MEDINA COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
September 28, 2026
Regular Board Meeting

I. Call To Order

The MCBDD Regular Board Meeting was called to order by Board President Mark Gryskiewicz at 5:07 p.m. By Roll Call, other Board Members present included the following: Kelly Smith, Lisa Dreaden, Debbie Bokmuller, Dave Hartman, Andy Olah, and Adina Kolar.

Staff Present included the following: Stacey Maleckar. Annie Finnerty, Carey Bates, Diana Davis, Ed Dryer, Patti Hetkey, Tracey Lambdin, Bobby Richards, Jennie Petrarca, John Krebs, Nicole Richter, Maggie Skultety, Jason Dresden, Molly Usner, Dani Smith, and Marie Friss.

Others Present included the following: Leadership Class 2026 candidates and their families.

II. General Session

A. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. Mission Statement Affirmation

The Mission Statement was recited.

C. Acceptance of Agenda

A Motion was made by Ms. Dreaden, seconded by Ms. Bokmuller, to approve the Agenda as presented. The Motion was approved with a unanimous "yes" vote.

D. Approval of Minutes

1. **Approval of the Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting, July 27, 2026**

A Motion was made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Ms. Dreaden, to approve the Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on July 27, 2026. The Motion was approved with a unanimous "yes" vote.

E. Recognition

1. Leadership Academy Graduation – Maggie Skultety, Training & Compliance Specialist, and Molly Usner, Community Resource Coordinator

Plaques were given to the four graduates of the 6-month program designed to strengthen the skills of individuals that are served by MCBDD. Ms. Skultety and Ms. Usner spoke about each of the candidates from the 4th Annual Leadership Academy: Joe, Alyssa, Lauren, and Amanda.

Ms. Skultety explained the sessions that were held, their experiences during the program, and the accomplishment of their service project, which in this case was collecting and delivering 35 lbs. of pop tabs to the Ronald McDonald House on 8/31. Additionally, she described that the overall goal of the program is for participants to become more integrated in their communities, but each

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class has a unique focus based on the goal of the four participants. During the selection process, they consider what each person would like to achieve and try to match individuals who would work well together and then build on their strengths.

Thank you to the Board for supporting this continued endeavor and congratulations to the Graduates.

F. Presentation

1. Everybody Works/Employment Success Stories – Ed Dryer, Director of Community Supports & Development, and Jason Dresden, Employment Navigator
    - The Medina County Employment Collaborative (MCEC) has been in existence for about 10 years now; it was developed to bridge a gap between providers and businesses as the county board was no longer providing employment services. In relation to that, the Everybody Works Medina County website was created to assist this collaborative.
    - The collaborative is a partnership of providers, agencies, and schools working to strengthen the local workforce, including connecting businesses with individuals who are qualified and motivated, but may have barriers making it hard for them to find a job. MCBDD acts as the go-between/contact for agencies/providers and the businesses.
    - Mr. Dresden is the chair of MCEC and has also added some local employer partners to the collaborative. The employer partners have been hiring people with disabilities/barriers and hosted our meeting to present to the collaborative about their company and open positions, including a tour of their facility. The process of how the collaborative works was explained, and some success stories of connections/placements were shared. They meet every other month, sometimes at a business.
    - Everybody Works Medina County website: https://everybodyworksmedinacounty.org/
    - Thanks to Patti Hetkey and Community Relations. We took over the responsibility of the website, which has been refreshed and relaunched. Mr. Dresden has taken oversight to make sure it is updated on a regular basis. Within that website, there is a Talent Pool, Employer Resources, and links to careers/counseling for job seekers.
    - Mr. Dresden recently presented, along with Tara Haley from JOG (Jobs for Ohio Graduates), at the Northern Medina County Chamber to the business members about the Everybody Works website. This is the first step in marketing it to the business community now that the website has been redesigned and the Talent Pool re-established. The next step is working with Medina County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC) and pushing it out to their members.

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Questions:

Q: Ms. Bokmuller asked where the website could be found on the MCBDD site.

A: It is under Community Services/Community Employment.

Q: Mr. Hartman asked why some of the businesses, such as Buehler's, who already employ our individuals, are not listed in the Collaborative?

A: Mr. Dryer explained that they have been involved before but are not currently active in the collaborative. However, they have always been willing to talk to us, and they were previously part of the Advisory Committee. The idea is the connection between the provider trying to find employment for an individual and the company looking for an employee. We, as the county board, provide that connection.

- Mr. Dresden spoke about the upcoming NDEAM (National Disability Employment Awareness Month) Regional Event on 10/14 that we are hosting/cofacilitating with SHRM (Society for Human Resource Management) at the Winking Lizard Conference Center in Bedford Hts. The target audience is human resource staff, to learn about the benefits of *Inclusive Hiring*. In-person we are expecting about 100 people, and we will also have a Virtual opportunity. There is a seat at the table to invite a Board Member to attend also.

Discussion/Questions:

Q: Ms. Kolar asked why there is a cost to attend virtually.

A: It is considered a Lunch and Learn so you can earn continuing education credits for it.

Q: Ms. Smith asked about reaching out to companies in outlying counties.

A: We partner with Employment Navigators in the other counties to keep a single point of contact between the businesses and the agencies looking to place employees.

Q: Mr. Olah asked about a Business Collaborative.

A: Commitment for businesses to get together on a regular basis is difficult, so that is why they are invited to join this Collaborative.

Q: Ms. Bokmuller asked if we had an estimate of how many individuals are employed vs. how many wants to be employed.

A: Mr. Dryer explained the Path to Employment; Mr. Dresden reaches out to the SSAs if their individuals are on Step 2 (they want help finding a job) or Step 3 (they want to know more about employment) and offers to attend the ISP meeting. He also tracks the number of individuals with OOD (currently 33) actively looking for a job.

G. Old Business

1. Board Packet/Dashboard Update – Bobby Richards

Mr. Richards demonstrated the new Board Member Portal on SharePoint. He showed how to navigate the dropdown menus and explained what will be placed into the various folders. There are also some helpful links on the main page. The board packets will be found here. He showed how to open the bookmarks/table of contents in the side panel, so instead of scrolling through everything you will be able to jump to the information you need in the board packet.

There will be future updates eventually to collaborate and mark up the document, but currently you would have to download it to mark on it. Once the board packet is uploaded, Mr. Richards

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will send out a link. You will have to log in with your MCBDD email and password to get to the Portal. There will be a folder for the policies being discussed and updated.

Mr. Richards and Matt Taylor, Network Administrator, are working with Marsha from DatSmart with Power BI on an interactive dashboard. Hopefully before the end of the year, it will be launched. The board members are excited to have everything easily accessible and digital.

2. State/Legislative Update – Stacey Maleckar, Superintendent

The legislators are all over the map right now; all major decisions basically hinge on the upcoming elections. OACB has been facilitating meetings with both Governor candidates' campaign staff and assembly leaders, laying the groundwork.

Superintendents are continuing their talks with DODD, who are currently doing regionalization of 10 counties in the southern part of the State. Another 30 counties are looking to do that as well. Potential that the State will take over 100% of the waiver match. Talks are ongoing with the State dept. of Medicaid, but it is about getting the legislators to appropriate those dollars. The Superintendents have been very clear with the State that they will not regionalize unless that financial piece is in place; the counties do not want that financial risk.

Concerns:

Mr. Hartman expressed his concern with once the State has it as a budget item, in a few years down the road, will they cut it? And then if the county wants to keep it going, we are out in the cold. Ms. Maleckar addressed this saying there are two separate parts: the waiver match is one; local dollars are the other. We have over 700 individuals with a waiver, but we serve over 1500; a lot of that is funded by local dollars. This will not eliminate the SSAs; this is where the InterRAI comes in for the rates being established.

Mr. Olah said they have committed to the current waivers but what about the new ones? Currently there are no restrictions, but there will be a State Waiver waiting list. There are still rules about immediate need within 30 days, as well as current needs. Many times, that current need can be met by local dollars. The State will have a performance contract with the COG (Council of Government), which will be the administrators of this. The other part is if a county has a population over 150,000 people, you are not mandated to be part of a regionalized group, but could choose to join.

H. New Business

1. Momentum Refresh Contract Resolution #24-26

A Motion was made by Ms. Dreaden, seconded by Ms. Smith, to approve Resolution #24-26. Discussion: The contract is for 2 years: 1/2027 – 12/2028. Rates ($2900/day) are the same as the previous years, but some ½ days have been added. This is good marketing/exposure for MCBDD, and it makes for great accessibility for the community. This is a service that is very valuable, a game changer. We only pay for the days we use it; the contract is the max amount.
The Motion was approved with a unanimous "yes" vote.

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2. Appropriation Transfer - Electric to Water/Sewer Resolution #25-26

A Motion was made by Ms. Dreaden, seconded by Ms. Bokmuller, to approve Resolution #25-26. $7000.00 to be moved from one to the other. No discussion. The Motion was approved with a unanimous "yes" vote.

I. Committee Reports

1. Policy Review and Approval – Kelly Smith, Committee Chair

Policies reviewed: Chapter 1 - Mission, Philosophy and Principles; Chapter 2 - The MCBDD (Board); Chapter 3 - Administration - Agency Credit Cards (Section: 2-F); Chapter 8 – School / EI Services (Section: 1-A-18).

- The Committee met to go over the policies before tonight's meeting. They determined that MCBDD will mean the larger entity, whereas the Board will mean the seven Board of Directors in written policies.
- The only major change (Chapter 8) was mandated by ODE, and it states that the school will no longer report absences to the district, they will determine if it is an issue on their own and not get truancy orders or probate court involved.
- Ms. Dreaden asked to clarify that many of the policies are being amended due to needing to be aligned with the State recommendations. Ms. Finnerty confirmed that any major amendments usually reflect changes in the ORC Rules.
- Mr. Hartman questioned the change of the wording of the individual rights to the Easy-to-Read format. It has to do with consistency across the State and how they are taught in the agencies.
- Mr. Olah asked about minutes from the policy committee meeting, and that the Board would like to review those before they vote on it. This committee meets every two months; they have discussed the process of how they will report the information to the Board. Instead of meeting right before a Board meeting and presenting the changes that night, they will give notice the month before regarding what will be reviewed to give the Board Members time to review and make suggestions.
- Ms. Finnerty reminded the Board that the idea of the Policy Committee is that they will review the policy, make recommendations, and then bring their report to the Board for approval. Ms. Finnerty expressed concern with the effectiveness of the other Board Members reviewing and making recommendations for policy at the Regular Board Meeting, in addition to the Policy Committee Review and recommendations. Ms. Finnerty hopes the new process for Board review and input will resolve this issue. Ms. Finnerty reminded the Board that ORC can change at random times, and policy may need to be reviewed immediately.
- Much discussion about how and when the Committee should meet and present their minutes before it was decided to table Policies: Chapters 1 and 2 until the October meeting where committee minutes will be presented and those policies will be voted on.

A Modified Motion was made by Mr. Olah, to approve Policies - Chapter 3 regarding credit cards and Chapter 8 regarding the school reporting absences, which were mandated by ODE. The procedure around Chapter 8 will be more detailed than the language in the Policy. The Modified Motion was then seconded by Ms. Smith. The Modified Motion was approved with a unanimous "yes" vote.

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J. Reports Review

- Superintendent's Report - Stacey Maleckar
- Financial Report(s) - Carey Bates, Director of Business
  - The 2027 Draft Budget is saved in the September Board Meeting folder on the new SharePoint site and is ready for review. There is a Special Board Meeting scheduled for 10/12 to review the budget as a whole. Please send all questions to Ms. Bates, and cc Ms. Maleckar, so that she will be ready.

July

- Revenue – at 56%, no donations received.
- Expenditures – the federal government approved an increase to the mileage rates retroactive to 7/1. It went from $.725 to .76 per mile. This was a surprise mid-year adjustment.
- Cash Balance – $37.8M.
- Cash Flow - $1.1M use of fund balance.

August

- Revenue –at 57%, one donation for Memorial Grove ($40.00).
- Expenses – at 63%.
  - Fiscal Year 2026 supplemental match payment of $1,663,396.
  - Fiscal Year 2027 new quarterly payment of $2,772,291.
- Cash Balance – $32M.
- Cash Flow - $5.8 million use of fund balance: YTD we used $5.6M.
- Projected year-end use is $1.6M after receipt of the 2nd half property tax payment.
  - Mr. Hartman asked about increase with NEON, which was because of transferring funds to cover the expenses for Supported Living and FSS. There is more money with them this year than last year to cover the rate increases.
  - Mr. Hartman asked about Snider Recreation; we used them for our playground resurfacing project, which was paid out of Capital Sales tax.

- Acceptance of Financial Reports Resolution #26-26.

A Motion was made by Mr. Hartman, seconded by Ms. Smith, to approve Resolution #26-26 to accept the financial reports for July/August 2026. The Motion was approved with a unanimous "yes" vote.

- Board Stats Report –
  - Ms. Dreaden likes the evolution of the format.
  - Mr. Hartman wondered about the summary for the referrals and if we were on target for the same number as previous years. Ms. Maleckar said that referrals are based on need, there is not a specific target. Would like to have a YTD column on this as well.

III. <u>Open Forum (Board Policy Ch. 2, Sec. 4 E)</u>

No speakers.

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IV. Executive Session

No Executive Session.

V. Adjournment

A Motion was made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Ms. Dreaden, to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 6:58 p.m. The Motion was approved with a unanimous "yes" vote. (Note: Ms. Bokmuller was excused at 6:58 p.m.)

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