

Paulding County Board of Developmental Disabilities - Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2026 - 4:00 p.m.

The June 11, 2026 Regular Board meeting of the Paulding County Board of Developmental Disabilities was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

Roll call: Tim Sinn, Marcia Hernandez (absent), Shenia Mesker, Andrew Parker, Stacy Mangette, Lora Lyons, and Kevin Albright.

Guests Present: None

Agenda

To approve the June 11, 2026 meeting agenda:

Motion: 27

Motion: Shenia Mesker

Second: Stacy Mangette

Motion approved unanimously.

Minutes

To approve the April 16, 2026 meeting minutes:

Motion: 28

Motion: Stacy Mangette

Second: Andrew Parker

Motion approved unanimously.

Financial Reports

To approve the April 2026 and May 2026 financial reports:

Motion: 29

Motion: Stacy Mangette

Second: Shenia Mesker

Motion approved unanimously.

Superintendent Report

The cement work at the Williams Street home had been completed. This was an emergency Community Capital Assistance (CCA) request to replace a collapsed tile line. The new sewer line and outlet were completed earlier this year, but cement work still needed finished. This project is complete.

The Coupland Street home was purchased in late 2025; however, CCA funding ran out before renovations could be requested. The next round of CCA funding begins July 1, 2026 so we are working on getting bids together for the remodel in order to submit a request for funding in early July. The scope of work and inspection report summary are attached.

The group to eliminate property taxes announced Friday (6/5) morning that they do not have enough signatures to qualify for the November 2026 ballot but will continue collecting signatures for the November 2027 ballot. Because they did not submit signatures for verification, they may continue building on their current signature count. The additional time may provide policymakers with an opportunity to continue exploring property tax reforms that balance homeowner relief and funding for essential services.

HB 939 was introduced and is currently in House Committee. This bill would require County Boards of DD to provide EI Services for occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech-language pathology services, and special instruction (developmental specialist) and then directs the Department of Children and Youth (DCY) to reimburse County Boards of DD for at least 50% of the cost for these services; County Boards currently fund 100% of these direct services. County Boards would be required to submit a statement of expenses within 90 days of the end of each state fiscal year. The bill is expected to receive sponsor testimony in House committee, but passage during the current General Assembly is unlikely due to the amount of funding being requested and the limited time remaining for the current General Assembly. The bill's introduction is viewed as an opportunity to educate law makers of EI services and build on future discussions with the next General Assembly.

Governor DeWine issued Medicaid fraud prevention initiatives that include a 6-month statewide moratorium for, among others, new independent and agency providers for waiver individuals; an immediate payment suspension for providers deemed high-risk or Medicaid fraud; an Executive Order enabling Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) to implement emergency rules pertaining to provider revalidation; mandatory GPS requirement for electronic visit

verification (EVV); and implementation of mandatory EVV compliance for live-in caregivers. Paragon Health Institute provided testimony to the Ohio House Medicaid committee that highlighted areas deemed “high risk” for Medicaid fraud, including home and community-based services (HCBS), home health, and family members as paid caregivers. Policy recommendations from Paragon include strengthening transparency and reporting of managed care organizations, improved enforcement of EVV, and prohibiting payment to relatives or household members for providing HCBS. DODD has already issued a suspension of a provider for “credible allegation of fraud”. Locally, we have individuals in need of services and potential providers waiting for their application to be approved, who will now have to wait until November 15, 2026 at the earliest to reapply. Disability advocates shared a press release that emphasized any freeze on new providers or pausing payments could jeopardize services for people with developmental disabilities and their families, as well as highlighted the privacy concerns around GPS requirements for EVV.

In addition to Governor DeWine’s prevention initiative, HB 795 was introduced. HB 795 was originally introduced as the SHIELD Act (Safeguarding Healthcare Integrity through Electronic Location Data), a Medicaid fraud-prevention bill focused on electronic verification, claims matching, and data analytics to ensure Medicaid-funded services were actually delivered.

A substitute version of the bill significantly expands its scope and includes provisions that would impact individuals receiving developmental disabilities waiver services. Most notably, the bill prohibited certain family members (spouses, parents, children, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and step-relatives) from receiving Medicaid payment for personal care services provided to a family member enrolled on a Medicaid waiver. While the bill continues to allow ODM to require high-risk or repeat-violating family caregivers to provide services through an agency rather than as an independent provider, the new prohibition would prevent family members from being paid for personal care services regardless of provider status.

These provisions generated significant concern among individuals with developmental disabilities, families, county boards, providers, and advocacy organizations. The committee heard testimony from individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members, who expressed concerns about the bill and emphasized the critical role family caregivers play in supporting community living, independence, and continuity of care. Because of this testimony, additional amendments were added late Friday (6/5) that removed the provision that would have prohibited family members from being paid with waiver funds, continues to exempt live-in service providers from a mandate to use EVV, and continues to exempt DD waiver services paid at a daily rate from a mandate to use EVV. Individuals, families, and advocacy groups planned demonstrations at the state house Tuesday and Wednesday to express frustrations with HB 795. There are reports that the substitute bill did not have enough votes to get out of Medicaid Committee. Advocacy groups are reporting that the sponsor of HB 795 has introduced some of the same provisions to SB 315. We have not heard that this is true, or what exact provisions are being introduced. We are continuing to follow legislative updates.

Early Intervention Report

- In May, we had 6 referrals, all 6 are going through the intake process at this moment.
- Early Intervention continues to host a monthly playgroup open to all families in our community with children under the age of 5.
- We recently had a staff member resign. We will monitor the referrals before determining the need for additional staff.
- We have a state family questionnaire that was sent to many of our families. Of the 11 sent out, they have gotten 3 back by email.

NOWAC Addendum

To approve the NOWAC Contract Addendum for Assessments effective June 1, 2026.

Motion: 30

Motion: Shenia Mesker

Second: Stacy Mangette

Motion approved unanimously.

Resolution of Complaints and Appeals of Adverse Action Policy.

To approve the Resolution of Complaints and Appeals of Adverse Action Policy.

Motion: 31

Motion: Shenia Mesker

Second: Stacy Manette

Motion approved unanimously.

Adjournment

To adjourn the June 11, 2026 regular Board meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Motion: 32

Motion: Shenia Mesker

Second: Stacy Manette

Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Lyons, Recording Secretary