program rules;
- Allow ODM to require certain Medicaid providers to recredential as determined necessary by the Medicaid Director; and
- Permit the denial of a provider enrollment application when a federally approved moratorium is in effect, even if the enrollment application was received but not approved before the moratorium began.

In addition, DeWine's order directs ODM to:

- Support lawful directives of the Trump administration and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to conduct provider revalidation;
- Implement a 6-month moratorium on new provider enrollments for Hospice and Home Health Agencies, Waiver Individuals and Organizations, Private Duty Nurses, Personal Care Aides and Home Care Attendants, which includes denial of enrollment applications currently pending; and
- Move forward with a formal rule making process to implement GPS requirements for Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) and establish best approaches for its use in monitoring and oversight of services subject to EVV requirements.

The order also highlights continued work with the Attorney General's Office in prosecuting fraud. Rules established under the order will expire 10 days after Governor DeWine's term ends, unless they have been codified into the Revised Code.

In response to DeWine's announcement, disability advocates shared a press release that emphasized any freeze on adding new providers or pausing payments could jeopardize services for people with developmental disabilities and their families, as well highlighted privacy concerns around GPS requirements for EVV.

What does this mean for DD services?

Governor DeWine's Executive Order demonstrates the state's continued focus on addressing allegations of fraud in the Medicaid program following recent news reports of fraud within in-home healthcare. Although details around what the final rule languages may contain are still limited, directives to ODM related to Medicaid fraud could create additional administrative barriers in complying with these changes. In addition, the new directives could impact the ability of new providers getting into the system while the moratorium is taking place.

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

House Bill 585, which would require the Department of Developmental Disabilities to create rules that expand the current Community Capital Assistance rule to allow county boards to blend local funds with other sources when purchasing accessible housing, as well as purchase additional types of housing units, received a third hearing for opponent testimony on Tuesday. While no one testified in person, the Arc of Ohio submitted written testimony in opposition to the bill, arguing that while more accessible and affordable housing is necessary, this legislation could risk creating more segregated or congregated settings. The bill will await future hearings, as well as a potential amendment, before a final committee vote.

County board levy results mirror statewide trends in primary election Tuesday's primary election featured 30 local property tax levies across multiple public service sectors, according to a results report from the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO). Of the 17 issues requesting new or additional funding, 10 were rejected by voters. Overall, 19 levies passed while 11 failed, with all 11 unsuccessful levies supporting local human services.

County boards saw similar mixed results. Voters approved six of the 12 DD levies on the ballot Tuesday. Most county board levy requests sought new or additional funding, which historically face a significantly lower passage rate than renewal levies.

School district levy results were also challenging statewide. Schools saw a 36% passage rate, down from 64% during the 2025 primary election and 52% in the 2024 general election. The lower success rate appears tied to both a decline in renewal levies and a large number of school districts seeking income tax levies. Renewal levies, which historically pass at much higher rates, accounted for only 16 school ballot issues this year, compared to 49 during last year's primary election. In addition, income tax levies outnumbered property tax levies 29 to 16 and were largely unsuccessful.

Libraries continued to perform well at the ballot box, with voters approving 12 of 14 library levies statewide. Seven library levies requested new or additional funding, and five of those issues passed. All renewal and renewal-with-increase library levies were approved, each receiving at least 64% voter support.

Parks and recreation levies also saw strong results, with 10 of 14 levies passing Tuesday. Nine of those issues were renewal levies. One proposed levy in the Champaign County village of Christiansburg failed by just two votes, 51% to 49%, and could be subject to a recount.

What does this mean for county boards?

Tuesday's election results continue to reflect a difficult environment for local tax issues seeking new or additional funding. Across public service sectors — including county boards, schools, libraries, and parks and recreation — voters showed consistent support for renewal levies that maintain existing tax levels, while demonstrating greater hesitation toward requests for increased property or income taxes.

For county boards, the results reinforce the ongoing challenge of securing voter approval for new funding requests, particularly during lower-turnout elections. At the same time, the

continued strength of renewal levies highlights the importance of long-term planning, community engagement, and sustained public trust.

These outcomes provide additional context as OACB continues implementation of its fiscal sustainability concepts and evaluates long-term funding strategies for county boards statewide.

- **County Board bill HB 939 is introduced to split Early Intervention cost with the state** State Reps. Andrea White (R-Montgomery) and Mike Odioso (R-Hamilton), along with Reps. Crystal Lett (D-Franklin) and Jodi Salvo (R-Tuscarawas and Stark) have introduced House Bill 939, which mandates that certain Early Intervention services be provided by county boards and that the state contribute at least 50% of the cost for these services. The bill builds on recent county board momentum around EI funding in the state operating budget, which last year included \$16 million in new state dollars for evaluation and assessment functions.

HB 939 clarifies that a county board is required to provide the EI services for occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech-language and pathology services, and special instruction to eligible children. The bill then directs the Department of Children and Youth (DCY) to reimburse county boards for at least 50% of the cost for these services, which will be determined by a county board's statement of expenses that is sent to DCY within ninety days of the end of each state fiscal year.

The language for this bill was developed by the Early Intervention workgroup within OACB's Funding the Future initiative. It includes members:

- Carrie Beier (Erie)
- Steve Oster (Knox/Coshocton)
- Holly Weatherson (BHN Alliance)
- Kathy Greenawalt Cherry (Miami/Preble)
- Melissa Leighton (Mahoning)
- Kathy Lawton (Franklin)
- Henry Matthews (Franklin)
- Christy Eley (Darke)

Although the bill has been introduced and is expected to receive sponsor testimony in a House committee, passage during the current General Assembly is considered unlikely because of the bill's required state funding commitment and the limited amount of time remaining in the legislative session.

However, the bill's introduction and potential hearings provide lawmakers an opportunity to learn more about the importance of Early Intervention services ahead of discussions surrounding the next biennium state operating budget.

OACB intends to continue working with the bill sponsors to reintroduce the language during the next General Assembly under a new bill number or pursue inclusion through the state budget process.

What does this mean for county boards?

Ensuring continued access to Early Intervention (EI) services and preserving county boards' ability to provide those services remains a top priority. Families and young children across Ohio rely on EI services every day, and early supports can often reduce the need for more intensive and costly services later in life, including Medicaid waiver services. Under federal law, Ohio is required to provide EI services statewide. While county boards are not statutorily required to deliver those services, many boards have historically played a leading role in supporting EI programs through local funding. However, that funding model has become increasingly difficult to sustain as county boards face growing financial pressures and continue meeting their primary statutory responsibility of funding the local share of Medicaid waiver services.

The bill would require county boards to provide certain EI services, while also requiring DCY to reimburse at least 50% of the cost of those services. Increased state investment in EI would help provide greater long-term stability for families while offering county boards additional flexibility in the use of local property tax dollars.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Mark Harrington made a motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 6:22 p.m. Mrs. Stacie Schmid seconded the motion. With all members in favor, the motion passed and the May Board meeting was adjourned.

XII. TRAINING

Board Member Training was held following the meeting on the topic of: Levy Funding & Taxes. The training began at approximately 6:30 p.m. and ended at 8:00 p.m.



Recording Secretary

6.18.2024

Date