



Board Meeting Highlights April 16th, 2025

Board Actions

- Approval of the minutes from March 19th, 2025

Topics of discussion

Greene County Board of Developmental Disabilities

April 16th , 2025 Board Report:

Division: Community Services

Director Reporting: Jeanne Turner

Updates:

Provider Supports Updates

Care Choice Service Requests Summary

- As of the date of this report (4/8/25), there are 7 service requests currently posted:
 - 7 Homemaker Personal Care (HPC) and locally funded
 - SELF; around 15 hours weekly; medical and behavioral concerns
 - IO; 24/7 services; intense behavioral needs
 - Local funds; personal care 3x weekly
 - LV1; 6-10 hours weekly
 - Local funds; Tuesdays 6am-12pm
 - LV1; negotiable hours
 - Local funds; varying schedule up to 12 hours monthly

We have more providers who are looking on Care Choice Portal than we have individuals to support. Our newly certified providers are not finding folks to support in Greene due to the increase of newly certified providers. This is both agency and independent

Current Active Paws shows 145 Independent Providers and 70 Agency Providers

- Susan is Assisting 3 nurses to become certified independent providers (2 are moms and one works at Orange Lotus). They must complete the Standard Medicaid application before DODD IP app.

Below is picture of Independent Provider Meeting Susan holds with them every other month (12 providers in attendance)



Noteworthy Monthly Data/Numbers:

- **MUI:**
 - In the Month of March, there were 109 UIR's reviewed, 2 UIR Consultations, 1 not served, and 20 MUI's filed
 -

See attached MUI March Data

Numbers of students served within Greene County Schools:

Beavercreek - 35 Bellbrook - 54 Career X -33 Fairborn- 25 Xenia -46
Yellow Springs-11

Program Information:

- Voices of Greene County and Voices Matter of County continue to meet.
- The Teams invited Ohio DD Council members Donna Foster and Latisha M. To review and show them how to do a statewide survey on how their current services are assisting them and new services that they think would be helpful.

- The Team was happy that a new universal adult changing table was installed at the Kettering Rec. Center. VOG and Voices Matter supported Jennifer Corchrans group who are leading the statewide advocacy for community-based Adult Changing tables.
- Discussed the opportunity for VOG members to attend a local Project STIRS Leadership training in March that is being held locally.
- The Team's and Greenmont advisors discussed planning and holding an Abilities/Discovery Fair for people and families with disabilities at the Kettering Rec. Center in the fall. The Team's wanted to develop a way for people with disabilities to display their abilities and skills that they're learning at community-based day habilitation programs and other community-based activities such as self-advocacy, All Hands In, Greenmont Optimist Club, cooking club, We care Arts, and many others but it would also show them opportunities they could speak up about at their meetings.
- Dave has started having zoom meetings with the Southwestern Council of Governments (SWOCOG) Self-Advocacy advisors- Sharon Travis is chairing.
- The Team requested and planned a Bingo night with their advisors of the Greenmont Optimist Club.
- The Team made a valentine card craft project for a local nursing home.

Healthy Relationships Class:

- Healthy Relationship classes in March went very well. We had between 8-10 participants for the 4-week class. One of those participants was from Montgomery County. 3 of the individuals have attended previous Healthy Relationship classes and chose to come back. This is one of our goals because the classes vary and are dependent on what the participants want to cover.
- The Speed Friending Event went great. We had 12 individuals attend and they were all very engaged in the activity. The attendees were not all from the March class, there were 5 individuals from other Healthy Relationship classes.
- We have been collaborating with a couple of SSAs to include materials pertinent to the needs of the individual surrounding healthy relationships and topics surrounding goals in their ISPs.
- Kathy will wrap up the Healthy Relationships at the Workplace classes at Project SEARCH and Project LIFE. She has been asked to return next year and work with the students for the 25-26 school year.

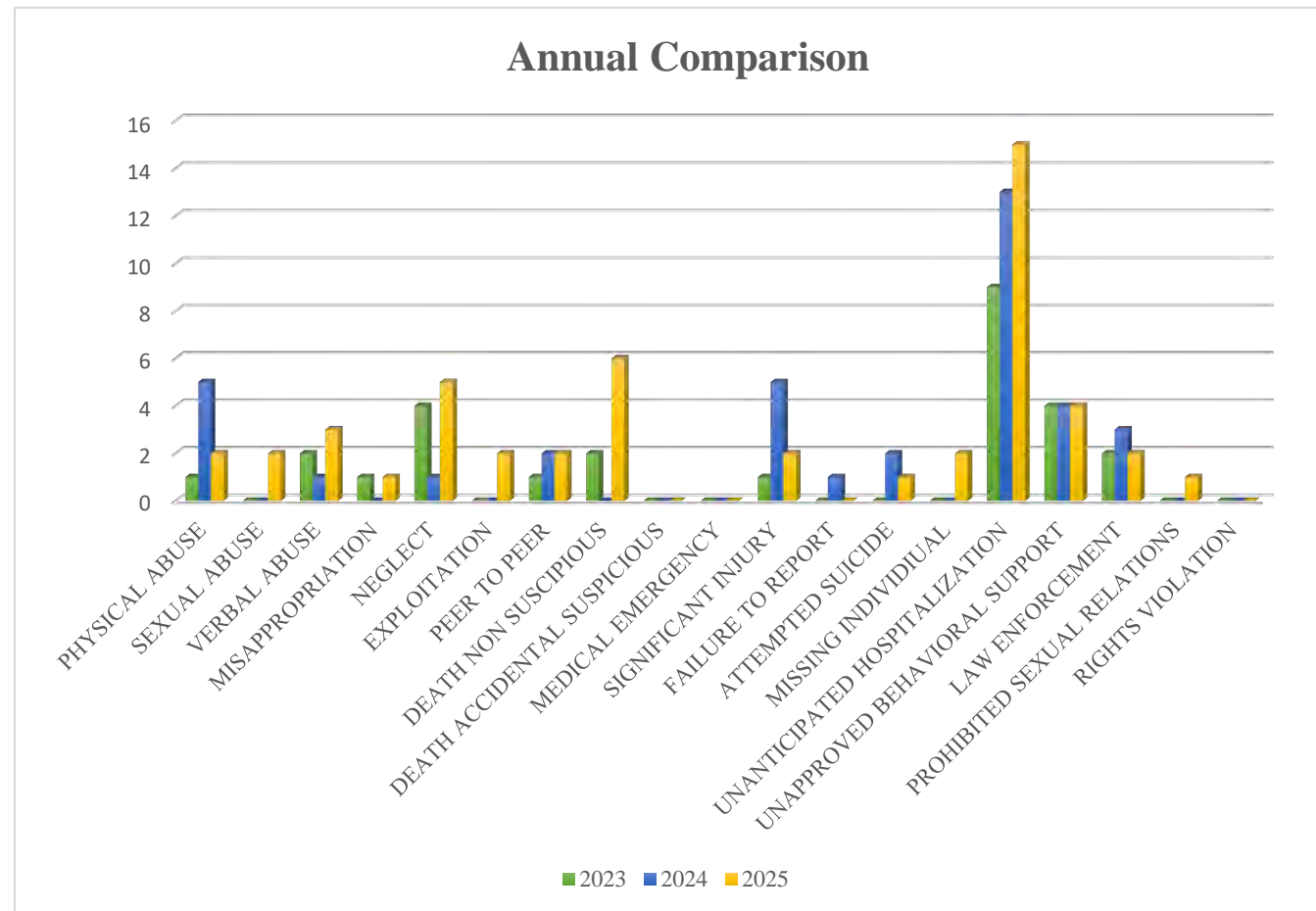
Summer Transition Community Respite Programming/Camp Information:

- A flyer was developed to provide information regarding summer camp funding (family resources) and Vanessa emailed it out to individuals/families ages 6 and up.
- Vanessa also sent out a flyer to provide information via emails to individuals ages 14-22 about Summer Transition Community Respite Programming (waiver/local funds).
- Both flyers were also sent out through the mail and posted on our social media.
- Brenda continues to gather interest from individuals and families that are interested in Summer Transition Community Respite Programming. We currently have 37 responses of interest so far: 22 waiver individuals and 15 locally funded.

April 2025 Board Meeting (March data)

CATEGORY	2023	2024	2025
PHYSICAL ABUSE	1	5	2
SEXUAL ABUSE	0	0	2
VERBAL ABUSE	2	1	3
MISAPPROPRIATION	1	0	1
NEGLECT	4	1	5
EXPLOITATION	0	0	2
PEER TO PEER	1	2	2
DEATH NON SUSCIPIOUS	2	0	6
DEATH ACCIDENTAL SUSPICIOUS	0	0	0
MEDICAL EMERGENCY	0	0	0
SIGNIFICANT INJURY	1	5	2
FAILURE TO REPORT	0	1	0
ATTEMPTED SUICIDE	0	2	1
MISSING INDIVIDUAL	0	0	2
UNANTICIPATED HOSPITALIZATION	9	13	15
UNAPPROVED BEHAVIORAL SUPPORT	4	4	4
LAW ENFORCEMENT	2	3	2
PROHIBITED SEXUAL RELATIONS	0	0	1
RIGHTS VIOLATION	0	0	0
TOTAL	27	37	50

One individual can have multiple categories in one MUI case.

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Greene County Board of Developmental Disabilities

April 16th , 2025 Board Report:

Division: SSA

Director Reporting: Denise Summerville

Updates:

BEHAVIOR SUPPORTS TEAM INTRODUCTION:

The SSA division supports individuals with specific behavioral needs and rights restrictions. The primary responsibility for this role falls to Heidi Reynolds, our Behavior Support Specialist. She is diligently working to ensure that all regulatory requirements are fulfilled, particularly for individuals and families facing challenges in maintaining safety.

Heidi currently oversees six active rights restrictions to ensure compliance with DODD rule. Two individuals are currently in the process of developing behavioral support strategies that will require Human Rights Committee (HRC) approval. The SSAs collaborates with Heidi to formulate and execute strategies within the ISP. Heidi has a total case load of 19 individuals aside from the 8 listed above. This does not include the everyday questions she receives from the various SSAs.

DODD rules provide specific guidelines for developing, implementing, and monitoring support when an individual requires a restrictive measures plan. The team must review, at least every 90 days, to assess and record the effectiveness of the strategy and determine whether it should be maintained, terminated, or modified. Heidi spends a significant portion of her time managing behavior support associated with restrictive measures or identifying situations where restrictive measures might be warranted to ensure health and safety.

Given the intensity associated with serving this group, the SSA division is implementing a team of SSAs to work along with Heidi to enhance support. The members of this team include Amanda Mueller, Cortney Murphy, Sarah Wickline, Kelly Wead, and Katelyn Middlesworth. Amanda and Sarah focus on working with children who have extensive behavioral needs. They collaborate with Heidi to develop strategies aimed at assisting younger individuals facing challenges at home while residing with their families. Additionally, they spend significant time finding and securing placements for youth who cannot remain in their homes due to safety issues.

Cortney and Kelly focus on assisting adults with significant behavioral challenges. Cortney engages with some of our most complex behavioral cases and collaborates with several individuals who have rights restrictions. Kelly focuses on homes with multiple residents exhibiting high behavioral needs and aids in the compilation of behavior documentation needed for the Behavioral Add On rates.

Katelyn, a recent addition to our SSA team, is dedicated to supporting both children and adults with significant needs who do not have waivers. She plays a crucial role in helping them access community resources at the beginning stages of accessing services. Additionally, she specializes in linking youth with behavioral challenges to services like Ohio Rise.

The behavior team currently in development is highly engaging and demonstrates a willingness to tackle what may appear to be insurmountable cases. They have a high level of commitment to their individuals and teams.

Noteworthy Monthly Data/Numbers:

TCM Productivity: 53.5%

Eligibility Referral and Linkage: 48

Program Information:

SWOCOG Respite for Resilience program will be available beginning in May with the opening of a youth respite home for ages 6 to 17. The home will provide short term respite stays for youth with behavioral challenges. SWOCOG anticipates opening a second home later this spring that will offer longer respite stays for individuals with challenging behaviors, ages 18 to 30.

Special Events/Activities:

In March, SSAs welcomed several special guests during our weekly team meetings

1. Medicaid Billing Services will be supporting the SSAs by reviewing case notes to maximize billing potential and ensure accuracy in the SSA documentation.
2. Cindy Nava from GCBDD Community Services Division provided an informative session on representative payee responsibilities and requirements as it pertains both to providers and natural support.
3. My SafeBed company presented information about their permanent and travel bed options designed for safe sleeping. They recognize that acquiring these products through waiver funding will be challenging given the DODD guidance relative to enclosed beds.

Throughout the month of March, SSAs have engaged in multiple training sessions focused on documentation, monitoring, and overall readiness for the upcoming accreditation review scheduled for July 16 and 17, 2025.

New "News":

SSA Supervisor interviews conducted the week of April 7-11, 2025.

SSA Postings: currently have two replacement positions posted and accepting applications.



RESPITE FOR RESILIENCE



CLUB PHOENIX: YOUTH RESPITE HOME

We are excited to announce the return of Club Phoenix, the youth respite home. SWOCOG is partnering with M.E.R.G.E. to provide specialized support for youth with developmental disabilities and complex needs.



Serving youth ages 6-17 with 1:1 staff



**Short-term stays
Thursdays through
Mondays**



**Helping young
people grow through
safe relationships**

Our program design offers training and support for both staff and family members, to help bring your child's success back home.



How to Learn More

If your child already has an SSA, reach out to them! If not, connect with your local County Board of Developmental Disability Services.

Greene County Board of Developmental Disabilities

April 16th , 2025 Board Report:

Division: Early Intervention

Director Reporting: Jennifer Frey

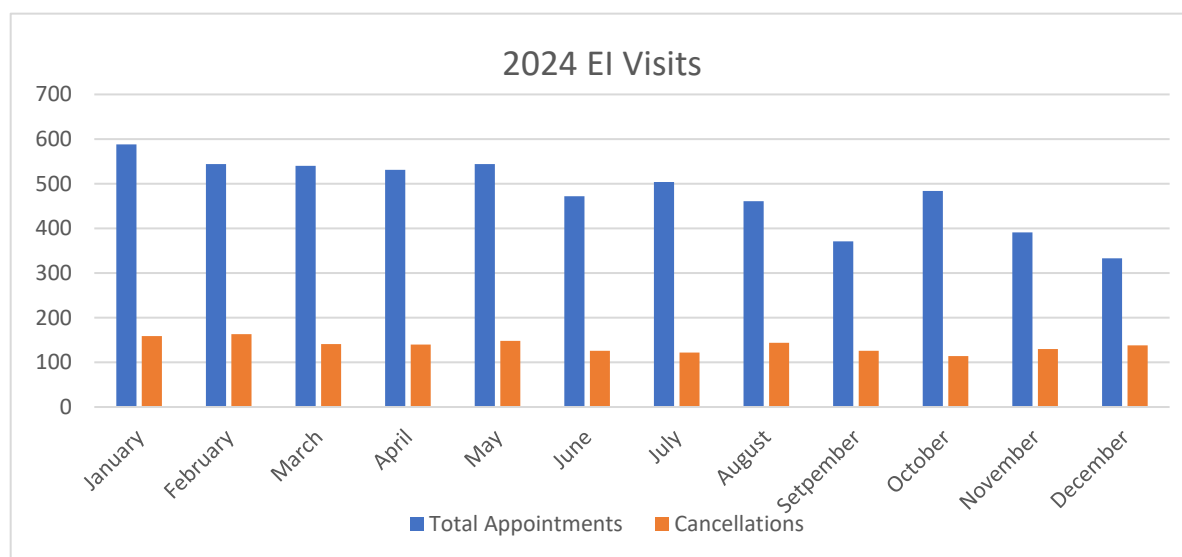
Updates:

The Department of Children and Youth put out a memo at the beginning of this month to address “Updated Guidance on Completing Early Intervention Requirements Virtually”. In addition to Evaluations and Assessments being required to be completed in person, we received guidance that Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs) should be completed in person by the Service Coordinator and family. This will be fully implemented by June 1st.

Noteworthy Monthly Data/Numbers:

Our Active IFSP number for March 2025 was 234, and our teams completed 32 evaluations. Greene County EI received 36 new referrals in March. The highest referral sources were parents, then physicians, followed by other various sources such as hospital child find specialists, Children Services, etc.

While we have similar numbers of infants and toddlers exit and enter the program throughout the month which keeps our active IFSP numbers steady, I wanted to share our visit numbers which give a true picture of the hard work our staff do every day. All services are delivered in Natural Environments, and only a small percentage are virtual. Cancellations are always rescheduled as soon as possible and virtual visits are offered as backup if applicable. So far in 2025, we completed 482 visits in January and 414 in February.



Program Information:

Our Early Intervention Program Social Worker and Eligibility Coordinator for ages 3-5, Luanne Skinner, has announced her retirement and her last day will be April 30th. She has been a wonderful and very appreciated support to our team and our EI families of Greene County over the years! Luanne is kind, patient, and compassionate and will be sorely missed. Luanne has been with us since 1996 and started out as an Intake Coordinator for EI. Vanessa Emanoff will be completing eligibility for ages 3-5 starting in May.

Our Autism Diagnostic Education Program (ADEP) Team has evaluations scheduled for April, May, June, and July. Our ADEP Team includes Raleita Furlow, MSED (DS and ADEP Coordinator), Gina Tulamarie, MA, CCC/SLP, Anne Marie Cardilino, MS, CCC/SLP, Jennifer Montague, MS (DS and PLAY Consultant), and Robin Stewart (DS and PLAY Consultant). Our medical partner is Dr. Boreman, MD, FAAP, Medical Director of the Autism Center and Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrician at Dayton Children's Hospital.

P.L.A.Y. Project (Play and Language for Autistic Youngsters Project) – parent implemented, intensive early intervention program for young children with autism that is evidence-based.

Our P.L.A.Y. Team includes Jennifer Montague (PLAY Coordinator, DS, and PLAY Consultant), Beth Brennaman (DS and PLAY Consultant), and Tina Snyder (OT and PLAY Consultant).

***The team is currently serving **9** families whose children in the program are all between the ages of 3 – 5.


Special Events/Activities:

Greene County Board of Developmental Disabilities are continuing to partner with Greene County Parks & Trails for monthly events in 2025. Early Intervention's events called "Toad-ally Together" are scheduled for June 27th and August 8th this year. These events are meant to bring kids and families of all abilities *together*. We are already looking forward to another year of partnering with GCPT and providing these fun and inclusive activities. Please see below registration details within the GCPT website.

https://greenecountyoh.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30030


Luau in the Park

Join us as we partner with Greene County Board of DD to transform the park into a tropical island! This program is station based with games, crafts and a snack. Come dressed as your favorite Disney princess or character. But whatever you do, come prepared to have fun at this Moana inspired Luau! This is a FREE event. People of all abilities are encouraged to join!

Register	Activity	Ages	Grades	Days	Date/Time	Fees
 Log In	Luau in the Park	N/A	N/A	F	06/27/2025 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Russ Nature Reserve	\$0.00 Res, \$0.00 Non-Res

Insects

Bug, bugs and more bugs! Please join Greene County Parks & Trails and Greene County Board of DD in the park to explore the creepy crawly creatures of nature. This program is station based with games, crafts and a snack. This is a FREE event. People of all abilities are encouraged to join!

Register	Activity	Ages	Grades	Days	Date/Time	Fees
 Log In	Insects	N/A	N/A	F	08/08/2025 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Russ Nature Reserve	\$0.00 Res, \$0.00 Non-Res

Parent/Provider/Staff Feedback:

ECP Exit Surveys –March 2025 – Four Oaks received 3 responses.

Please see below parent comments from 3/1/25 – 3/31/25. All other questions were answered with a “strongly agree” or respondent skipped question because it didn’t apply.

If you are leaving the program prior to your child's 3rd birthday, what is the reason?

- My child aged out but very happy with the service I received from them.
- He started preschool on March 3rd

What I appreciated most about Four Oaks was.....

- How encouraging everyone was. Angela is amazing! Encouraging, kind and very knowledgeable. She gave us so many tips to help with my son’s speech. My son loves “playing” with her. She will be missed! Everyone at Four Oaks is amazing. Such a kind group of people.
- They help me with any concerns I had with my child and made sure to show me what I needed to do.
- I appreciated how they actually listened to me and helped me be able to understand my son a lot more myself! And got my son out of his shell!

Other comments

- I think the program a great job at educating people and showing how to help your child.
- I just really want thank my team Molly and Julie for all the help they gave me and my child. I am forever grateful for them. Continue to do great things. Thanks

Greene County Board of Developmental Disabilities

April 16th , 2025 Board Report:

Division: Finance and Administration

Director Reporting: Tom Schaeffer

Updates:

Right Stuff (New Time Keeping Software)
5-10 Year Projection

Noteworthy Monthly Data/Numbers:

Federal Revenue

MAC	\$158,031
TCM	\$348,158
TITLE XX	\$16,709
COST SETTLEMENT	\$1,169,050
	<hr/>
	\$1,691,949

Financials:

Beginning Cash Balance 1-1-2025	\$25,619,436
YTD Revenue	\$9,073,152
YTD Expense	(\$3,727,061)
Ending Cash Balance	\$30,965,527
Budget Stabilization Fund	\$5,462,166
Medicaid Reserve Fund	\$372,463
	\$36,800,156

Detailed Report Attached

Enrollment and Service Data

Program Areas	Enrolled On	Enrolled On
	2/28/2025	3/31/2025
Unduplicated Count Receiving Services	1234	1262
Early Childhood Eligibility Birth 0-3	16	32
0-3 early Childhood Enrollment	227	234
Play Project Enrolled	8	9
Board Eligibility	11	10
Service and Support	582	546
Recreation Events	181	183
Behavioral Support	28	35
Restrictive Measures	6	6
School Age Individuals	130	204
Unusual Incidents	124	109
Major Unusual Incidents	15	20
Providers-Independent	147	144
Provider-Agencies	72	73
Waiver Recipients	396	397
Medicaid Waiver Services	397	485
Family Support Services Enrolled	140	99
Individuals Residing in Homecroft Homes	78	78

Greene County Board of Developmental Disabilities

April Board Report:

Division: Community Relations

Director Reporting: Delana Zapata

Updates:

Beavercreek High School read a book called "My First Book of Sign Language" to all the 1st grade classes at Main Elementary in Beavercreek, in honor of DD Awareness Month. The students were so engaged, and had great follow up questions about sign language. The high school students did an incredible job demonstrating all the signs & the language. See more details on GCBDD Facebook by clicking link :

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1DaJQtvJkH/>

Noteworthy Monthly Data/Numbers:

Facebook Page Reach:

Views: 15,800

Post Reach: 4,600

Content Interaction: 491

New Followers: 14

Program Information:

NEW Advocacy and Resource Coordination (Josh Carson)

- Continuing to develop this Role since February of 2025 and have received 10 total requests for advocacy and resource support (See Chart Below)

	February	March
Number of Requests	3	7

Range of Ages	
0-18	1
19-30	3
31-40	2
41-50	2
51-60	0
61+	2

- Continuing to build a Network of Community Resources to aid families / individuals who need additional resources / support.
- Attended the Greene County Linkage Meeting in March where I had an opportunity to learn of the various resources and programs that are out there to help families and individuals to who are in need (Clothing, Food, Rental or Utility Assistance, etc....).
- Working on updating the GCBDD Website Family and Individual Support Tab to include resources / support information.

Special Events/Activities:

Community Outreach

3/4/2025	The Artist Collective	All Hands In	19
3/12/2025	Dungeons and Dragons	All Hands In	5
3/13/2025	Coffee Talk	All Hands In	19
3/17/2025	Nerd Nation	All Hands In	15
3/18/2025	Virtual Meetup	All Hands In	3
3/19/2025	Dungeons and Dragons	All Hands In	6
3/20/2025	Tubers	All Hands In	11
3/24/2025	Karaoke	All Hands In	38
3/26/2025	Speed Friending	All Hands In	12
3/31/2025	Diners Club (El Toro)	All Hands In	55

Future Events/Updates:

1. In May we will be sending out our list of All Hands In Community Expectations. We produced this list so everyone understands what is expected of them behaviorally and so we have a more official response plan if (when) negative behaviors occur.
2. All Hands In has finally moved to an online RSVP system. It is still very much a work in progress, but this will increase the efficiency of our process and will help us to track data. The link to RSVP is <https://greenedd.org/all-hands-in-rsvp-page>. Kudos to Delana for getting it online so quickly.
3. Dungeons and Dragons is so successful that it is no longer an official All Hands In Event. The group runs completely by itself but we are still tracking the attendance

numbers as this group is a prototype and are hoping to reproduce the success with other groups.

4. Registration is open for the 4th Annual Challenging Perceptions Adaptive Trail Race. We are BEGGING people to register early so we can have an accurate count for our t-shirt order. And we are especially hoping for a big turnout from GCBDD employees and Board Members. And we can always use volunteers!

New "News":

Special events promoted:

Toward Independence St Patty's Scavenger Hunt
Yellow Springs Home Inc, Tour post
Butler Co. DD post regarding Kings Island accessibility card
Board Meeting public notice
Healthy Relationships and All Hands In Speed Friending Class and Event
Challenging Perceptions Adaptive Trail Race
1st Grade Book Read
World Down Syndrome Day
AHI Reminders
Summer Youth Transition Program
GCBDD Summer Camp/Activity Funding information
Ohio Wears Blue Day – Child Abuse Prevention Month
AHI RSVP page and links
AHI Newsletter (Apr)
PSAC

Greene County Board of Developmental Disabilities

April 16th , 2025 Board Report:

Division: Administration

Superintendent Reporting

Updates: Governor DeWine's comments on the Republican's house budget:

Gov. Mike DeWine discussed House changes to his budget proposal with reporters Friday, emphasizing that while the House sub HB96 (Stewart) doesn't include funding amounts he thinks are necessary it is still early in the process. There are effectively "three budgets" -- his proposal, and the versions passed by both the House and Senate -- and "we'll kind of go from there." DeWine also said, in response to its use in the question, that he wouldn't say the House "gutted" requested funding amounts.

He offered additional remarks on the home visiting program to address infant mortality, saying Ohio is making some progress though numbers aren't moving as fast as he'd like. The home visit program is a "very important" one, he continued. DeWine further discussed the child tax credit proposal, saying that will support "a ton of kids" and their families. He also described the importance of strong families for Ohio's future and asked the Legislature to take another look at that proposal.

Regarding its proposed funding source by a tobacco tax increase, DeWine said that would also support public health and is "pretty much an even match" for the money needed though he was open to other revenue sources if the Legislature identifies them. The tax credit would be targeted directly to working families who need it the most, he continued, and supporting child care access has bipartisan backing.

Asked about funding for the Help Me Grow program and public libraries, DeWine said Help Me Grow is a "very important" program as well and "no one's questioning" these types of initiatives.

"If we're really going to invest in our state, invest in the future, these are the type of programs that give us, frankly, the most bang for the buck," he added. DeWine said they will help children live up to their full potential going forward, and for a toddler today that could be 100 years of life expectancy. He added it is a "very little amount of money" to potentially change outcomes for children so it needs full investment.

DeWine further called public libraries "the center of many communities" and said they do a "great job" so he has always supported them. Their funding amount in the budget "obviously remains to be seen at this point," he continued.

Asked about public schools worried about their funding, DeWine said he has never found schools to be “bashful” when mentioning the need for money and he didn’t blame them for it.

“That’s what they should be doing. Look, our schools are vitally important. We go through this in every budget. We have to balance different needs, different choices. The thing I would tell the schools and tell anyone else concerned about anything in the budget, we still have a long ways to go with this budget, so now’s the time to speak up. You got a window here. This is an important time. So if people, you know, have concerns about any of the budget, not only is it the appropriate time, this is the time they must do it. They must speak up, and we ... certainly encourage them to do that,” he continued.

Responding to a question from *Hannah News* about how Ohio may be affected by federal funding cuts, DeWine said it is “not clear at all” but he and cabinet officials are monitoring the situation.

“It’s much, much too early to really determine where we’re going to find -- if we do find -- some real deficiencies and things that we might have to fill in at the state level,” he added. “But we’re going to stay on it and we’re going to continue to watch it.”

Asked about volatility in the U.S. economy, particularly following President Donald Trump’s recent tariff announcement, DeWine noted the national employment figures released Friday morning were “pretty strong.” (See separate story, this issue.) However, he continued, he didn’t have a “crystal ball” that would tell him what’s coming in that regard.

“We can only hope that things that the administration are doing in regard to tariffs will work. The market doesn’t like uncertainty, and that’s part of how the market is reacting. I don’t have a crystal ball. I only hope that things work out well. We’re going to stay focused in Ohio on what we can control, what we can do -- we’re at the budget time again. This is a crucial time ... people in this state are going to live with this budget for the next two years. So it’s time to do the things that we need to do and to invest in our kids and invest in our families,” he continued.

Noteworthy Monthly Data/Numbers:

I thought you might find this report on state tax collections interesting.

Tax Revenues Exceed Targets for March

The state brought in nearly \$100 million more than expected from taxes in March, according to the Office of Budget and Management (OBM). For the first three quarters of FY25, collections are ahead by more than half a billion dollars.

Preliminary March revenue totals from OBM show the state's largest tax source, the sales tax, missing estimates by 1 percent to \$10.1 million, reaching \$978 million. The non-auto sales tax was down \$17.3 million or 2.1 percent, partially offset by a \$7.1 million or 4.9 percent overperformance in the auto sales tax.

Driving March's over-estimate tax collections was the personal income tax, which brought in \$610 million, which was \$82.5 million or 15.7 percent more than forecast.

The Commercial Activity Tax (CAT) had a far bigger overperformance proportionally but a smaller overall effect on collections, bringing in \$15.4 million or 162.4 percent more than expected.

Total tax receipts of \$1.86 billion were \$98.1 million or 5.6 percent over estimates.

For the fiscal year so far, overall tax collections reached \$20.9 billion, \$529.5 million or 2.6 percent more than expected. The income tax, at \$7.2 billion, is more than 5 percent ahead of expectations. The sales tax, at \$10.3 billion, is nearly 1 percent ahead of expectations.

Compared to this point in FY24, tax collections are ahead by \$625 million or 3.1 percent. March collections this year exceed collections for the same month in the prior fiscal year by nearly \$258.9 million.

Special Events/Activities:

Towards Independence 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Tom Schaeffer and I attended the event below is a thank you to all who attended, from TI

On behalf of everyone at Toward Independence, I would like to personally thank you for attending our **50th Anniversary Celebration** this past Friday.

This event marked more than just a milestone in time; it was a celebration of our mission, our values, and the remarkable journey that began in 1975 with a small group of parents who believed in something more for their children with developmental disabilities. To have grown so far while remaining true to the heart of our vision is something truly special, and your presence helped make that celebration even more meaningful.

Your continued support means the world to us. As a partner, friend, family member, or advocate, we are grateful to have you as part of our community. You help make it possible for us to enrich the lives of over 200 individuals across five counties, and your belief in our mission gives us strength for the road ahead.

Please accept this note as the warmest thank you possible. We are forever appreciative of your support and look forward to deepening our connection in the years to come. Here's to the next 50 years of empowering individuals and making a difference together.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Toward Independence, Inc.

New "News":

The logo for OACB Policy Brief features a stylized graphic of three people in blue and red above the text "OACB Policy Brief" in a blue serif font.

OACB Policy Brief

Volume 14, Issue 18: April 8, 2025

Ohio House Finance Committee adopts "omnibus amendment" to update state budget bill

On Tuesday, April 1, the Ohio House Finance Committee adopted an omnibus amendment to House Bill 96, the operating budget for state fiscal years 2026-27. An "omnibus" amendment is a way for lawmakers to add dozens of changes to the state budget with a single amendment so that they can cast a single vote to adopt the changes. It includes the House's final changes to the version of the budget originally introduced by the Governor before it goes to the floor for a full vote of the House.



The committee approved the omnibus amendment by a vote of 19-10. House Bill 96 is now set for full House consideration during the next House session tomorrow (Wednesday, 4/9) at 2:00 p.m.

Key changes within the omnibus amendment include:

- Raising the threshold for the County Budget Commission to reduce school district property tax rates based on the district's carryover balance from 25% to 30% of the previous fiscal year's general fund expenditures.
- Removing the county prosecutor from the county budget commission and replacing them with the president of the board of county commissioners.
- Exempting intellectual and developmental disability services from the House's proposed prohibition on using Medicaid funds for diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.
- Modifies the Medicaid electronic visit verification (EVV) process to allow providers to review and correct certain claims and data. It also prohibits entities from denying claims unsupported by the EVV system and from conducting audits based solely on EVV system data.

OACB continues to review the current version of House Bill 96 and will share additional updates as they become known.



For questions:

Contact Jake Dowling (jdowling@oacbdds.org).

Bill to eliminate replacement levies receives sponsor testimony in Senate

House Bill 28, which would eliminate the ability for local governments to place replacement property tax levies on the ballot, received sponsor testimony Tuesday in the Senate Ways and Means Committee.



Reps. Adam Mathews (R-Warren County), and Nick Santucci (R-Trumbull County), testified in support of the bill, citing voter confusion around replacement levies. The sponsors argued that alternatives, such as combining renewal and additional levies, would provide greater transparency for taxpayers at the ballot box.

OACB continues to oppose House Bill 28 in its current form and will advocate against its advancement as it moves through the legislative process. We will share updates and advocacy opportunities as they become available.

Monitor HB 28 Progress

For questions:

Contact Jake Dowling (jdowling@oacbdd.org).

Federal Updates: Senate Advances FY 2025 Budget Resolution; Dr. Oz Confirmed as CMS Administrator

U.S. Senate Passes FY 2025 Budget Resolution, Paving Way for Reconciliation

Early Saturday morning, the U.S. Senate passed a concurrent resolution for the fiscal year 2025 budget, setting the stage for a budget reconciliation bill. The resolution is a required procedural step for the reconciliation process to move forward, which is essential to continue funding the government through the end of the current fiscal year (ending in September 2025).



The final vote was 51-48, with Republican Sens. Rand Paul of Kentucky and Susan Collins of Maine voting against the measure, citing concerns about specific provisions and the broader fiscal approach.

During debate, a bipartisan amendment aimed at removing a provision requiring \$880 billion in cuts from the House Energy and Commerce Committee was narrowly defeated, 50-49. The amendment drew notable bipartisan support, including votes from Republican Sens. Collins, Josh Hawley of Missouri, and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska. Both of Ohio's senators voted in favor of keeping the cuts.

The resolution now heads to the U.S. House of Representatives, which must also approve it before the budget reconciliation process can officially begin.

Dr. Oz Confirmed as CMS Administrator

On Thursday, April 3, the U.S. Senate confirmed Dr. Mehmet Oz (pictured) as administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in a 53-45 party-line vote.



CMS, which operates under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, oversees programs serving nearly 60 million Americans who rely on Medicaid.

For questions:

Contact Jake Dowling (jdowling@oacbdd.org).

Ohio Association of County Boards of DD

P.O. Box 16310, Columbus, OH 43216

(614) 431-0616

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<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/696d9aaa/KQ4H-wvESU23KRBU0aAG9A?u=http://www.oacbdd.org/>

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***The next regular GCBDD Board meeting is scheduled for
May 21st, at noon, at Valley Rd with Virtual option.***

***Note: All reports above, are merely a summary of the board meeting and reports
submitted.***