**Scioto County Developmental Disabilities**
**Board Meeting**
**@ The Carousel Center**
**Thursday, November 20, 2025 at 5:00 PM**
**Minutes**

***The Board will offer a moment of silence for SCDD service recipient, Timothy Goodman who made a lasting impact and will be deeply missed. Timothy "Huggie" Goodman passed away on October 20, 2025 at Southern Ohio Medical Center at age 59. Timothy spent his life bringing joy, humor, and warmth to those around him. SCDD extends sincere condolences to Timothy's family, friends, and all who knew him.***

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

2. ***Roll Call*:** All members were present.

3. ***Agenda:*** No changes as presented.

4. ***Minutes*:** The Board voted on the regular Board Meeting Minutes conducted on October 16, 2025. Peters made the motion to approve the Minutes, and it was seconded by Murray. 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 10/31/25 was slightly over $4.1 million. Following expenses of $12.5 million and revenue of $10.9 million, the ending balance was $2,653,631.72. Adams made the motion to approve the written and oral report, and it was seconded by Buckler-Callihan. The motion carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

6. ***Superintendent's Report*:** Superintendent Matt Purcell reporting. Purcell stated the meeting coincided with the Annual Convention sponsored by the Ohio Association of County Boards and explained that was the reason for some leader absences at the meeting. Purcell is a member of the OACB Board and explained he attended a meeting with them and wanted to share what he had learned. Property taxes may be on the ballot soon if enough signatures are gathered. 414,000 signatures are needed and as of the Board meeting they had gathered approximately 100,000. Purcell noted that it is a threat to any taxing entity. Purcell stated that 24 billion dollars is received in property taxes every year in Ohio. County Boards make up about 5% of that for context. Purcell informed the Board that the possibility of making up these taxes would be a sales tax increase to 25% and income tax to 13%. Purcell told the Board an attempt for an amendment was proposed for House Bill 309. This House Bill would give the County Budget Commissions the ability to roll back levies if the five-year forecast was not showing any deficit. Purcell was informed that this amendment was not included in the House Bill. Superintendent Purcell also stated there is a bill going through currently which involves pension pick-up. There are efforts being made to stop that from happening. Purcell explained to the Board that waiver modernization is moving forward. New assessment programs are being piloted in February. Purcell stated there will be thirty assessors for approximately 1100 individuals for the pilot. Purcell told the Board he would continue to give updates throughout the pilot program. Purcell explained that the Audit

Review for VRS began earlier that day. It is a multi-year review which is not punitive. He stated the audit is designed to develop best practices and create corrective action processes. Purcell reminded the Board that training will be conducted after the next Board meeting.

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

8. ***Committee Reports***:
A. **Ethics Council**, *Adrienne Buckler-Callihan, Chair*. There was no need for an Ethics Council Meeting this month.

9. ***Old Business***: A Superintendent Evaluation: Purcell explained the Superintendent Evaluation was provided in the Board packet. Purcell stated the evaluation is a good faith effort to evaluate annually. Purcell asked for those evaluations to be completed, if possible, by the first week of December. President Arnett will then meet with Superintendent Purcell to discuss the results.

10. ***New Business***:
A. Annual Report: The 2024 Annual Report completed by Jessica Hoffer was provided to all Board Members in the Board Packet for review. The Report will be brought back to the December board meeting for a vote.

B. Policy 3.03.02 Superintendent Duties and Responsibilities: Discuss/Vote on Policy Update. Purcell recommended to the Board that item G be updated in the policy which would allow the Superintendent to discipline based on core values and the agency's mission.

C. Policy 3.04.08 Tardiness and Attendance: Discuss Vote on Policy Update. Purcell recommended an update to section B4 which would involve timeliness during requested time off work. The update would require employees, if able, request time off in advance. If an employee fails to, they can face discipline up to and including discharge.

D. Policy 4.29 Cybersecurity: Discuss/Vote on new policy. Purcell explained that this policy is a requirement for all public entities. Purcell stated the new policy aligns with all the new rules and regulations required.

E. Policy 5.04 School Age Services: Discuss/Vote on Policy Update. Purcell recommended an update to current policy. Purcell asked Tammy Guthrie, Director of School Age Services, to explain the updates. Guthrie explained that the updates are necessary. Guthrie stated the updates would prohibit cell phone usage of students, allow students to have excused absences for religious reasons, and provide verbiage towards Ohio graduation requirements.

The Board decided to vote collectively. Mantell made the motion to approve the policies as presented and discussed, and it was seconded by Gibson. The motion carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

F. Resolution 2025-11.01: Discuss/Vote on resolution regarding HCBS Waiver Match Payment. The resolution would allow for SCDD to request fiscal assistance from DODD. Buckler-Callihan made a motion to approve the resolution, and it was seconded by Mantell.

Murray abstained from voting on the matter. Adams, Arnett, Buckler-Callihan, Gibson, Mantell, and Peters all voted in favor of the resolution.

G. Resolution 2025-11.02: Discuss/Vote on resolution regarding the VRS boiler. The resolution would allow for replacement of the large VRS boiler. It was recently discovered that there is a crack in the boiler. Since heat is vital to the agency, it has been deemed an emergency. Therefore, the competitive bidding process would be waived. It was also discovered that a repair may be necessary. Gibson made a motion to approve the resolution, and it was seconded by Mantell. The motion carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

H. Bus Route Analysis: Purcell recommended to the Board that the Portsmouth bus route and Sciotoville bus route be combined after Christmas Break eliminating one route. Purcell explained that Petermann has a 90-minute rule meaning no one can be on a bus for over 90 minutes. He reiterated combining these routes would still comply with that rule. Petermann currently transports 43 students over 7 routes. Combining these routes would save approximately $44,000 at least. Murray made the motion to approve the elimination of the bus route, and it was seconded by Mantell. 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. There were no comments from the floor.

13. **Executive Session:** In accordance with ORC 121.22 Public Meetings- Exceptions (G) (1), the Board entered into Executive Session at 5:56pm to discuss a personnel matter. They exited Executive Session at 6:20pm. No action was taken.

14. **Return to regular session:** The Board returned to regular session at 6:20PM. No action was taken.

15. ***Adjournment:*** Peters made the motion to adjourn at 6:21PM and it was seconded by Murray. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Cindy Gibson, Recording Secretary

Cindy Gibson

Signature - Cindy Gibson

Minutes Prepared by:
April Kozee, Board Clerk