

TUSCARAWAS COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

DATE: Regular Meeting, Monday, February 24, 2025

PLACE: Service & Support Center, 610 Commercial Avenue SW, New Philadelphia, Ohio

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: President

1.1 RECORD OF OATH OF OFFICE FOR REAPPOINTED MEMBER: Oath of office to be administered prior to the start of the meeting.

- **Julie Brinkman** – Reappointed by the Tuscarawas County Probate Judge to a four-year term beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2028.

1.2 ROLL CALL: Executive Administrative Director

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	
Kathleen Arthurs	x		
Lucinda Bihari		x	(excused)
Julie Brinkman	x		
Thomas Fantin	x		
Andrea Legg		x	(excused)
Heather O'Connor	x		
Ryan Yoss	x		

1.3 REVIEW OF TuscBDD MISSION AND VISION

- **Mission:** Enhancing Lives
- **Vision:** Inspiring Innovation

1.4 ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA

- Motions 10 and 11 under New Business were added.
- Item 4 under Reports of the Superintendent was revised.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Recommendation to adopt a motion to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2025 Organizational Board meeting and the January 27, 2025 Board meeting.

Motion: **Kathleen Arthurs**

Second: **Heather O'Connor**

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	
Kathleen Arthurs	x		
Lucinda Bihari	absent		
Julie Brinkman	x		
Thomas Fantin	x		
Andrea Legg	absent		
Heather O'Connor	x		
Ryan Yoss	x		

The President declares the motion **carried**.

II. FINANCIAL REPORT

1. Monthly Reconciliation

The financial report for January was provided for review. The noteworthy items were highlighted in the report. Expenditures exceeded revenues by a significant amount in January as this is typically a month with very little revenue. Revenues will increase with the collection of our property tax revenue, which we typically receive in March. Revenue sources worth noting for January include Refunds and Reimbursements and revenue from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, which help sustain the operation of our school program. On the expenditure side, contract services was the top line item due to the annual, lump sum payment of some contracts in January. The other line item with significant expenditures in January was Capital Improvement Projects which pertains to the playground as that project nears completion with only a few minor items left to be wrapped up when warmer weather arrives in spring. Nate Kamban was pleased to share that all ARPA grant dollars that were awarded to TuscBDD were spent, eliminating the need to return any funds to the state.

Recommendation to adopt a motion to approve the financial statement as presented which includes the approval of total expenditures in the amount of \$1,127,380.15 for the month of January.

Motion: **Thomas Fantin**

Second: **Ryan Yoss**

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Kathleen Arthurs	x	
Lucinda Bihari	absent	
Julie Brinkman	x	
Thomas Fantin	x	
Andrea Legg	absent	
Heather O'Connor	x	
Ryan Yoss	abstain	

The President declares the motion **carried**.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

IV. OLD BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

V. NEW BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

1. 2025-2026 Starlight Preschool Calendar of Operation

The Starlight Preschool calendar contains the required number of instructional hours and reflects the same in-service days, holidays, and closures as the Starlight School-Age calendar. This preschool calendar also includes information on dates that our employees will attend

countywide, preschool-specific staff meetings and registration.

Recommendation to approve the 2025-2026 Starlight Preschool Calendar of Operation as submitted.

Motion: **Heather O'Connor**

Second: **Kathleen Arthurs**

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Kathleen Arthurs	x	
Lucinda Bihari	absent	
Julie Brinkman	x	
Thomas Fantin	x	
Andrea Legg	absent	
Heather O'Connor	x	
Ryan Yoss	x	

The President declares the motion **carried**.

2. Revision to 2023-2024 Starlight School Calendar of Operation

The 2023-2024 Starlight School calendar of operation reflected a calculation of instructional hours which was incorrect. This was adjusted to reflect the accurate count of 6 instructional hours per day. This revision has no effect on the days students are expected to be in attendance; however, it was important to make this correction since this is used as a reference to ensure students meet the minimum number of hours as required by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce.

Recommendation to adopt a motion to approve the revision to the 2023-2024 Starlight School Calendar of Operation to reflect the accurate calculation of instructional hours.

Motion: **Ryan Yoss**

Second: **Thomas Fantin**

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Kathleen Arthurs	x	
Lucinda Bihari	absent	
Julie Brinkman	x	
Thomas Fantin	x	
Andrea Legg	absent	
Heather O'Connor	x	
Ryan Yoss	x	

The President declares the motion **carried**.

3. Supplemental Appropriations

These supplemental appropriations were necessary in order to move funds from the Capital Improvements fund to the Equipment line item within the General Fund in order for this donated money to be used as planned to purchase equipment to be used by the students.

Recommendation to adopt a motion to approve the following supplemental appropriations:

FROM: E1240-N010-N05 Unappropriated Balance	TO: E-1240-N010-N06 Transfers Out	AMOUNT: \$5,000.00
FROM: E1240-S050-S40 Unappropriated Balance	TO: E-1420-S050-S20 Equipment	AMOUNT: \$5,000.00

Motion: **Thomas Fantin**

Second: **Kathleen Arthurs**

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	
Kathleen Arthurs	x		
Lucinda Bihari	absent		
Julie Brinkman	x		
Thomas Fantin	x		
Andrea Legg	absent		
Heather O'Connor	x		
Ryan Yoss	x		The President declares the motion carried .

4. Transfer of Funds

These transfers are necessary to move funds as required by the Auditor for the playground project and to align funds within Family Support Services to match our Board-approved budget for calendar year 2025.

Recommendation to adopt a motion to approve the following transfer of funds:

FROM: E-1240-N010-N06 TRANSFERS OUT	TO: GENERAL FUND TRANSFERS R-1420-S050-S44	AMOUNT: \$5,000.00
FROM: FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES E-1920-U030-U06	TO: RESPITE CARE CONTRACT SERVICES E-1920-U030-U04	AMOUNT: \$5,000.00

Motion: **Thomas Fantin**

Second: **Heather O'Connor**

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	
Kathleen Arthurs	x		
Lucinda Bihari	absent		
Julie Brinkman	x		
Thomas Fantin	x		
Andrea Legg	absent		
Heather O'Connor	x		
Ryan Yoss	x		The President declares the motion carried .

5. Stepping Stone Residential, LLC – Contract for Adult Day Habilitation Services and

Transportation Services to Persons without Waivers

This contract outlines the provisions necessary for TuscBDD to pay the Medicaid rate to providers for those they serve that do not have waivers. This is a standard contract for all providers and is renewed every three years.

Recommendation to adopt a motion to approve the contract with Stepping Stone Residential, LLC for adult day habilitation services and transportation services to persons without waivers per the terms and conditions of the contract as submitted and approved by the Tuscarawas County Prosecutor's Office.

Motion: **Kathleen Arthurs**

Second: **Ryan Yoss**

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Kathleen Arthurs	x	
Lucinda Bihari	absent	
Julie Brinkman	x	
Thomas Fantin	x	
Andrea Legg	absent	
Heather O'Connor	x	
Ryan Yoss	x	

The President declares the motion **carried**.

6. Adult Developmental Services, Inc. – Contract for Adult Day Habilitation Services and Transportation Services to Persons without Waivers

Recommendation to adopt a motion to approve the contract with Adult Developmental Services, Inc. for adult day habilitation services and transportation services to persons without waivers per the terms and conditions of the contract as submitted and approved by the Tuscarawas County Prosecutor's Office.

Motion: **Heather O'Connor**

Second: **Kathleen Arthurs**

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Kathleen Arthurs	x	
Lucinda Bihari	absent	
Julie Brinkman	x	
Thomas Fantin	x	
Andrea Legg	absent	
Heather O'Connor	x	
Ryan Yoss	x	

The President declares the motion **carried**.

7. Frontier Communications of America, Inc. Agreement for Managed Dedicated Internet

This contract with Frontier is for our primary internet connection for the agency and was the most affordable option for the most-reliable coverage and support.

Recommendation to adopt a motion to approve the agreement with Frontier Communications of America, Inc. for managed dedicated internet per the terms and conditions of the agreement as submitted and approved by the Tuscarawas County Prosecutor's Office.

Motion: **Thomas Fantin**

Second: **Heather O'Connor**

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Kathleen Arthurs	x	
Lucinda Bihari	absent	
Julie Brinkman	x	
Thomas Fantin	x	
Andrea Legg	absent	
Heather O'Connor	x	
Ryan Yoss	x	

The President declares the motion **carried**.

8. Guernsey County Board of DD Memorandum of Understanding

Guernsey County Board of DD (GCBDD) requested SLP mentorship services from TuscBDD for one day per month from February through May. This will be provided by SLP Eva McClave with the entire cost of this extra day, including mileage, being covered by the GCBDD. This will not impact Eva's workload here in Tuscarawas County since she works a reduced schedule, and this extra day does not put her into overtime status.

Recommendation to adopt a motion to approve the MOU for TuscBDD to provide SLP Mentorship Services to Guernsey County Board of DD per the terms and conditions of the MOU as submitted and approved by the Tuscarawas County Prosecutor's Office.

Motion: **Ryan Yoss**

Second: **Kathleen Arthurs**

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Kathleen Arthurs	x	
Lucinda Bihari	absent	
Julie Brinkman	x	
Thomas Fantin	x	
Andrea Legg	absent	
Heather O'Connor	x	
Ryan Yoss	x	

The President declares the motion **carried**.

9. Property, Crime, and Terrorism Insurance from Liberty Mutual Insurance

The proposal from Liberty Mutual Insurance for our property, crime, and terrorism insurance has increased significantly since our roof replacement claim that spanned 2023-2024. From 2023 to 2024, we experienced a 55% increase in the premium, and this proposal for 2024 to

2025 includes a 47% increase. Our broker was asked to put this out for bid and responded that we are lucky to have this coverage as any other plans he previously looked at were more expensive. Nate Kamban reviewed the various changes in policy coverage, which are becoming the standard in the industry.

Recommendation to adopt a motion to accept the proposal from Liberty Mutual Insurance for property, crime, and terrorism insurance per the terms and conditions of the proposal as submitted.

Motion: **Kathleen Arthurs**

Second: **Thomas Fantin**

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Kathleen Arthurs	x	
Lucinda Bihari	absent	
Julie Brinkman	x	
Thomas Fantin	x	
Andrea Legg	absent	
Heather O'Connor	x	
Ryan Yoss	x	

The President declares the motion **carried**.

10. Housing Contract with the Ohio Network for Innovation, Inc.

Nate Kamban shared that there are two youth homes in Tuscarawas County that were designed to be used for short-term stabilization and respite. We are currently seeing some kids being placed in these homes who have more intensive needs that require a long-term residential option, which is outside of the purpose for these homes. One youth currently placed here is from Belmont County, and they have been very successful both residing in Tuscarawas County and attending Starlight School. The Belmont County Board of DD (BCBDD) prefers to keep this individual here in Tuscarawas County long term and has decided to purchase a home in Tuscarawas County to make this possible. This contract between TuscBDD and the Ohio Network for Innovation, Inc. (ONI) is necessary solely for the purpose of accessing state community capital assistance funding for the home. Once those dollars are received from the state, TuscBDD will then transfer the funds to ONI. TuscBDD will also be required to hold a mortgage and promissory note on the home as required by the state. ONI will then work exclusively with BCBDD as they manage the home through a separate contract between ONI and BCBDD.

Recommendation to adopt a motion to approve the Housing Contract between the Tuscarawas County Board of Developmental Disabilities and the Ohio Network for Innovation, Inc. per the terms and conditions of the contract as approved by Attorney Stephen Postalakis.

Motion: **Ryan Yoss**

Second: **Thomas Fantin**

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Kathleen Arthurs	x	

Lucinda Bihari	absent
Julie Brinkman	x
Thomas Fantin	x
Andrea Legg	absent
Heather O'Connor	x
Ryan Yoss	x

The President declares the motion **carried**.

11. Residential Home Memorandum of Understanding with Belmont County Board of DD

This MOU outlines the responsibilities of TuscBDD and BCBDD regarding the home, located in Tuscarawas County, that ONI is purchasing on BCBDD's behalf. This MOU contains a provision to ensure BCBDD remains responsible for any individuals who they place in this home until such time as state and/or federal law requires TuscBDD to become responsible. If TuscBDD places someone in this home, TuscBDD would be responsible for their care. The SSA from the county who places an individual in this home would remain involved while the child resides in this home.

Original motion:

Recommendation to adopt a motion to approve the Residential Home MOU between the Tuscarawas County Board of DD and the Belmont County Board of DD per the terms and conditions of the MOU as prepared by the Tuscarawas County Prosecutor's Office-.

Amended motion:

Recommendation to adopt a motion to approve the Residential Home MOU between the Tuscarawas County Board of DD and the Belmont County Board of DD per the terms and conditions of the MOU as approved by Attorney Stephen Postalakis.

Motion: **Ryan Yoss**

Second: **Heather O'Connor**

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Kathleen Arthurs	x	
Lucinda Bihari	absent	
Julie Brinkman	x	
Thomas Fantin	x	
Andrea Legg	absent	
Heather O'Connor	x	
Ryan Yoss	x	

The President declares the motion **carried**.

VI. PERSONNEL

1. Personnel Actions:

- a. Marissa Marshall – resignation – Teacher, effective March 3, 2025

VII. REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

1. **Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities Pipeline Newsletters** – These can be accessed online at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/Pipeline-Quarterly.aspx> (*Copies are also available upon request.*)
2. **Federal/State Updates**
 - **DODD Proposed Two-Year Budget:** Nate Kamban shared that the priorities outlined for the next two-year state budget prioritizes services to children and families. This budget includes increases for Part C Early Intervention to help support the EI evaluation and assessment functions as well as funding for multi-system youth. DODD's preliminary budget appears to also contain the funding necessary to maintain the state's contribution towards the provider rate increase that was recently initiated. The increases discussed for FCFC; however, were not included in the budget.
 - **Property Tax Reform & DD Advocacy:** A primary focus for the new general assembly in Ohio is tax reform. There are current proposals that suggest the elimination of the ability to have replacement levies. The county board system relies heavily on property taxes, and colleagues at OACB have been advocating on our behalf to legislators about the importance of property tax levies to the DD system in Ohio. Part of that includes making sure legislators know that unlike school districts, county boards do not earn inside millage when property values increase. Additionally, our levies do not increase with inflation, in fact we continue to collect at the rate that was in place when the levies were originally passed except for increases for new construction. TuscBDD's three levies are at least 28 years old and are collected at less than 50% of their original rate. Nate Kamban was asked to join a committee of superintendents to evaluate potential tax reform legislation and provide input to OACB and lawmakers.
3. **Local Updates**
 - **Potential Medicaid Cuts:** The draft federal budget that was released earlier this week proposed at least \$1.5 trillion in spending cuts with Medicaid facing some of the most significant reductions. This could shift costs to the states, reduce provider rates, and threaten home and community-based services. Currently, the federal rate covers approximately 60% and we pay 40% locally; however, if this percentage shifted it would have a significant impact on our ability to continue locally funded services.
 - **Future Financial Planning Discussion:** TuscBDD waiver match costs have gone from \$1.9 million in 2021 to \$4.8 million in 2024, an increase of 150%. This is primarily driven by increased waiver utilization as well as paying for the county board portion of the provider wage rate increase. If spending continues at this rate, we may need to conservatively look at the possibility of replacing one of our levies in the fall of 2026. Work continues internally on our ten-year financial plan in order to get more guidance to then know how to proceed.
4. **Good News Moment:** The Ohio DD Council reached out to Nate Kamban after hearing about the work being done in our county on the Latino Project and the Playground Renovation. They encouraged us to consider applying to the Ohio DD Council for funding in the future.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Report

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Recommendation and motion to enter into and conduct an executive session in accordance with Revised Code 121.22(G) for the purpose of consideration of the following matter: The employment and compensation of a public employee. A majority of the quorum of the Board determined by roll call vote is required to hold an executive session. A roll call vote will be taken.

Motion: **Thomas Fantin**

Second: **Kathleen Arthurs**

Roll Call:	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Kathleen Arthurs	x	
Lucinda Bihari	absent	
Julie Brinkman	x	
Thomas Fantin	x	
Andrea Legg	absent	
Heather O'Connor	x	
Ryan Yoss	x	

The President declares the motion **carried**.

Time in: **6:11** p.m.

2. Recommendation and motion to adjourn executive session and return to the open meeting. A roll call vote will be taken.

Motion: **Ryan Yoss**

Second: **Kathleen Arthurs**

Roll Call:	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Kathleen Arthurs	x	
Lucinda Bihari	absent	
Julie Brinkman	x	
Thomas Fantin	x	
Andrea Legg	absent	
Heather O'Connor	x	
Ryan Yoss	x	

The President declares the motion **carried**.

Time out: **6:21** p.m.

Heather O'Connor was excused after exiting executive session at 6:21 p.m. and did not return.

3. Recommendation and motion to enter into and conduct an executive session in accordance with Revised Code 121.22(G) for the purpose of consideration of the following matter: Conferences with an attorney concerning disputes that are the subject of pending or imminent court action. A majority of the quorum of the Board determined by roll call vote is required to hold an executive session. A roll call vote will be taken.

Motion: **Thomas Fantin**

Second: **Ryan Yoss**

Roll Call:	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Kathleen Arthurs	x	
Lucinda Bihari	absent	
Julie Brinkman	x	
Thomas Fantin	x	
Andrea Legg	absent	
Heather O'Connor	absent	
Ryan Yoss	x	

The President declares the motion **carried**.

Time in: **6:23** p.m.

4. Recommendation and motion to adjourn executive session and return to the open meeting. A roll call vote will be taken.

Motion: **Kathleen Arthurs**

Second: **Thomas Fantin**

Roll Call:	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Kathleen Arthurs	x	
Lucinda Bihari	absent	
Julie Brinkman	x	
Thomas Fantin	x	
Andrea Legg	absent	
Heather O'Connor	absent	
Ryan Yoss	x	

The President declares the motion **carried**.

Time out: **7:15** p.m.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

1. Adopt a motion to adjourn.

Motion: **Ryan Yoss**

Second: **Kathleen Arthurs**

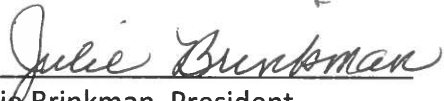
	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Kathleen Arthurs	x	
Lucinda Bihari	absent	
Julie Brinkman	x	

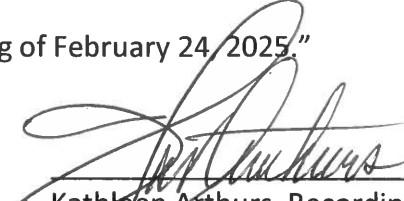
Thomas Fantin	x
Andrea Legg	absent
Heather O'Connor	absent
Ryan Yoss	x

The President declares the motion **carried**.

Time: **7:15** p.m.

"This is a true and accurate record of the meeting of February 24, 2025."


Julie Brinkman, President


Kathleen Arthurs, Recording Secretary

This is not a verbatim transcript of the February 24, 2025 Board meeting.

2025-0224 minutes