

MINUTES OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES

September 16, 2025

NORTHVIEW

I. CALL TO ORDER/BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE

Board President, John Serr, called the September 16, 2025 meeting of the Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disabilities Services to order at 7:03 p.m.

Member's in-person: President, John Serr; Madeline Iseli; Valerie Jones; Superintendent, Kamarr Gage
Member's remote: Vice President, Elizabeth Redmon; Ralonda Holt
Member's absent: Secretary, Richard Schultze; Heath MacAlpine. Mr. Schultze and Mr. MacAlpine notified the superintendent of their absence prior to the meeting.

Ms. Jones opened the meeting by reading the Board's Vision and Mission.

~ Moment of Silence

Mr. Serr asked the Board to observe a moment of silence in memory of those who have passed away since our last Board Meeting, whether they be individuals served or their family members, staff or their family members, or friends of the Board.

II. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

There were no Special Presentations for September.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the August 19, 2025 Board Meeting minutes and took action as below:

Motion: Mr. Serr moved that the Montgomery County Board of DD Services approve the minutes of the August 19, 2025 Board Meeting. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. A Roll Call vote was taken: Ms. Holt, yea; Ms. Redmon, yea; Ms. Jones, yea; Mr. Serr, yea; Ms. Iseli abstained. The motion carried with four in favor.

Ms. Iseli abstained from approving the August minutes because she was absent from the August Board Meeting.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

A. Update by Superintendent

Kamarr's written report was included in the Board Packet and he provided updates/details on the following:

- May Deliverables Status
- New Activities and Deliverables
- OACB Update
- Volunteer Recruitment Plan Update
- General Information Shared with All Staff
- Monthly Waiver Movement

B. First Reading of Annual Report/Annual Plan/Strategic Plan

In accordance with Board Policies II.05, II.08, ORC 5126.054, OAC 5122-26-03, and 5123-4-01, the 2025 Annual Report, 2026 Annual Plan, and the 2026-2029 Strategic Plan document was presented to the Board for a First Reading.

This document will be made available to the public via the Board's website, and will be reviewed at a **Public Hearing held via Remote Technology on Tuesday, September 30, 2025 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Individuals do not have to attend the Public Hearing to provide feedback, as we will also accept written comments via e-mail up to the end of the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing Notice will be posted on the website and will provide details on how to provide feedback.

Any feedback will be distributed to Directors for review prior to returning to the Board for a second reading and approval.

C. Excellent Staff Performance

WDTN Local News – A Dayton provider was among 10 indicted in alleged Medicaid fraud and theft. Yolanda Knox, 50, of Dayton, allegedly charged for services during travel, when clients weren't home, and on weekends and holidays when she wasn't working. Knox also allegedly sent her adult children to provide services on her behalf. The loss to Medicaid due to the alleged actions equal \$56,666.

Provider Compliance Supervisor, Marci Slifko, provided the fraud referral with supporting documentation to the Ohio Attorney General's Office. Kamarr wants to recognize Marci's efforts to support the state in preventing Medicaid fraud.

Even though Marci was not in attendance, Mr. Serr asked for a round of applause for Marci.

V. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. **Ethics Committee – Elizabeth Redmon, Chairperson**

1. There was one staff member reviewed during the Ethics Committee Meeting and no conflict was found.

B. Finance Committee – Richard Schultze, Chairperson - absent

1. Approval of DODD Request for Assistance

Motion: Mr. Serr moved that the Montgomery County Board of DD Services request assistance from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities in accordance with OAC 5123-4-05 “Ensuring the solvency of a county board of developmental disabilities” to meet its obligation to pay the nonfederal share of Medicaid expenditures for Home and Community Based Services in response to the current financial status of “Warning.” Ms. Iseli seconded the motion. A Roll Call vote was taken: Ms. Holt, yea; Ms. Redmon, yea; Ms. Jones, yea; Mr. Serr, yea; Ms. Iseli, yea. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval to submit budget for Calendar Year 2026

Motion: Mr. Serr moved that the Montgomery County Board of DD Services authorize the Superintendent to submit the final 2026 budget as attached, to the Montgomery County Office of Management and Budget in accordance with ORC 319.16, ORC 5126.05 and Montgomery County Policy. Ms. Iseli seconded the motion. A Roll Call vote was taken: Ms. Holt, yea; Ms. Redmon, yea; Ms. Jones, yea; Mr. Serr, yea; Ms. Iseli, yea. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Review of Program Vouchers

These Program Vouchers were provided in the Board Packet and included expenditures that are over \$1,000.00. No action was required.

4. Approval of Resolution Calendar

Motion: Mr. Serr moved that the Montgomery County Board of DD Services approve the September Resolution Calendar for item(s) 091625-09 to 091625-11. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. A Roll Call vote was taken: Ms. Holt, yea; Ms. Redmon, yea; Ms. Jones, yea; Mr. Serr, yea; Ms. Iseli, yea. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Financial Reports

The Financial Reports were provided in the Board Packet. Mr. Serr asked Andrew to provide an update. Andrew said we are 66.7% of the way through the year. Revenues are at 69.1% and Expenditures are at 66.8%. Our overall fund balance is \$8.9M or 15.1% of our expense budget. We will end 2025 right where we should be. The 2026 budget has been presented for approval and is good to go, and now our focus will begin on 2027.

C. Human Resources Committee – Madeline Iseli, Chairperson

There were no Human Resources items for September.

Ms. Iseli said that Danielle and Kamarr shared a good update on staffing during the Committee Meeting. There have been significant reductions in line with our funding situation and we are almost at the end of that process. Through it all, Ms. Iseli commended staff for keeping quality and accessibility of the staff to the people we serve and, at the same time, maintaining concern for the staff, their personal wellbeing, and professional readiness.

Mr. Serr asked for a round of applause.

D. Policy Committee – John Serr, Chairperson

1. First Reading of Selected Policies

There were no First Reading Policies for September.

2. Second Reading and Approval of Policies

Mr. Serr gave a second reading of the following policies:

II .013	Posting of State and Federal Information Posters
VII .66	Corporate Compliance
IX .30	Habilitation/vocational/community employment services with MCBDDS

Motion: Mr. Serr moved that the Montgomery County Board of DD Services approve the policies listed above. Ms. Iseli seconded the motion. A Roll Call vote was taken: Ms. Holt, yea; Ms. Redmon, yea; Ms. Jones, yea; Mr. Serr, yea; Ms. Iseli, yea. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. SPECIAL REPORTS

A. Monthly Updates for DDS Departments

Mr. Serr pointed out four staff members who have reached service milestones as below:

- 10 years
 - Whitney Rinehart-Developmental Specialist
 - Miranda Roberts-Rec Aide
- 1 year
 - Randy Prempeh-SSA
 - Harley Allen-Rec Aide

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS-EVENTS-STORIES

The following items/articles were included in the Board Packet for the Board Members to review at their convenience and leisure:

A. Link included in Board Packet to newsletters and events calendar

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

There were no Other Business items for September

IX. VISITORS' TIME

Visitors in attendance were:

Parent and Advocate Sue White

Parent and Advocate Dr. Susan Komorowski

Son of Dr. Susan Komorowski, Arte Komorowski

Assistant County Administrator Gerri Pegues

Ms. White shared concerns as listed below:

- Crowd control at some of the Recreation activities is a concern now that we have less staff attending.
- Heard that no activities will be planned after the end of this year. Kamarr said that is not true.
- Ms. White wanted to know if the county is cutting money to their other entities and, if so, maybe some of that money can come to DDS. She said she will talk about that when she attends upcoming Commission meetings.
- Heard that snow removal is not going to be taken care of at the group homes in Montgomery County. Kamarr said DDS has never provided snow removal. Inclusive Neighborhoods Housing Corporation (INHC) contracts for that service with several vendors. As we have worked with INHC to reduce our costs and their costs, INHC has said that people who live in their homes will have the option to contract directly with INHC vendors if they want snow removal services.
- Families are being denied waivers. The need grows more and more and we are getting less and less money.
- People with DD are no longer getting Mental Health services from MCBDDS. Since some people with DD are nonverbal or have a very low IQ and it's difficult for Therapists outside of DDS to provide the therapy needed for these individuals.
- Other organizations are getting money when the need is not there.
- Not happy about the upcoming levy. Ms. White doesn't understand why so much money is being taken from us. She said the county money is going to things like Oakwood Water Department and Mentors for people at Sinclair College when they have professors who can do that. County dollars are being used for apartment buildings when it should be coming to us. She wants to know what the county is doing with the money they have taken from us.

Dr. Susan Komorowski shared concerns as listed below:

- One of the DDS websites states that Recreation will be stopped December 2025. Kamarr explained that we have moved Recreation to a Community Integration

model. Recreation as a DDS program will stop but dances and social nights will continue under the Community Integration model. Kathy, Chelsea, and Eddie will continue with these events and our Directors and Managers will staff the events as best possible to maintain these activities. We have also began a volunteer program and, if we get enough volunteers, we are hoping to expand.

- There is a rumor that close to 200 individuals showed up at the recent dance at Northview and there were three staff members. Kamarr said there were more staff there than that. Dr. Komorowski asked if there will be a staff/individuals with DD ratio and Kamarr said we can't do that because each time will be based on the staff and volunteers we have available to work. Dr. Komorowski expressed her concern of how we keep it safe. Kamarr said, even though we don't have to train volunteers, we have decided to provide some training and we are doing background checks. Some of our volunteers may be retired Board employees or teachers. We are going to reach out to Wright State and UD and tap into their social work and education programs. Our volunteer target will be people who operate in that space.
- Before Mental Health was taken away, the staff on that team were all trained to work with DD individuals. We need Psychiatrists, Psychologists, and Counsellors who are trained to manage our individuals with DD. Mental Health services in the community don't know how to treat our individuals. Dr. Komorowski is asking everyone to think about that again stating that we are the backbone that can try to get this going again. She said we are supposed to be advocates for these individuals.
- Dr. Komorowski said to Andrew that she was at a meeting with him and the Community Review Team (CRT) about three or four months ago and Andrew was very concerned that our HSL allocation hadn't changed since 2009 and she stated that Andrew said the county was again trying to cut more out of our budget and our organization will implode in about two to three years if we don't do something. She added that she hasn't heard anyone talk about any sustained funding and she asked Andrew to comment on that. Andrew said he wants to make it clear the county has not taken or reduced funds as far as revenue. The \$8.6M the county took last year was not revenue but was expenses and reducing expenses is absolutely needed because we don't have the revenue to maintain the pace of expenditures. Andrew said it's very difficult and we do advocate every single day.
- In response to Dr. Komorowski asking if DDS has a way to get grants, Kamarr said we do access grants but they can't pay for waivers or ongoing services. We get small grants for different things but there is no grant that can cover our waiver match.
- Dr. Komorowski asked how we can say we are not going to give any more waivers when it's written in ORC that we must provide waivers. Kamarr said ORC states that County Boards must provide waivers based on available resources. If a certain amount is budgeted for waivers then we can only fund waivers until those resources are exhausted.
- JFS recently added 42 positions and yet we keep getting less money for what we need.
- The HSL isn't giving us one more cent and "you want people to vote for it because why?" Ms. Iseli said if the HSL doesn't pass then we will have no money. Dr. Komorowski said with the way DDS is being treated and funded is

not right. We have to advocate for them. Ms. Iseli said to Dr. Komorowski she is selling us far, far too short and we all live this as well. Ms. Iseli said she has a sister who receives services from this agency and she lives this. She added “We have been trying to walk the fine line between maintaining the services we have and not losing more, as well as maintaining the wellbeing of our family members, just in the same way that you are.” Ms. Iseli said Dr. Komorowski’s accusations hit home with her and suggested that this level of concern be shared at a higher level because we are operating within a constraint of dollars that we have only so much control over. Dr. Komorowski said this has been going on for more than 10 years and it needs to be fixed. Ms. Iseli said we share these concerns but there is only so much this Board can do to address the fixing that she is describing. Dr. Komorowski said she has done that and she was appalled at the lack of understanding and she hasn’t seen any change.

- The new playground at Stillwater cost almost \$1M and our individuals are being told they can’t use it. Dr. Komorowski said she realizes things may need to be taken to the next step and thinks there will be people at the upcoming Commissioners’ meetings. She thanked the Board for listening.

Ms. White asked if DDS staff could join with parents to rally at community events. She asked if we have speakers who go out and talk to them about how we feel and how our children are treated. Kamarr said if parents want to get together and meet with legislators, etc. they certainly can advocate in any fashion they see fit but for staff there are certain parameters we have to work within.

Gerri Pegues spoke on behalf of the commissioners stating they have been very supportive of DDS. They always have and always will be. Knowing that DDS was going into a fiscal emergency, they allocated \$9.17M for 2026 to maintain the services they currently have. She said this is a very difficult situation for families, for the Board, and our community but we are working together trying to continue the services that we have. Ms. Pegues said that Kamarr, Andrew and the team have been working diligently to look at what they can do in an alternative manner to continue some of these services. It’s difficult for everyone. We have other systems that are experiencing some challenges; they are losing funding based on what is happening at the federal and local levels. Some of the information being shared this evening is misinformation. JFS is a system that consists of four different divisions. Many of their services are state and federal funded. The only entity within JFS that receives levy funding is Children Services around child abuse, neglect, and prevention. To categorize JFS as receiving these dollars is incorrect. It’s a difficult situation getting out of a deficit but DDS is doing what is needed to get us there and working together is for the betterment of our community as a whole. Ms. Pegues thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and she hopes that the parents will get their facts before sharing this information with the community. She said we are talking about \$58M of \$138M that the levy receives and, if this renewal doesn’t pass with the voters, we would lose \$58M and we have to think about that. Also, when looking at the DDS budget, the money the levy is giving on the 2025 budget is 71% of their revenue and 63% of expenses so the county is supportive of DDS based on the resources available.

Dr. Komorowski said that HSL dollars goes to other places like Oakwood Public Health and there are multiple things the HSL money supports and yet they don't give DDS the money it needs.

Ms. Pegues said, since the inception of the HSL, it has supported the five systems (Children Services, MCBDDS, ADAMHS, Aging and Elderly, Public Health) and it has also supported community services based on the needs of other residents within our community. She said the levy does support other programs within our community but historically they have always done that.

Dr. Komorowski said that when DDS is suffering so much as one of the five main systems, the historical thing needs to be looked at and things need to be changed. We need to have a stable budget and not a stopgap budget.

Ms. Pegues said "you are not losing and we continue to give."

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to present to the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Time: 8:14 p.m.



Board Officer

October 21, 2025

Date

**The next Regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board of DDS
will take place at 7 p.m. be on TUESDAY, October 21, 2025
at Northview 8114 N. Main St. Dayton, OH 45415**

Board Secretary/jn

Reviewed and approved by Superintendent

Date approved by Board Secretary: September 28, 2025