



*"The mission of the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities is to:
Inspire, empower, and support individuals and their families."*

ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

4405 Galloway Road, Sandusky, Ohio 44870

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 20, 2025

PRESENT

Board Members: Mark Harrington, Eric Kibler, Katelyn Miller, Mary Peters, and Stacie Schmid.

ECBDD Staff: Carrie Beier and Rachel Malone.

VISITORS SIGNED IN

Diane Corso, Jennifer Kinney, Mike Riggle, and Felicia Zendejas.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The February 20, 2025, Board Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President, Mr. Eric Kibler.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll Call was taken. Mr. David Danhoff was absent. All other Board Members were present.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

V. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 16, 2025, MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Mark Harrington made a motion to approve the January 16, 2025, Board Meeting minutes as submitted. Mrs. Katelyn Miller seconded the motion. With all members in favor, the motion passed.

VI. BOARD ACTION ITEMS

A. **Ethics Committee Report:** The Ethics Committee did not meet.

B. Finance Committee

1. Finance Committee Report

Rachel Malone reported the January financials were reviewed by the Finance Committee. Rachel shared the following:

- ARPA funds were received.
- The remainder of HCBS/ARPA funds were received in January & February of 2025, which put the 6519 486100 revenue line well above the budgeted amount for the year.
- The dues line is high because the majority of our dues are paid annually at the beginning of the year.

2. Fiscal Report

The Fiscal Report for Month Ending January 31, 2025, was provided for review and approval (handout). Mrs. Katelyn Miller made a motion to approve the January Fiscal Report as submitted. Mrs. Mary Peters seconded the motion. With all members in favor, the motion passed.

3. Then & Now Resolution Renaissance House Resolution #: 02-03-2025

The Erie County Commissioners require a Board **THEN and NOW resolution** for expenses exceeding \$5,000.00 that are being submitted for payment without a previously encumbered purchase order. The resolution authorizes payment to **RENAISSANCE HOUSE, INC (inv #1020091 for October 2024, November 2024 and December 2024 services)** in the amount of **\$21,374.16 (Twenty-one Thousand, Three Hundred, Seventy-four Dollars and 16/100 Cents).**

RESOLUTION OF THE ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF DD FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO RENAISSANCE HOUSE, INC.

The Erie County Board of DD met this **20th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2025**

Mrs. Stacie Schmid introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, RENAISSANCE HOUSE, INC., requires payment for goods and/or services provided; NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF DD:

THAT RENAISSANCE HOUSE, INC. is herewith approved for payment in the amount of \$21,374.16 (Twenty-one Thousand, Three Hundred, Seventy-four Dollars and 16/100 Cents). For service provided for the Erie County Board of DD out of appropriation account **#20110-6524-530000 INDIVIDUAL BUDGET SERVICES line.**

THAT the Erie County Board of DD hereby finds and determines that all formal actions relative to the adoption of this resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board; and that all deliberations of this Board and of its committees, if any,

which result in formal action, were taken in meetings open to the public, in full compliance with the applicable legal requirements of the Revised Code.

Mr. Mark Harrington seconded the motion for the adoption of said resolution; and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Mark Harrington	AYE
Eric Kibler	AYE
Katelyn Miller	AYE
Mary Peters	AYE
Stacie Schmid	AYE

Adopted: YES

C. Policy Committee Report:

Mrs. Katelyn Miller reported that the Policy Committee reviewed the following policies in February:

- Individual Supports Policy (reviewed and revised)
- Medicaid Administrative Claiming Policy (reviewed and revised)

The policies were reviewed and revised, and the Policy Committee recommended Board approval. Mr. Mark Harrington made a motion to approve the Individual Supports Policy and the Medicaid Administrative Claiming Policy as revised. Mrs. Katelyn Miller seconded the motion. With all members in favor, the motion passed.

VII. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Strategic Plan Report- Year End 2024

The Strategic Plan Report for year end 2024 was distributed.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2025 Board Member Training Schedule

The updated Board Member Training Schedule for 2025 was distributed and reviewed by Carrie Beier.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Department of Children & Youth Update

Carrie Beier provided Board Members a packet from OACB which highlights the goals and efforts of the Children & Families Steering Committee.

X. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- Carrie attended the following in-person/virtual/remote meetings, trainings, and activities: Ohio Provider Resource Association Provider Friday Five's virtual, Erie County FCFC Executive Committee meeting, SEC Superintendent Committee meeting, Department of Children and Youth monthly update meeting, Ohio Early Intervention Medicaid Exploratory Committee meeting, Statewide Early Childhood Advisory Committee meeting, Erie County Blue Ribbon Commission meetings, Clearwater COG Board meeting, and NPESC Leadership meeting.

- **Media/Public Relations:**
 - Sandusky Register articles:
 - Recent articles regarding Erie County taxes (packet provided)

- **Personnel:**
 - Beth Powers is our newest SSA. She started on Monday February 10th, 2025.
 - Coffee with Carrie for all staff was held on January 28th, 2025.
 - Attached is a copy of our EAP March Newsletter and upcoming online Talkspace Go Classes available to all employees.

- **Accessibility (ARPA) DODD Grant:** In 2024, we were awarded \$283,000.00 dollars to use to enhance accessibility in our community. A special thank you to Diane Corso for reaching out to agencies, business and people in our community to enhance community accessibility in Erie County for those who may experience challenges. Below are the projects funded by the grant.
 - Twelve months of transportation technology subscriptions for accessing rides.
 - Assistive Technology for keyless entry into 19 properties.
 - Summer Respite Program
 - Bathroom Accessibility Remodel
 - Porch Lift Accessibility Project
 - Wheelchair ramp for accessibility
 - Purchase of Mobi-Chair for City of Vermilion beach access.
 - Sandusky Aquatic Center Changing Room and Changing Table
 - Accessible Swing
 - Mobi-Mat Erie County Board of DD playground
 - Lease of the Momentum Refresh mobile changing vehicle ~ Ohio Bike Week.
 - Lease of the Momentum Refresh mobile changing vehicle ~ Festival of the Fish.
 - Purchase of two motorized therapy tables for Family Health Services.
 - Lease of Momentum Refresh mobile changing vehicle ~ Erie County Fair.
 - Lease of Momentum Refresh mobile changing vehicle ~ Sandusky Christmas Market ~ three weekends
 - Lease of Momentum Refresh mobile changing vehicle ~ Sandusky First Night.
 - Purchase of Ascent Changing Table for Sandusky Aquatic Center.
 - Informed Decision-Making Training ~Dungeons and Decisions.
 - Improvaneer Method Performance
 - Improvaneer Method training for transition age youth
 - ASL interpreter services ~ two regional conferences
 - ReciteMe Website Accessibility Tools: Erie County Board of DD
 - ReciteMe Website Accessibility Tools: Sandusky Library
 - ReciteMe Website Accessibility Tools: Family Health Services
 - ReciteMe Website Accessibility Tools: Sandusky City Schools
 - ReciteMe Website Accessibility Tools: Erie County Commissioners
 - Translation Equipment for medical care: Family Health Services
 - Integrated Community Classes: Erie MetroParks
 - Two Wheelchair scales: Family Health Services
 - 6 Reader Pens
 - Lift system for a universal design bathroom: Kalahari Resort and Conference Center
 - ReciteMe Website Accessibility Tools: Erie Mental Health and Recovery Board

- Accessibility Hardware for MH Entrance: Family Health Services
- Mobi Mats: City of Sandusky

- **OACB:**

- Adam Herman and Jake Dowling met with Senate Ways and Means Committee Chairman Senator Louis "Bill" Blessing (R-Hamilton) as well as the House Majority Floor Leader, State Rep. Gayle Manning (R-Lorain) to continue OACB's ongoing **property tax advocacy with lawmakers**. Each indicated separately that many proposals are currently being floated by their colleagues in both caucuses and reaffirmed that each proposal will be introduced separately so as not to doom a larger bill containing many individual issues to failure.
- Adam Herman and Jake Dowling met with State Representative Andrea White (R-Montgomery), who chairs the House Children and Human Services Committee that will evaluate the **Ohio Department of Children and Youth's proposed budget** in the coming weeks- including the proposed \$16 million increase over the biennium to support Part C Early Intervention Evaluation and Assessment services. Rep. White also spoke to the importance of childcare and her intention to continue policy introduction around the topic.
- **County board advocacy results in Part C, MSY investment:**
As the result of proactive county board advocacy over the past several months with Ohio Department of Children and Youth (ODCY) Director Kara Wente and her leadership team, Governor DeWine's budget includes a \$7.2 million increase in state funding for Part C Early Intervention in SFY2026 (as compared to SFY2025 appropriations) and a \$9 million increase in SFY2027 (as compared to SFY2025 appropriations).

This significant increase- representing a 30.9% increase in the first fiscal year of the budget and an additional 6.8% increase in the second year- is designed to help support the Evaluation and Assessment functions performed by county boards, thereby freeing up additional local resources to help more infants and toddlers with developmental delays receive the support they need during their most critical years of growth and development through the provision of direct services.

OACB is excited to see early results from the proactive advocacy demonstrated over the past several months within ODCY's as introduced budget for Early Intervention and would like to extend special gratitude to those county board leaders who spent many hours supporting this work with their time, energy, and research, including:

- Holly Weatherson, BHN Alliance
- Brent Baer, Wood DD
- Carrie Beier, Erie DD
- Lisa Kamlowsky, Summit DD
- Nancy Stiefel, Shelby DD
- Jason Umstot, Licking DD
- Nancy Richards, Clearwater COG
- Attached is a map of **OACB data regarding services** for 2024.

- **Clark Inclusive Scholarship Program:** Limitless! Ohio's Inclusive Postsecondary Education Student Conference. This is a great opportunity for students to connect with other students around the state. See attached flyer for details.
- **Night To Shine:** Night to Shine sponsored by the Chapel and in partnership with the Erie Board of DD was a great success! There were 150 Honored Guests, 150 Buddy Volunteers, 136 families and staff in the respite area. This event had a total of 436 volunteers. We are grateful and amazed by the Chapel's commitment to supporting people with developmental disabilities.
- **DODD:**
 - **Supported Decision Making toolkit** is now available on DODD's website see links:
 - <https://dodd.ohio.gov/your-family/advocacy/SDM-Toolkit-Healthcare>
 - <https://dodd.ohio.gov/your-family/advocacy/SDM-You-and-Family>
 - <https://dodd.ohio.gov/your-family/advocacy/SDM-Toolkit-Legal>
 - <https://dodd.ohio.gov/your-family/advocacy/SDM-Toolkit-Legal>
 - **Proposed 2026-2027 DODD Budget Request Highlights**
Here is a link to DODD Director Hauck's budget webinar: [Budget Webinar - Zoom](#)

The operating budget is currently being considered in the House Finance Committee and other House committees. DODD's portion of the budget is hearing testimony in the House Health Committee. DODD Director Hauck will testify in the coming weeks. Members of the public can attend committee hearings in person or watch online at the Ohio Channel.

The public can view agendas and sign-up for committee notices by visiting the following pages:

Ohio House Finance Committee <https://ohiohouse.gov/committees/finance>

Ohio House Health Committee - <https://ohiohouse.gov/committees/health>

By signing up for committee email notices, you will get up-to-date information on committee hearings and dates for public testimony.

- **Ohio Legislature:** Ohio House Ways and Means Committee prioritizes property and municipal tax reforms.

The Ohio House Ways & Means Committee has reconvened with a focus on property tax and municipal tax reforms. Committee chairman Rep. Bill Roemer (R-Summit County) and Ranking Member Rep. Daniel Troy (D-Lake County) emphasized the need for changes to the state's property tax system, aligning with bipartisan efforts to address tax burdens

Roemer noted that Ohio has one of the highest municipal income tax levels in the country, making it a priority for legislative action. Troy added that his goal is to create a tax system that is fair and uniform while ensuring tax burdens are balanced appropriately.

The committee's priority is passing a bill (HB 14) to codify recent changes to the Internal Revenue Code, which had its first hearing on Tuesday. Roemer aims to advance the bill next week as the committee begins a series of budget-related hearings with various agencies and departments over the next month. He expressed a commitment to transparency, encouraging public input on tax-related issues.

- **Blue Ribbon Commission of Erie County:** The commission's goal is to identify areas where local governments in Erie County can work together more effectively, reduce duplication of services, and enhance operational efficiency. By collaborating, the aim is to lower the costs of public services and share resources where possible.

Meetings are open to the public. For future meeting and updates please contact us to be added to the mailing list- BlueRibbon@eriecounty.oh.gov or phone 419-627-7673. Attached you will find a list of upcoming meetings and topics.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Katelyn Miller made a motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 6:39 p.m. Mrs. Mary Peters seconded the motion. With all members in favor, the motion passed and the February Board meeting was adjourned.



Recording Secretary

3-20-25

Date