



**Regular Board Meeting
April 23, 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 5:32pm.

B. Roll Call

Members present: Allison Frazier, Cynthia Schulz, Stephen Scheidt, Sara Steimle, Derek Topola

Members present via Zoom: Dennis Roberts

Member absent: Alaina McCruel

2. Minutes

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

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

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

3. Donations

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities gratefully accepts seven 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

4. 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 March 31, 2026, be accepted and filed for audit; the payment of vouchers for the period March 1, 2026 to March 31, 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 Cynthia Schulz.

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 \$74,412,434. Our total revenues were \$56,044,583, and our expenditures were \$7,142,268, for a cash balance ending of \$123,314,748.

5. Announcements

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

- On March 27, we had a full house for the 2026 Hoops for Hunger basketball game. Our Cuyahoga DD Sharks and the State Champion Cuyahoga Rockets put on a great game. The Rockets edged the Sharks 56 to 47. Money raised from this event was split between the Rockets and Cuyahoga DD's Harvest for Hunger campaign.
- At CAVS Autism Awareness Night on April 8, fans enjoyed community spotlights, special in-game recognitions with Autism Speaks, and were encouraged to participate in a "Silent Standing Ovation" using American Sign Language for applause. Cuyahoga DD gave out 60 game tickets to people and families we serve. The arena features a permanent sensory room for guests with sensory needs. Cuyahoga DD supported the event by providing a portable universal changing station and hosting a resource table staffed by Community Development representatives to share information about services for people with developmental disabilities in Cuyahoga County.
- Cuyahoga DD Good Life Ambassadors attended the Dru Joyce Unified Sports Classic on Friday, April 10 at the I-X Center. We also lent our portable universal changing table to the event. Unified Sports is a Special Olympics program in schools that pairs students with disabilities and without to play sports and learn from each other. Over 300 and more than 200 educators, chaperones, volunteers, coaches, staff, and supporters helped create an environment where everyone belongs. Special Olympics Ohio passed along the following note from a parent after the event about having our changing table there: "On our way out, I was telling someone else how incredible it was to have a space like that—one that allowed us to care for Sophia in a way that was dignified, comfortable, and without embarrassment. That is not something we often have access to, and it makes a significant difference in whether we can fully participate in events like this."
- Cuyahoga DD partnered with the Cleveland International Film Festival to sponsor two relaxed screenings of family friendly films during the festival's run on April 11 and April 18. Relaxed screenings include things like: ASL interpretation; Assistive listening devices; Calming space in the lobby; Fidget and noise-cancelling headphones; House lights in the theater are left on low; Lower sound level or advance notice for startling or loud sounds; etc. Cuyahoga DD staff trained Film Festival volunteers on how to support patrons with disabilities, and we provided travel-size sensory bags to families served by Cuyahoga DD attending the event. The sensory bag contains a communication card, which was a coordinated effort between EITS, CWD, and PIC departments.
- On April 20 to April 21, Superintendent Amber Gibbs and Chief Program Officer Melanie Rak visited The Kelsey integrated living spaces in San Francisco and San José, CA. They are a "co-living community" with 100 – 112 affordable, accessible units that were funded via public, private and government funding. The properties are managed by the organization The Kelsey, which is not a service provider, however two Inclusion Specialists are staffed at The Kelsey seven days a week. The visit was both thought provoking and inspirational regarding how Cuyahoga DD could replicate similar innovations in our community.

- Cuyahoga DD recently purchased a new home in Walton Hills to replace our Warrington children’s respite home. The new home, Alexander, is a ranch with an in-law suite that we anticipate using for visits with family and Cuyahoga DD ancillary staff.
- Earlier this month, we received news that the vendor we used to install our solar panels at Lakeside submitted the project for a Cleveland 2030 District Green Building Award, and it won an honorable mention for energy conservation! There will be a larger announcement of all the winners next month, but we wanted to share this exciting news with you.
- inteRAI Assessment Update – Starting May 1, DODD will use inteRAI assessment tools for people who are on the Individual Options (IO), Level One, and Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waivers. The inteRAI tools will replace the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Profile (ODDP) and the Acuity Assessment Instrument (AAI).
- Earlier this week, WKYC ran a story about Tasha Wilburn and her daughter Rayne, who we support, as part of its Red, White, and YOU series, celebrating America’s 250th. Tasha has written the children’s book “Rayne Climbs Up” to inspire and empower other children with DD to feel “strong, capable and included.”

6. Discussion Topics

Juvenile Court Collaboration - presented by Melissa Kuhn, LISW-S, Behavioral Health Supervisor & Aveion Fields, BCJ, Forensic Liaison

Presentation slides are attached to these minutes.

7. Status Reports

Superintendent Gibbs had no comments.

8. New Business

A. Request for a Levy

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities hereby approves a request to the Cuyahoga County Council to place a 2.25 mill additional 10-year levy for the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities before the electorate on November 3, 2026 as detailed in the attached document titled "Cuyahoga County Board of DD Additional Levy (November 2026);" 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 Cynthia Schulz.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

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

Superintendent Gibbs explained that this item is the first step in the process to request the County to put our levy on the ballot. If the Board passes this item, it goes to the County Council where they will review it over three readings. We anticipate the County’s decision sometime in June 2026.

9. Comments from the Floor

There were no comments from the floor.

10. 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 Sara Steimle.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

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

Time adjourned: 6:40 pm.

11. Reconvene

A. Roll Call

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

Member absent: Alaina McCruel

Time reconvened: 8:36 pm.

12. New Business, Continued

A. Approve Renewal of Contract for the Superintendent

RESOLVED, that the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities approves hereby the renewal of the management contract of Dr. Amber C. Gibbs, Superintendent of the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities, for the period May 1, 2026 through December 31, 2030 in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in a contract for employment hereby approved by the Board.

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

13. Adjournment

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

Motion by Allison Frazier, second by Steve Scheidt.

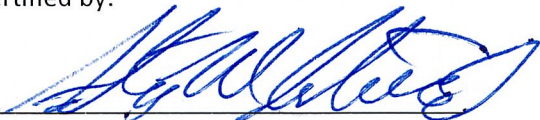
Final Resolution: Motion Approved

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

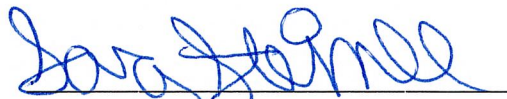
Time adjourned: 8:38 pm.

Next Meeting – May 28, 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



C U Y A H O G A C O U N T Y
Board of Developmental Disabilities

**Regular Board Meeting
April 23, 2026**

M. A. Donzella Administration Building and via Zoom

Stephen Scheidt, Board President

Allison Frazier, Board Vice President

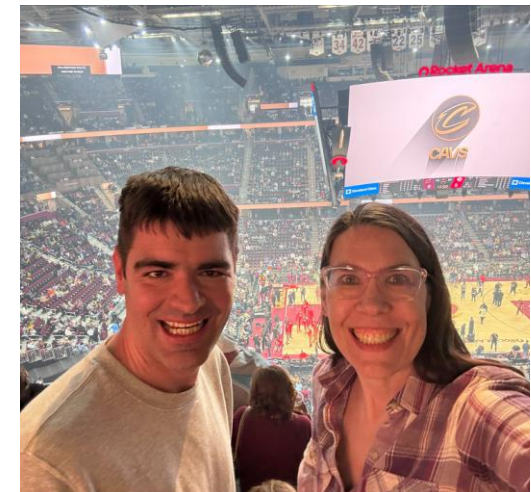
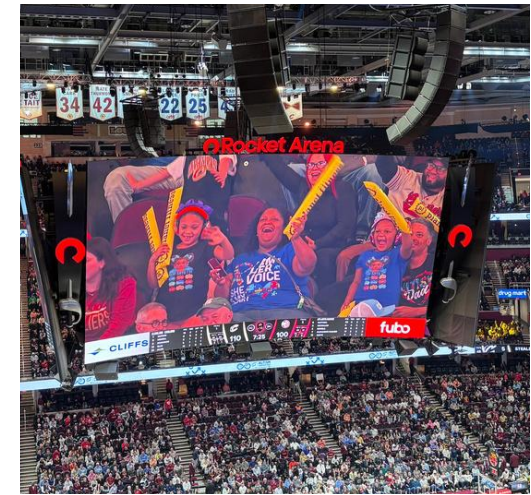
Sara Steimle, Board Secretary

Board Members: **Alaina McCruel, Dennis Roberts, Cynthia Vrsansky Schulz, Derek Topola**

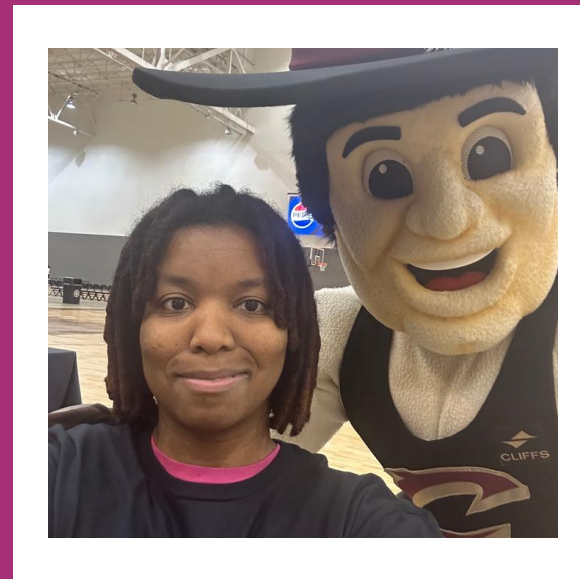
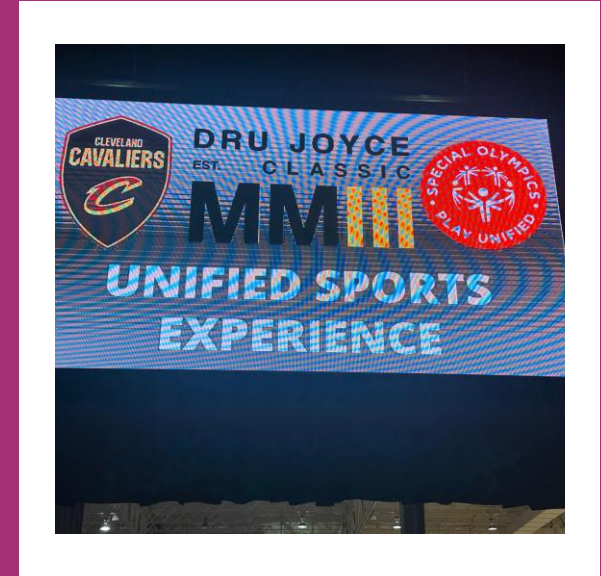
3.27.26 Annual
Hoops for Hunger
Cuyahoga County
Rockets vs.
Cuyahoga DD
Sharks Game



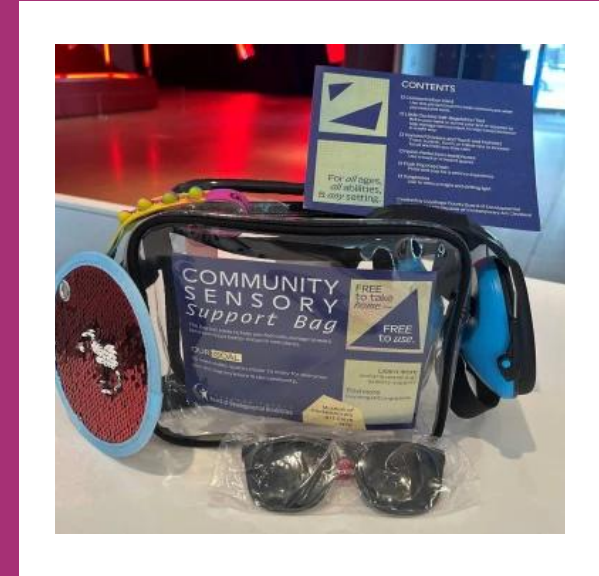
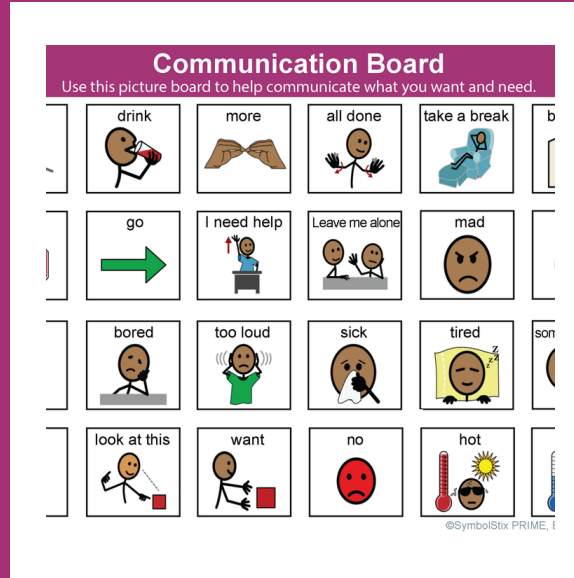
4.8.26 CAVS Autism Awareness Night



4.10.26 Dru Joyce Classic



4.11 and 4.18.26 CIFF Relaxed Screenings



4.20 - 4.21.26
Cuyahoga DD
Visits The Kelsey
in San Francisco



New Home Purchase



Cuyahoga DD
Solar Panel Project
Wins Cleveland
2030 District
Green Building
Award



inteRAI Assessment Update



CUYAHOGA COUNTY
Board of Developmental Disabilities



DODD.Ohio.gov
Mike DeWine, Governor | Jim Tressel, Lt. Governor | Lindsay Nash, Director

Subject: New Assessment for People Using Individual Options, Level One, and Self-Empowered Life Funding Waivers

Dear [Name],

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) wants to share important news about new assessment tools called interRAI ID and interRAI CHYMH DD.

Starting **May 1, 2026**, DODD will use interRAI tools for people who are on the **Individual Options (IO), Level One, and Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF)** waivers.

This new assessment will help DODD make sure people with developmental disabilities get the right support. **Your waiver eligibility will not change because of the interRAI.**

The interRAI tools will **replace the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Profile (ODDP) and the Acuity Assessment Instrument (AAI).**

How Ohio will use the interRAI

1. To help set new support levels for people on waivers.
2. To help County Board Service and Support Administrators (SSAs) with person-centered planning.
3. To help set payment rates for providers based on a person's needs for some services on the IO, Level One, and SELF waivers.

Why is DODD using a new tool?

Families and other stakeholders told us they want a tool that does a better job of showing what people need.

What is a needs-based assessment tool and why does it help?

A needs-based assessment tool gathers information about the supports a person needs to live safely at home or in the community. It usually asks about things like:

- Daily living skills
- Physical and behavioral health
- Communication

ICYMI: Bedford Mom Writes Book to Help Kids with Limb Differences





C U Y A H O G A C O U N T Y
Board of Developmental Disabilities

Partnership with Juvenile Court

Aveion Fields, BCJ, Forensic Liaison

Missy Kuhn, LISW-S, Behavioral Health Supervisor

Supporting and empowering people with developmental disabilities
to live, learn, work and play in the community

Research indicates



Overrepresented in
criminal justice
system

(U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics)



65-70% of youth
involved in juvenile
justice system have
a disability

(The Arc's National Center on
Criminal Justice and Disability)



Students with
disabilities **3x** more
likely to be arrested

(U.S. Department of Education,
Civil Rights Data Collection)



Collaboration Timeline



Impact

70+ youth referred for FL

Program Enhancement

- ✓ Create and implement referral process
- ✓ Provide training (10+) to court personnel
- ✓ Modified probation forms- simple language and visuals



Benefits:

Narrowing the Gap for some of our most vulnerable youth

Early identification

Linkage with
Cuyahoga DD

Support and
advocacy to youth
and their families

Direct link
between Cuyahoga
DD teams and the
court

Consult with Court
personnel

Release plans

Attend court
hearings

Attend probation
meetings



Success Story



Thank You!

Questions?



To learn more about Cuyahoga DD:

Visit us at cuyahogabdd.org ▪ Like us on Facebook/[cuyahogabdd](https://www.facebook.com/cuyahogabdd) ▪ Watch us on YouTube/[cuyahogabdd](https://www.youtube.com/cuyahogabdd)



Board adjourned to
executive session.

To learn more about Cuyahoga DD:

Visit us at cuyahogabdd.org ▪ Like us on Facebook/[cuyahogabdd](https://www.facebook.com/cuyahogabdd) ▪ Watch us on YouTube/[cuyahogabdd](https://www.youtube.com/cuyahogabdd)

