



**Regular Board Meeting
March 26, 2026**

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

1. Opening

A. Convene

The regular Board meeting was called to order by President, Steve Scheidt at 5:30pm.

B. Roll Call

Members present: Alison Frazier, Dennis Roberts, Cynthia Schulz, Stephen Scheidt, Sara Steimle,
Derek Topola

Member absent: Alaina McCruel

2. Minutes

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the regular meeting of the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities held February 26, 2026, 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 Steve Scheidt, second by Sara Steimle.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Steve Scheidt, Sara Steimle, Derek Topola

Nay: Cynthia Schulz

Board member, Cynthia Schulz asked to further clarify her requested amendment of the Minutes for January 22, 2026, to add a further statement to her “Nay” vote on Item 5D, Adoption of Governing Rules and Regulations – 2026 Cuyahoga DD Policy Manual. Ms. Schulz’s statement is as follows:

“I objected to a provision giving the Superintendent authority to apply a cost-of-living increase to herself without Board approval, stating that it is the Board’s responsibility to hire, fire and set compensation of the Superintendent as a matter of good governance checks and balances. I voted no for this reason.”

Superintendent Gibbs explained that we cannot change the January minutes, we can only reflect what happens in our current meeting. In the February minutes, upon the approval of the January minutes, we noted Ms. Schulz’s objection, using the exact statement that she made in the February Board meeting. Superintendent Gibbs and Board President Steve Schulz noted her new comment.

3. Swear in Newly Appointed Member

A. Swear in Dennis Roberts

Board President, Steve Scheidt read the oath and Mr. Roberts responded in the affirmative. Superintendent Gibbs congratulated and President, Steve Scheidt welcomed Dennis Roberts to the Board.

4. Donations

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

Motion by Cynthia Schulz, second by Dennis Roberts.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Dennis Roberts, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz, Sara Steimle, Derek Topola

5. 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 February 28, 2026, be accepted and filed for audit; the payment of vouchers for the period February 1, 2026 to February 28, 2026 be ratified; and that all statements and voucher summaries are made a part of the permanent record of this meeting.

Motion by Steve Scheidt, second by Sara Steimle.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Dennis Roberts, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz, Sara Steimle, Derek Topola

Chief Business Officer, Rachel Sielski, gave a summary of the financial statements noting significant variances. We opened the month with a cash balance of \$78,040,217. Our total revenues were \$2,619,023, and our expenditures were \$6,246,806, for a cash balance ending of \$74,412,434.

6. Announcements

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

- As we are wrapping up Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, Superintendent Gibbs thanked our Director of Communications, Elizabeth Day, and her team for doing a fantastic job for generating and spreading awareness about Cuyahoga DD.
- DD Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse took place on March 3. A group representing Cuyahoga DD including members of our Good Life Ambassadors and Leadership Council, as well as Board members Sara Steimle and Derek Topola, all met with several state Representatives and their Aides. Accessibility within the Statehouse is an issue Derek and the Leadership Council are working with Senator Brennan to address.

- On March 5, Cuyahoga DD partnered with The Improvaneers in hosting the “Improv to Advocacy” event. The troupe of improv actors (who have DD) led over 60 members of our community through activities designed to improve self-advocacy skills.
- Our annual Legislative Breakfast was held on March 6 at our Lakeside building. This advocacy event was attended by about 60 community members and several Ohio legislators including Senator Nickie Antonio, Representative Juanita Brent, Representative Darnell Brewer, Senator Kent Smith, Representative Tristan Rader and Representative Chris Glassburn. One of the positive outcomes of the breakfast is that Board Secretary Sara Steimle and Board member Derek Topola are now working with Representative Rader to help create legislation that would require all County Boards of DD to create their own Leadership Councils. Sara will also be submitting written testimony pertaining to one of the bills concerning Medicaid Buy-ins. Derek will be submitting written testimony of his own regarding his thoughts on property taxes. HELP Foundation’s Susanna’s Café provided catering for the event.
- On March 6 and March 12, Cuyahoga DD partnered with Employment Collaborative of Cuyahoga County to host two Hiring Events. The event on March 6 was sponsored by Home Depot and the event on March 12 featured jobs within the hotel and hospitality industry. There were over 150 attendees and over 20 job employers were represented at the event.
- Four graduate students from Japan’s Matsushita Institute of Government and Management visited with Cuyahoga DD and the Employment Collaborative of Cuyahoga County. The students learned about how disability and employment intersect successfully. They got to witness inclusive employment first-hand at the Cleveland Guardians.
- On March 20, the Cleveland Kids Book Bank partnered with Cuyahoga DD to host a volunteering event as part of DD Awareness Month. Around 50 community members attended the event. It’s worth noting that two Friday mornings every month are reserved for volunteers with DD to participate by volunteering at the book bank.
- On March 25, the Disability Action Group (DAG) tour of Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) took place. Volunteer medical students joined people who are served by Cuyahoga DD, and others with DD, to interact at a docent-hosted tour of CMA. Dr. Marvin Natowicz, co-founder of DAG, as well as staff from Cuyahoga DD’s Community Development team coordinated the event.
- Our annual Hoops for Hunger basketball game will be held on March 27 at our Greed Road Center in the gym. The state champion(!) Cuyahoga Rockets will once again take on the Cuyahoga DD Sharks. The doors open at 5:15pm; The game begins at 6:30pm; Admission is \$5.00.
- Cuyahoga DD’s Independent Living Boot Camp/FLOREO VR Training was recently featured in Spectrum News’ “Everyday Heroes” segment. Sierra Schrader, Occupational Therapy doctoral student at CSU, is completing her Capstone project at Cuyahoga DD by using this technology to improve the lives of people with DD.

7. Discussion Topics

Status Report Review - presented by Dr. Amber C. Gibbs, Superintendent & CEO

Presentation slides are attached to these minutes.

8. Status Reports

Superintendent Gibbs had no comments.

9. New Business

A. Approve Secondary Employment as Private Provider

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities, acting also as Ethics Council, approves hereby and authorizes the Superintendent to approve employees to hold secondary employment in various capacities as private providers; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent is authorized to take any and all actions to carry out this transaction.

Motion by Sara Steimle, second by Steve Scheidt.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Dennis Roberts, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz, Sara Steimle, Derek Topola

Superintendent Gibbs and General Counsel, Sarah Cammock, explained to the Board and answered questions from the Board regarding the general applications of this item.

B. Waiver Coordinator Position as Management Employee

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities approves hereby and authorizes the Superintendent to designate the position of Waiver Coordinator as a management employee in accordance with Ohio Administrative Code Section 5126.22 (A) and (D) 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 Allison Frazier.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Dennis Roberts, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz, Sara Steimle, Derek Topola

Superintendent Gibbs explained the reason why an adjustment to the classification of this position is being brought to the Board.

C. Lease Agreement - Toshiba Copiers

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities approves hereby and authorizes an agreement with Toshiba Business for the 60-month lease of multifunction copiers at a cost not to exceed \$83,000 per year; 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 Dennis Roberts.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Dennis Roberts, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz, Sara Steimle, Derek Topola

Superintendent Gibbs explained that our current copiers are outdated and a new lease needs to be implemented. Director of IT, Mike Lively, further clarified that heavy usage equipment updates are necessary especially for the number of ISPs our staff generates.

10. Comments from the Floor

Lary Rodriguez, a member of Cuyahoga DD’s community, spoke on the topics of transportation needs and home-modification needs.

11. Executive Session

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities hereby adjourns to Executive Session for the purpose of considering the employment of a public employee.

Motion by Steve Scheidt, second by Allison Frazier.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Dennis Roberts, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz, Sara Steimle, Derek Topola

Time adjourned: 6:44 pm.

12. Reconvene

A. Roll Call

Members present: Alison Frazier, Dennis Roberts, Cynthia Schulz, Stephen Scheidt, Sara Steimle, Derek Topola

Member absent: Alaina McCruel

Time reconvened: 6:57 pm.

13. Adjournment

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

Motion by Steve Scheidt, second by Sara Steimle.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Aye: Allison Frazier, Dennis Roberts, Steve Scheidt, Cynthia Schulz, Sara Steimle, Derek Topola

Time adjourned: 6:58 pm.

Next Meeting – April 23, 2026 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

Sara Steimle, Secretary