# ROSS COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

August 14, 2025

**CALL TO ORDER:** Dan Riddle called the meeting to order at 6:09.

**ROLL CALL:** Board members in attendance were Dan Riddle, Hunter Robinson, William Showman, Randi Uhrig, Baylee Butler, and Katie Guba. Amy Beam is excused.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Katie Guba made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for July 10, 2025, as presented; seconded by William Showman. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES**: Expenditures for July 2025 were reviewed. William Showman made a motion to approve the reports as presented; seconded by Baylee Butler. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

<u>**OLD BUSINESS**</u>

A. **Superintendent's Report** – Ms. Beeler presented information on organization activities since the last board meeting:
   - Continued to complete annual evaluations for management staff.
   - Staff attended policy maker engagement and AI training sessions; noted board is ahead OACB in AI training.
   - Participation in SSA online meetings, Special Olympics Summer Awards, and fairground sensory room setup.
   - Early intervention team achieved 100% compliance on 45-day baseline analysis.
   - Attended various conferences and meetings, including budget symposium and superintendent executive committees & summer conference.
   - Project Life initiative underway.
   - Community outreach director hired.
   - Ongoing collaboration with Adena for onsite employee wellness requirements and potential school-based health clinics.
   - Visited Huntington LSD for information on BoardDocs, a board document management system.

## OLD BUSINESS Cont.

- Met with Medicaid Billing Solutions for billing solutions improvements.
- Noted challenges and successes with staff compensation for on-call duties.
- Multiple hiring processes completed (community outreach director, speech pathologist)
- Ms. Beeler reviewed department highlights.

**B. Landrum Youth Empowerment Center Update** – Jared Halm, Business Manager provided an update on the building updates. Productive meetings with engineers, architect, and city officials regarding fire suppression system requirements and verbal approval from city to proceed without costly fire suppression installation. Discussion regarding need for written approval. Plan to obtain written city approval for record-keeping and future protection.

This item will remain on the agenda, with updates provided as the engineering firm progresses.

## NEW BUSINESS

**A. Ethics Committee (Outside Employment Requests):** The Ross County Board of DD Board can act as ethics committee for outside employment requests. Two requests reviewed:

1. Speech pathologist (Dezarae Keesee) seeking PRN work elsewhere; approved after discussion regarding contract terms and conditions.
2. Community outreach director seeking freelance design work; pending verification of management classification before final approval.

Motion to approve the outside employment request of Dezarae Keesee made by Baylee Butler and seconded by Hunter Robinson. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**B. State Budget Update:**
Jared Halm gave updates on the State Budget House overrode governor's veto on replacement levies (affects board's funding strategy); not yet approved by Senate. No action taken on local budget commission's power to reduce property tax levies; board will continue to monitor developments.

C. **Accreditation Updates:**

Ms. Beeler gave updates on the upcoming DODD Accreditation review scheduled in 2 weeks; majority of required documentation has been uploaded. Policy changes needed for new MUI Rule. Discussion on the strict nature of compliance reviews and potential for minor infractions to impact accreditation period. MEORC service engaged to assist with accreditation preparation and review.

D. **Project Life Program:**

Grant received covering half of replication fee; additional local funding secured. Program provides transition-age students with classroom and community-based life/employment skills. Curriculum includes local business partnerships (e.g., dog biscuit production). Expansion planned for next academic year. Career exploration initiatives underway for students prior to entering Project Life.

E. **Fifth Invoice Update:**

Jared Halm presented information on the fifth invoice which serves as year-end true-up based on actual service utilization. Active management reduced projected invoices from $852,000 to $483,000, resulting in significant savings. Recognition and incentive for SSA staff who contributed to cost savings.

F. **MUI Policy Update:**

Ms. Beeler presented information on the MUI policy which was revised to align with July 1 rule changes, streamlining incident definitions and investigation protocols. Policy updates include changes to staff suspension practices, updated definitions for hospitalization, abuse categories, and mandated reporting. Motion to approve the MUI Policy made by William Showman and seconded by Randi Urhig. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

G. **Superintendent Start Date Resolution:**

Board resolution drafted to clarify superintendent's official start date for compliance, due to holiday and weather-related delays in completing background check. Motion to approve resolution, as amended, made by Baylee Butler to affirm start date as 02/17/2021 for accreditation records. Motion seconded by Katie Guba. **Motion Carried Unanimously.** Board president and secretary to sign resolution for immediate compliance.

**H. Additional New Business** – None.

Adjournment – Katie Guba made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Randi Uhrig. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held September 4th, 2025, at the Pioneer Center located at 167 W. Main St.**

Katie Guba

Katie Guba, Secretary