TUSCARAWAS COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

DATE: Regular Meeting, Monday, January 27, 2026*
*Meeting was rescheduled from January 26, 2026 due to winter storm.
PLACE: Service & Support Center, 610 Commercial Avenue SW, New Philadelphia, Ohio
TIME: 5:40 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: President

1.1 ROLL CALL: Executive Administrative Director

	Present	Absent
Kathleen Arthurs	x	
Lucinda Bihari	x	
Julie Brinkman	x	
Jennifer Demuth	x	
Andrea Legg	x	
Heather O'Connor	x	
Ryan Yoss	x	

1.2 REVIEW OF TuscBDD MISSION AND VISION

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

1.3 ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA

- Executive Session was added to the agenda as Section X and all remaining sections were renumbered.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Recommendation to adopt a motion to approve the minutes of the November 24, 2025 Board meeting.

Motion: **Ryan Yoss** Second: **Kathleen Arthurs**

	Yea	Nay	
Kathleen Arthurs	x		
Lucinda Bihari	x		
Julie Brinkman	x		
Jennifer Demuth	abstain		
Andrea Legg	x		
Heather O'Connor	x		
Ryan Yoss	x		The President declares the motion **carried**.

II. FINANCIAL REPORT

1. **Monthly Reconciliation**

The financial reports for November and December were provided for review. Samantha Farmery reviewed the top revenues and expenditures for the final two months of the year and mentioned that TuscBDD ended 2025 with a net loss that was slightly larger than projected. Total revenues decreased by 4.87%; however, this decrease was primarily tied to an EFT that was received by the county in December but was not allocated to TuscBDD's TCM revenue line until January of 2026. If this revenue had been allocated within TuscBDD's general fund in 2025 as budgeted, our net loss for the year would have fallen right in line with the amount of net loss that was projected for calendar year 2025. Total expenditures increased in 2025 by 5%; however, several notable categories came in under budget.

Recommendation to adopt a motion to approve the financial statement as presented which includes the approval of total expenditures in the amount of $2,687,333.46 for the months of November and December.

Motion: **Andrea Legg** Second: **Heather O'Connor**

	Yea	Nay	
Kathleen Arthurs	x		
Lucinda Bihari	x		
Julie Brinkman	x		
Jennifer Demuth	x		
Andrea Legg	x		
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. Sunshine Law Training Delegation

Recommendation to adopt a motion to approve the delegation of the Sunshine Law Training requirement, as permitted under ORC 109.43, to the Executive Administrative Director. The Executive Administrative Director is authorized to complete the three-hour Ohio Attorney General's Sunshine Law Training on behalf of all current members of the Tuscarawas County Board of Developmental Disabilities and will list the names of the Board members on the training certificate as required. This delegation will remain in effect unless rescinded by the Board.

Motion: **Kathleen Arthurs** Second: **Heather O'Connor**

	Yea	Nay	
Kathleen Arthurs	x		
Lucinda Bihari	x		
Julie Brinkman	x		
Jennifer Demuth	x		
Andrea Legg	x		
Heather O'Connor	x		
Ryan Yoss	x		The President declares the motion **carried**.

2. Disposal of Unneeded, Obsolete, or Unfit Equipment

Recommendation to adopt a motion to approve the disposal of unneeded, obsolete, or unfit equipment as permitted in accordance with ORC 307.12. A detailed listing of this equipment has been developed and will be submitted to the Tuscarawas County Commissioners for final approval.

Motion: **Andrea Legg** Second: **Jennifer Demuth**

	Yea	Nay	
Kathleen Arthurs	x		
Lucinda Bihari	x		
Julie Brinkman	x		
Jennifer Demuth	x		
Andrea Legg	x		
Heather O'Connor	x		
Ryan Yoss	x		The President declares the motion **carried**.

3. Board Policy Revision

This policy was revised due to a rule change making UI/MUI training for Board members only required after initial appointment rather than on an annual basis.

Recommendation to adopt a motion to approve the revisions to the following Board policy as presented:

- **1.3 Board Operations**

Motion: **Ryan Yoss** Second: **Kathleen Arthurs**

	Yea	Nay
Kathleen Arthurs	x	
Lucinda Bihari	x	
Julie Brinkman	x	
Jennifer Demuth	x	
Andrea Legg	x	
Heather O'Connor	x	

Ryan Yoss x The President declares the motion **carried**.

4. **Memberships and Contract Services** *(discussion only)*
A list reflecting the year-end total spent for dues/memberships and for contract services for 2025 was included in the Board book. These lists provide year-end totals for calendar years 2025 and 2024 for comparison. This information is shared with the Board twice annually as an opportunity for the Board to stay informed of the memberships TuscBDD belongs to and its contractual relationships as many fall below the threshold that requires Board approval. The cost went up slightly for dues/memberships, and Nate Kamban explained that largest cost within this category is our membership dues for OACB which is a critical association for county board advocacy and training. In contract services there was a significant drop of 22% in these costs in 2025 compared to 2024; however, that decrease is reduced to 10% with the removal of the one-time costs related to the roofing project in 2024 and the Belmont/Dover home purchase with ONI in 2025. The decrease in these costs shows the concentrated effort that was made in 2025 to reduce contractual expenditures when possible.

VI. PERSONNEL

1. **Personnel Actions:**
    a. Jamie Rutledge – new hire – Early Intervention Service Coordinator, effective January 5, 2026
    b. Tim Whytsell – retirement – Maintenance, effective May 1, 2026
    c. Jamie Maize – retirement – Classroom Assistant, effective September 1, 2026

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**
    - **Funding the Future Initiative:** Nate Kamban recently attended a meeting with superintendents from 75 county boards led by the Ohio Association of County Boards to prioritize essential services as the system enters a deficit-spending period. Those in attendance agreed upon the following key focus areas:
        - Exploring ways Artificial Intelligence (AI) can improve efficiency in county board operations
        - Considering EI as a mandated service for county boards, making it eligible for dedicated state funding.
        - Increasing scrutiny of high-cost independent living situations.
3. **Local Updates**
    - **Levy Update:** Our initial request to the Commissioners to place our levy request on the May 2026 ballot was taken under advisement. The current carryover balance was discussed as a concern; however, if a levy was approved in 2026, the carryover will be further reduced through deficit spending for two more years until any revenue from a new levy would be received starting in 2028. Our goal is to give the voters an

opportunity to vote on a levy which would allow services to be maintained at their current level. We are scheduled to discuss this further at the next Commissioner's meeting on January 28, 2026.

- **Early Childhood Education Funding:** Mel Cronebach is working with the Educational Service Center to apply for funding on our behalf for preschool students with IEPs. If this funding is received, it would further support Starlight School's sustainability efforts.
- **AI Project Rollout:** Several staff members have begun to trial the use of AI to assess how these tools may assist various departments with work-related tasks. Most are utilizing free versions of AI with a smaller group trialing a paid version of Microsoft Copilot that is HIPAA compliant. Recent feedback highlights that AI has been helpful for a variety of tasks, such as summarizing complex documents, ISP quality assurance checks, grant writing assistance, and email refinement. An AI committee has been created to look at ways to increase utilization across the agency to further enhance efficiency.

4. **Good News Moment: Power of Perspective Event** – The Power of Perspective Event held at the KSU Performing Arts Center was a huge success. Attendees had the opportunity to hear from two motivating speakers, Jordyn Zimmerman and Chris Nikic. Their stories of resilience and growth challenged all participants to approach their work and their everyday lives with a new perspective about the amazing capabilities of individuals with developmental disabilities, the importance of presumed competence, and the limitless potential for growth when proper supports are in place. Notable collaborations were put in motion at this event with team members from New Pointe Community Church seeking to meet with TuscBDD on effective ways to further enhance their services for people with developmental disabilities. Also at the event, Representative Jodi Salvo connected with Jordyn Zimmerman and made plans to work on a bipartisan bill to make access to communication devices easier.

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)(1) for the purpose of consideration of the following matter: Matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or regulations or state statutes. 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: **Andrea Legg** Second: **Kathleen Arthurs**

Roll Call:	**Yea**	**Nay**	
Kathleen Arthurs	x		
Lucinda Bihari	x		
Julie Brinkman	x		
Jennifer Demuth	x		
Andrea Legg	x		
Heather O'Connor	x		
Ryan Yoss	x		The President declares the motion **carried**.

Time in: **6:08** p.m.

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

Motion: **Heather O'Connor** Second: **Jennifer Demuth**

Roll Call:	**Yea**	**Nay**	
Kathleen Arthurs	x		
Lucinda Bihari	x		
Julie Brinkman	x		
Jennifer Demuth	x		
Andrea Legg	x		
Heather O'Connor	x		
Ryan Yoss	x		The President declares the motion **carried**.

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT

1. Adopt a motion to adjourn.

Motion: **Kathleen Arthurs** Second: **Ryan Yoss**

	Yea	**Nay**	
Kathleen Arthurs	x		
Lucinda Bihari	x		
Julie Brinkman	x		
Jennifer Demuth	x		
Andrea Legg	x		
Heather O'Connor	x		
Ryan Yoss	x		The President declares the motion **carried**.

Time: **6:24** p.m.

"This is a true and accurate record of the meeting of January 27, 2026."

Julie Brinkman

Julie Brinkman, President

Kathleen Arthurs

Kathleen Arthurs, Recording Secretary

This is not a verbatim transcript of the January 27, 2026 Board meeting.

2026-0127 minutes