Scioto County Developmental Disabilities
Board Meeting
@ STAR, Inc.
Thursday, August 21, 2025 at 5:00 PM
Minutes

1. ***Prayer & Pledge*:** Cindy Gibson offered the prayer and Jon Peters led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ***Roll Call*:** Present were Board President Michael Arnett, Vice President Anthony Mantell, Recording Secretary Cindy Gibson, Ellen Murray, Adrienne Buckler-Callihan, Jon Peters and William Adams

3. ***Agenda:*** Purcell requested two revisions to the agenda (1) Add "Finance Committee Minutes" to the Minutes being discussed/approved and (2) Add "Discuss/Vote on amended Speech contract" under New Business. There were no objections.

4. ***Minutes*:** Discuss/Vote on the Facilities Committee, Ethics Council, and regular Board Minutes, all conducted on 7/17/24, and the Finance Committee Minutes conducted on 9/20/25. Mantell made the motion to approve all the Minutes collectively and it was seconded by Peters. The motion carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

5. ***Expenses and Fiscal Report*:** Finance Director Steve Sowkulech reporting. Sowkulech reported the year-to-date starting cash balance as of 7/31/25 was slightly over $4.1 million. Following expenses of $8,9 million and revenue of $6,9 million, the ending balance was $2,231,207.82. It was noted approximately $2.8 million in revenue was received on August 12 for real estate property tax contributions, and that amount was not reflected in the report totals, but will be reported in September's meeting. Buckler-Callihan made the motion to approve the written and oral report and it was seconded by Gibson. The motion carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

6. ***Superintendent's Report*:** Superintendent Matt Purcell reporting. Purcell read a Proclamation recognizing his assistant and Board clerk, Carla Selby on her retirement. The Board wished her well on this new chapter in her life.
Purcell gave the Board a summary of the recent Finance Committee meeting. He noted DoDD placed SCDD in "fiscal warning" based on the amount of carryover (ending fund balance) being equal to or less than a certain percentage of our budget this year and up to three years in the future. The rating is based solely on numbers and Purcell explained SCDD has been operating on the same revenue since 2016, so based on the five-year forecasts, we were expecting this to happen. SCDD is required to submit a "Plan of Action" with steps provided on how to change this rating. Even with the passing of the levy, SCDD is facing financial challenges ahead. We had several expenses that warranted substantial costs including the VRS building repairs, increased waiver matches and several individuals who are in Developmental Centers until they can be placed elsewhere.

Purcell noted changes were being put in place to move SCDD out of fiscal warning and would be part of tonight's action items.

7. ***Program Reports***: President Arnett thanked the Directors for providing their reports, which included informative and valuable information regarding their programs. There were no additional comments.

8. ***Committee Reports***:

A. **Finance Committee**, *Anthony Mantell, Chair*. The Committee met at 4:00 P.M on August 20 to discuss the financial future of SCDD, health insurance and wage adjustments. Mantell stated the Committee had discussed several options on how to save money and move SCDD out of financial warning. It was noted that particularly with non-profit organizations, unfortunately personnel will be affected by measures needed for the organization to survive, and continue serving those in need. Board President Arnett added he was confident the Administration and Board members had carefully weighed their decisions regarding these recommendations and understood the significant effect it would have on everyone at SCDD. Superintendent Purcell stated the actions being taken were Board approved at one time with the option to pause them if necessary. He also noted there were some actions that were under his jurisdiction that are being discussed/enacted that do not require Board approval. Purcell explained some of those actions include (1) not back-filling positions, (2) as positions become vacant they will not be filled and a qualified employee(s) with absorb the duties, (3) Directors only will be permitted to attend continuing ed and bring information back to their staff, (4) discontinue sending anyone to Executive Development, and (5) review and make decisions on our maintenance contract in eliminating one FTE.

Following this discussion, Mantell presented these recommendations to the full Board:

- The "Recruitment & Retention Plan" will be paused indefinitely effective immediately.
- The Life Center's paid membership for employees will be paused indefinitely
- The Superintendent is authorized to move forward with "Sidecar Health" becoming SCDD's health insurance provider beginning 11/1/25, and the HRA amounts will be reduced proportionately to what the exposure is currently for both family and single plans
- In lieu of a 3% across the Board wage adjustment, all full-time, non-probationary, non-management staff will receive a one-time pay increase of $1500 in two increments of $750 in September and November respectively.

Mantell made the motion to approve the recommendations and it was seconded by Gibson. The motion carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

B. **Ethics Council**, *Adrienne Buckler-Callihan, Chair*. There was no need for an Ethics Council meeting this month.

9. ***Old Business***: None

10. ***New Business***:

A. **Review/Vote on 2025-2026 VRS Bus Routes**. Purcell noted bus routes were required to be submitted and approved prior to the first day of school. The Board received

the routes for review. It was noted the routes are subject to change if needed. Adams made the motion to approve the routes and it was seconded by Mantell. The motion carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

B. **Review/Vote on Superintendent's Development Plan**. Purcell stated he was required to keep the Board informed on his intentions to keep his certifications current as stated on the Superintendent's Development Plan. Gibson made to motion to accept the Plan and it was seconded by Adams. The motion carried in a unanimous roll call vote. Board President Michael Arnett signed the Plan.

C. **Review/Vote on revised Policy 4.12 *Addressing Major Unusual Incidents*** Purcell stated the policy had been revised and condensed from the original policy. SSA Director Chad Phipps noted the Rule changed in July 2025 and after other County Board MUI policies were gathered and compared, it was found SCDD's policy was much lengthier than others. The revised policy has been simplified and condensed and contains all essential information/rules. Peters made the motion to approve the policy and it was seconded by Mantell. The motion carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

D. **Review/Vote on SCOESC Speech-Language Pathology Service Agreement.** Purcell stated this change was another cost containment action. The contract was reduced to one FTE beginning 7/1/25 and resulted in a savings of approximately $20,000. Mantell made the motion to approve the contract and it was seconded by Gibson. The motion carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

11. ***Other***: None

12. ***Comments from the Floor***: Speakers are required to state their name and address for the record. Additional speaking rules are on the back of the public agenda.
Board Clerk Carla Selby was recognized. She expressed her gratitude for her retirement reception and having the great fortune to work with such an outstanding group of people for the last 13 years. She wished the organization and everyone involved a very successful future.

13. ***Adjournment:*** Peters made the motion to adjourn at 5:45 PM and it was seconded by Adams. The motion carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Cindy Gibson, Recording Secretary

Cindy Gibson

Signature - Cindy Gibson

Minutes Prepared by:
Carla Selby, Board Clerk