

TUSCARAWAS COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

DATE: Regular Meeting, Monday, February 23, 2026

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

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: President

1.1 **ROLL CALL:** Executive Administrative Director

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	
Kathleen Arthurs		x	(excused)
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**

I. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Recommendation to adopt a motion to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2026 Organizational Board meeting and the January 27, 2026 Board meeting.

Motion: **Ryan Yoss**

Second: **Heather O'Connor**

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	
Kathleen Arthurs	absent		
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 .

II. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

1. **Monthly Reconciliation**

The financial report for January was provided for review. Samantha Farmery reviewed the top three revenue line items for the month. The largest source of revenue, Targeted Case

Management, was received as an EFT over the holiday break in December; however, it was not posted as revenue to our agency until January 2026. The only expenses in January were salaries and benefits. Outstanding invoices were submitted to the Auditor's Office in January, but the timing of submission did not allow sufficient time for them to be processed prior to the end of the month. Those invoices will be posted in February's financial report.

Recommendation to adopt a motion to approve the financial statement as presented which includes the approval of total expenditures in the amount of \$418,070.63 for the month of January.

Motion: **Andrea Legg**

Second: **Ryan Yoss**

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Kathleen Arthurs	absent	
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**.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

ETHICS COMMITTEE:

1. Presentation of Items Approved by the Ethics Committee

Recommendation to adopt a motion to approve the list of direct service payments as presented in accordance with standards in ORC §5126.033, as reviewed and approved by the Ethics Committee.

Motion: **Jennifer Demuth**

Second: **Ryan Yoss**

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Kathleen Arthurs	absent	
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**.

IV. OLD BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

V. NEW BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

1. Superior Technology Group – Cloud Hosting Contract

This contract is being renewed at a 12% increase with that rate guaranteed for three years. This contract is necessary as most of our computer network is hosted on the cloud, which is much more cost-effective than maintaining onsite servers.

Recommendation to adopt a motion to approve the cloud hosting contract with Superior Technology Group, LLC per the terms and conditions of the contract as submitted and approved by the Tuscarawas County Prosecutor's Office.

Motion: **Andrea Legg**

Second: **Heather O'Connor**

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Kathleen Arthurs	absent	
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. Position Description Revisions

The Maintenance position was revised to focus this role on maintenance and custodial duties for the Starlight School building and now reports directly to the Youth Services Director. The position of FANS Network Administrative Assistant was restructured into a more general, part-time Administrative Assistant role following the changes in the provider support budget and the fact that county boards no longer offer FANS programs.

Recommendation to adopt a motion to approve the revisions to the following position description as presented:

- **Maintenance**
- **Administrative Assistant-Part Time, formerly FANS Network Administrative Assistant**

Motion: **Andrea Legg**

Second: **Ryan Yoss**

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Kathleen Arthurs	absent	
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. Tech Hub Expansion Microgrant

As our original grant for the Tech Home has been fully expended, we continue to pursue new funding sources to sustain and enhance the technology offered in this home to offer additional tours and highlight remote support options that increase independence.

Recommendation to adopt a motion to authorize the Superintendent to apply to the Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities for a Tech Hub Expansion Microgrant.

Motion: **Ryan Yoss**

Second: **Jennifer Demuth**

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Kathleen Arthurs	absent	
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. Ohio DD Council Grant

Recommendation to adopt a motion to authorize the Superintendent to apply to the Ohio DD Council for a discretionary fund grant for the TuscBDD Tech Home.

Motion: **Ryan Yoss**

Second: **Heather O'Connor**

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Kathleen Arthurs	absent	
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 .		

5. **Funding the Future Initiatives** *(discussion only)*

Amy Adam presented an overview of the Funding the Future Initiatives as developed by the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) in collaboration with key stakeholders in the DD system. Funding the Future is a plan with ten priority concepts to make the DD system more sustainable, as Ohio's system is currently at a critical point. This isn't about cutting services. It's about making sure high-quality services remain available for everyone who needs them, today and in the future. This plan has six reforms that are considered ready to advance now through administrative action and four that will require more planning. The goal is to have refined proposals ready for the next biennial budget cycle that begins July 1, 2027. To meet

this goal, additional input is needed from advocates, families, providers, and other partners. County boards have begun discussions about system sustainability with key lawmakers. Most recently, Nate Kamban joined Adam Herman and Jake Dowling of OACB in Columbus on February 10th, to meet with Senator Al Landis.

VI. PERSONNEL

1. Personnel Actions:

- a. Taylor Boswell – resignation – Teacher, effective May 29, 2026
- b. Eva McClave – resignation – Speech Language Pathologist-Early Intervention, effective July 31, 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

- **House Bill 420:** This would end continuing levies and cap all levies to a 10-year max by 2030. This bill received a first and second hearing this month. TuscBDD is reliant on two continuous levies, one from 1981 and the other from 2002. OACB is monitoring this bill, and their policy team will be discussing next steps as far as potential advocacy for county boards as continuing levies are a vital function in the local funding of DD services.
- **Consequences of Property Tax Elimination:** Office of Budget and Management (OBM) Director Kimberly Murnieks sent a memo to Governor Mike DeWine earlier this month outlining the potential impacts on local services if a proposed constitutional amendment to eliminate property taxes were adopted. The memo clearly outlines the devastating impact eliminating property taxes would have on local services, including those provided to people with developmental disabilities. On average, county boards rely on local property tax revenue for more than 70% of their total funding. Eliminating property taxes would remove the single largest funding source supporting services for people with disabilities and their families and would create significant uncertainty for the future of DD services statewide.

3. Local Updates

- **March DD Awareness Month:** Kerri Silverthorn reviewed the list of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month activities that are scheduled for March and invited the Board members to attend as they are able. Board members also learned about a fundraiser consisting of apparel celebrating DD Awareness Month with all proceeds supporting TuscBDD and Starlight School special activities, field trips, and fellowship events for children and adults in Tuscarawas County with developmental disabilities.
- **TuscBDD Departments Go Above and Beyond:** SSA and Starlight School staff worked together to provide an extraordinary level of compassionate support to a child who is served by TuscBDD and enrolled in Starlight School. Eleven staff

members showed up on their own time to show support to this child during an unexpected and difficult situation in this child's personal life.

4. **Good News Moment – TuscoBDD Social Media Connects Generations:** Kerri Silverthorn has been publishing a storytelling journey about a toddler with Sotos Syndrome who is served by our Early Intervention team. This is a very rare syndrome, with less than .001% of the United States population currently diagnosed. Despite how rare this syndrome is, parents from neighboring Holmes County saw the article in *The Budget* and contacted our office because they have a 38-year-old son with Sotos Syndrome. Kristi Blick helped connect the two families, and they plan to meet in person soon.

VIII. **MISCELLANEOUS**

IX. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

1. Adopt a motion to adjourn.

Motion: **Jennifer Demuth**

Second: **Ryan Yoss**

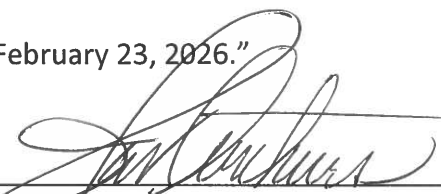
	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Kathleen Arthurs	absent	
Lucinda Bihari	x	
Julie Brinkman	x	
Jennifer Demuth	x	
Andrea Legg	x	
Heather O'Connor	x	
Ryan Yoss	x	

The President declares the motion **carried**.

Time: **6:22 p.m.**

"This is a true and accurate record of the meeting of February 23, 2026."


Julie Brinkman, President


Kathleen Arthurs, Recording Secretary

This is not a verbatim transcript of the February 23, 2026 Board meeting.

2026-0223 minutes