



**Budget Hearing and Regular Board Meeting
October 23, 2025**

**Donzella Administration Building – 1275 Lakeside Avenue E, Cleveland, OH 44114
and broadcasted live via Zoom – 5:30 pm**

1. 2026 Revenue and Expenditure Budget Hearing

A. Convene

The meeting was called to order by President, Steve Scheidt at 5:32 pm.

B. Roll Call

Members present: Allison Frazier, Mozelle Jackson, Alaina McCruel, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz, Sara Steimle

Members present via Zoom: Lisa Hunt

C. 2026 Revenue and Expenditure Presentation

Superintendent and CEO, Amber Gibbs opened the presentation by describing the trends that historically and currently affect our bottom-line including: deficit spending since 2013, increased Waiver Match, focusing on efficiencies, prioritizing people and programs, noting that Cuyahoga DD's balances and spending are as expected for this point in our levy cycle.

D. 2026 Budget

Superintendent Gibbs gave a summary of budgets and projections for 2025 going into 2026 noting significant variances. She projects that we will open 2026 with a cash balance of \$108,010,902. The 2026 budget for revenues (with transfers) is \$140,277,515, and for expenditures (with transfers) is \$177,294,428. The ending cash balance for 2026 is projected to be \$70,993,989.

Going forward, she identified several key areas we will focus on such as maximizing revenue, discussing potential levy options with the County, focusing on community collaboration & partnerships and continuing to provide outstanding service to our community and to people with DD.

E. Budget Presentation and Regular Meeting Slides

The presentation and regular meeting slides are attached as a permanent part of the minutes of this meeting.

2. Adjourn Budget Hearing

A. Adjourn meeting

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities hereby adjourns.

Motion by Mozelle Jackson, second by Alaina McCruel.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Lisa Hunt, Mozelle Jackson, Alaina McCruel, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz, Sara Steimle

Time adjourned: 6:50pm

3. Regular Meeting Opening - Immediately following Budget Hearing

A. Convene

The meeting was called to order by President, Steve Scheidt at 7:00 pm.

B. Roll Call

Members present: Allison Frazier, Mozelle Jackson, Alaina McCruel, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz, Sara Steimle

Members present via Zoom: Lisa Hunt

4. Minutes

A. Approve Minutes from the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the regular meeting of the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities held September 25, 2025, a copy of which is made a part of the permanent record of this meeting, be accepted as directed by the President, without objection, and approved as published.

Motion by Alaina McCruel, second by Steve Scheidt.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Lisa Hunt, Mozelle Jackson, Alaina McCruel, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz, Sara Steimle

5. Donations

A. Approval of Donations

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities gratefully accepts eight equipment donations of unspecified value to the OT/PT Lending Library.

Motion by Allison Frazier, second by Steve Scheidt.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Lisa Hunt, Mozelle Jackson, Alaina McCruel, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz, Sara Steimle

6. Financial Statements

A. Approval of Financial Statements

RESOLVED, that the Operating Fund Statement and the Statements of Revenue and Expenditures - Planned and Actual for the year-to-date period ending September 30, 2025, be accepted and filed for audit; the payment of vouchers for the period September 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025 be ratified; and that all statements and voucher summaries are made a part of the permanent record of this meeting.

Motion by Cynthia Schulz, second by Alaina McCruel.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Lisa Hunt, Mozelle Jackson, Alaina McCruel, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz, Sara Steimle

Superintendent Gibbs gave a summary of the financial statements for September noting significant variances. We opened September with a cash balance of \$140,399,893. Our total revenues were \$7,145,840, and our expenditures were \$5,500,664 For a cash balance ending of \$142,045,015.

7. Announcements

President, Steve Scheidt turned the meeting over to Superintendent, Dr. Amber Gibbs who gave the following announcements:

- Superintendent Gibbs presented at the Cuyahoga County Council HHS Committee meeting on October 1. The topics discussed were Waivers (what they are and how they're paid) and Cuyahoga DD's role in the community. She shared data on the diversity of the population we serve. On October 14, Superintendent Gibbs also presented at their Full Council meeting. She presented an overview of our budget, highlighting decreasing revenues and the need for additional funding in the next few years. Both presentations were well received.
- Spectrum News recently ran a profile of TJ Sikora, an individual who we serve. TJ is one of Cuyahoga DD's Library Facilitators and an accomplished artist who recently designed an outfit made of paper for the Morgan Conservatory's Dress to Impress fundraising event on October 5. The dress was designed for and worn by Ms. Wheelchair Ohio.
- On October 7, Superintendent Gibbs participated in Habitat for Humanity's CEO Build Day. It was a great opportunity to help build a house in the Buckeye neighborhood and network with other community leaders.
- On October 16, FLOREO launched its *Digital Boundaries* module which will benefit people that we serve by helping to decrease their likelihood of experiencing online exploitation. Cuyahoga DD's BCIS, Behavioral Health and our Leadership Council partnered with FLOREO to produce the module.
- A panel moderated by Joanne Holloway was held as part of REELAbilities' advocacy series on October 21 at Westlake Porter Library. (Cuyahoga DD has partnered with REELAbilities at their local film festivals for many years). The panel participants discussed the video entitled "My Own Normal" and also spoke on such topics as navigating relationships and parenting for people with DD.
- On October 22, WKYC's Heartstrings segment featured RePlay for Kids. Cuyahoga DD works with RePlay for Kids to provide bespoke powered toy cars to children with DD.
- Of note: our DODD Cost Report Audit for FY 2023 was successful.
- Save the date for the annual Provider and Resource Expo which will be held on November 1 at Embassy Suites in Independence. The hours are 10 am to 2 pm.
- Save the date for our Cuyahoga DD Accreditation which has been scheduled in 2026 for April 7 to April 9.
- Our Operations team is finalizing the installation of a new sign at our Lakeside location. It stylistically matches the signs of our other buildings and is in a more prominent position than our previous sign.

8. Status Reports

Superintendent Gibbs had no comments.

9. New Business

A. Approve the 2026 Revenue and Expenditure Budget

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities approves hereby the 2026 Revenue and Expenditure Budget as proposed this date by the Superintendent, a copy of which is made part of the permanent record of this meeting, and requests that the Cuyahoga County Executive and the Cuyahoga County Council concur, and appropriate the 2026 General Operating Fund revenues in the amount of \$140,277,515 and expenditures in the amount of \$177,294,428.

Motion by Steve Scheidt, second by Lisa Hunt.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Lisa Hunt, Alaina McCruel, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz, Sara Steimle

Nay: Mozelle Jackson

B. Transfer to Medicaid Reserve

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities approves hereby and authorizes the Superintendent to transfer up to \$10,000,000 from the General Operating Fund to the Medicaid Reserve Fund in calendar year 2025; and,
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent is authorized hereby to take any and all actions necessary to carry out these transactions.

Motion by Allison Frazier, second by Alaina McCruel.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Lisa Hunt, Mozelle Jackson, Alaina McCruel, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz, Sara Steimle

Superintendent Gibbs explained that this fund is critical as we go into the next few years with our shrinking levy funding. If/when the transfer occurs, it will be brought to the Board.

C. Agreement for the Provision of Adult Services

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities approves hereby and authorizes the Superintendent to enter into a contract with the providers listed on a document titled Adult Service Providers 2026, a copy of which is made a part of the permanent record of this meeting, for the period January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, for a sum not to exceed \$530,000; and,
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent is authorized hereby to take any and all actions necessary to carry out these transactions.

Motion by Steve Scheidt, second by Cynthia Schulz.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Lisa Hunt, Mozelle Jackson, Alaina McCruel, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz, Sara Steimle

Superintendent Gibbs explained that this provision is for our “safety net” services. Most of the Adult Day and employment Services authorized by Cuyahoga DD are funded by individuals’ Medicaid Waivers. But to individuals who cannot be enrolled on a waiver, their services get funded locally. This amount represents an 18% decrease from the amount budgeted in 2025.

D. Agreement with Vocational Guidance Services / The Educational Service Center of Northeast for the Beyond Essentials of Life Skills Program

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities approves hereby and authorizes the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with Vocational Guidance Services (VGS) and The Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio (ESC) to implement Cuyahoga DD’s Beyond the Essential Life Skills Program for the period January 1st, 2026 through December 31st, 2026, and to pay for services in an amount not to exceed \$160,000; and,
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent is authorized hereby to take any and all actions necessary to carry out these transactions.

Motion by Mozelle Jackson, second by Cynthia Schulz.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Lisa Hunt, Mozelle Jackson, Alaina McCruel, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz, Sara Steimle

Superintendent Gibbs provided the context that this has been a very successful program and explained how the partnership with Vocational Guidance Service (VGS) will work going forward.

E. Koorsen Fire and Security

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities approves and hereby authorizes the Superintendent to pay Koorsen Fire & Security, located at 6930 W. Snowville Road Brecksville Ohio 44141, an amount up to, but not to exceed, of \$92,500 for security and fire services at four administration buildings, five adult activity centers, four respite homes, and one ICF home during the calendar year 2025; and,
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent is authorized to take any and all actions necessary to carry out these transactions.

Motion by Cynthia Schulz, second by Steve Scheidt.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Lisa Hunt, Mozelle Jackson, Alaina McCruel, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz, Sara Steimle

Superintendent Gibbs explained that this year Koorsen will be completing several 5-year inspections that will push the expenditure over \$50,000 and hence the need for Board approval.

F. HVAC Equipment contract with Gem Service

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities approves hereby and authorizes the Superintendent to enter into a contract with Gem Service of North Ridgeville, OH for installation of HVAC equipment at three Cuyahoga DD buildings for a sum not to exceed \$289,000; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent is authorized hereby to take any and all actions necessary to carry out these transactions.

Motion by Alaina McCruel, second by Allison Frazier.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Lisa Hunt, Mozelle Jackson, Alaina McCruel, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz, Sara Steimle

Superintendent Gibbs explained that this work will be covered by the transfer from the Capital Reserve Fund that was approved last month.

G. Collective Bargaining Agreement with Association of Cuyahoga County Employees for Special Students (ACCESS)

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities approves hereby, and authorizes the Superintendent to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Association of Cuyahoga County Employees for Special Students (ACCESS) for the period of January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2028; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent is authorized to take any and all actions necessary to carry out this transaction.

Motion by Steve Scheidt, second by Cynthia Schulz.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Lisa Hunt, Mozelle Jackson, Alaina McCruel, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz, Sara Steimle

H. Employee Health Care Plans for 2026

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities approves hereby and authorizes the Superintendent to approve Employee Health Care Plans for 2026; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent is authorized to take any and all actions to carry out this transaction.

Motion by Alaina McCruel, second by Steve Scheidt.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Lisa Hunt, Mozelle Jackson, Alaina McCruel, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz, Sara Steimle

Superintendent Gibbs explained that we had a significant increase in the cost of the Medical Mutual plan.

I. Disposal of Surplus Equipment

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities approves hereby and authorizes the Superintendent to declare the items listed in the attached documents titled Oct 23, 2025 Surplus Property Attachment, and Surplus Property from Southwest AAC, copies of which are made a part of the permanent record of this meeting, surplus or obsolete equipment that is no longer needed for public use, and to sell said items via internet auction or discard in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 307.12 (E) (I); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent is authorized hereby to take any and all actions necessary to carry out these transactions.

Motion by Cynthia Schulz, second by Sara Steimle.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Lisa Hunt, Mozelle Jackson, Alaina McCruel, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz, Sara Steimle

Superintendent Gibbs provided the context that IT purchases and replaces employees' equipment every three years. She explained that if we cannot sell the IT equipment on GovDeals, Inc., we dispose of the equipment according to our policy. Obsolete OT/PT equipment will either be discarded or scrapped.

10. Comments from the Floor

Jennifer Vergillii, the new Chairwoman for Achievement Centers for Children (ACC) introduced herself to the Board. She lauded AAC's many-decades-long relationship with Cuyahoga DD.

11. Adjournment

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities hereby adjourns.

Motion by Mozelle Jackson, second by Steve Scheidt.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Lisa Hunt, Mozelle Jackson, Alaina McCruel, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz, Sara Steimle

Time adjourned: 7:35pm

Next Meeting – November 13, 2025 at 5:30 pm, Donzella Administration Building, 1275 Lakeside Ave E, Cleveland, OH 44114 and broadcast via Zoom. Zoom link will be shared on the Cuyahoga DD website at cuyahogadd.org at least three days prior to the meeting.

Certified by:

Stephen Scheidt, President

Mozelle Jackson, Secretary