

Developmental Disabilities Resource Board of St. Charles County
Board Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2026

The Board meeting was held at the DDRB Office, 1025 Country Club Road, St. Charles, MO 63303.

Missy Fallert, DDRB President, called the meeting to order at 7:00p, with the reading of the mission statement and a moment of silent reflection.

Members Present:

Terry Elmendorf, Missy Fallert, Todd Gentry, Bryon Hale, Mike Mahoney, Sue Sharp, and Connie Tan

Members Absent:

Marc Debrick and Missy Palitzsch

Agenda Approval

Bryon Hale motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Connie Tan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Emergent Business:

1. 2026 Preliminary Tax Rate

The Budget and Financial Oversight Committee is recommending setting the 2026 preliminary tax rate at .1071. In 2025 the rate was set at .1068, which included a one-time .0003 reduction in rate due to the County's data collection errors in 2021/2022. The Committee is recommending increasing the preliminary tax rate by the one-time reduction in the tax rate.

Bryon Hale motioned to approve the 2026 Preliminary Tax Rate at .1071 as recommended by the Budget and Financial Oversight Committee. Connie Tan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2. MoDOT Vehicle match Budget and Payments

Willows Way informed the DDRB that they had submitted requests to MoDOT for a total of four vehicles prior to June 30, 2024. Willows Way received three vehicles at the end of October. The fourth vehicle was delivered earlier this year, and the match was covered by MoDOT via MoDOT's ARPA funds. The match request for the three vehicles is \$45,064.20.

Emmaus informed the DDRB, prior to June 30, 2024, of three vehicles requested, and these vehicles have not yet been received. If received prior to June 30, 2026, request for reimbursement will be presented to the Budget and Financial Oversight Committee. The Board established its FY2027 priorities and will not accept reimbursement requests for the 20% MoDOT match for vehicles received after July 1, 2026.

The Committee recommends increasing the FY2026 MODOT Match Budget by \$73,062.00. This is the total repayment to the DDRB by Community Living after receiving MoDOT ARPA funds for vehicles the DDRB had already reimbursed. This would result in a total remaining budget of \$76,249.00.

The Committee also recommends reimbursing Willows Way for the three vehicles in the amount of \$38,124.50, which is half of the total remaining budget. If Emmaus' three projected vehicles are received prior to June 30, 2026, they can be reimbursed up to \$38,124.50 of actual costs. If the vehicles are not received or are less than \$38,124.50, Willows Way can receive a balance of funds remaining up to \$6,939.70 for the total reimbursement of their request.

Bryon Hale motioned to approve the FY2026 MoDOT Vehicle Match Budget Increase and Payment as recommended by the Budget & Financial Oversight Committee and to amend the FY2026 Budget. Sue Sharp seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Agreement of Group Norms for Discussions:

The group agreed on the norms of discussion for the night to be the following:

- *Keep Conversation Strategic/Big Picture*
- *Communicate Honestly*
- *Bring Open Minds and Challenge Assumptions*
- *Giving Space to Hear from Everyone*
- *Avoid Groupthink*

General Updates

Denise Cross gave general updates on the following:

Awareness Campaign - The DDRB fact sheet has been featured many times over on social media. Denise has also interviewed or quoted across media outlets such as KMOX, St. Louis Post Dispatch, St. Louis Magazine, and more.

ERA Recognition - The ERA was notified that they will be receiving a *What's Right in the Region* award from Focus St. Louis.

Legislative Update – House Bill 3467 has been introduced by our Representative, Wendy Hausmann. This bill would allow SB40 Boards to request an up to 0.5% sales tax.

The House has approved their Missouri budget and has sent it to the Senate for review. While day habilitation and self-directed support service funding was restored, FACT's Parent Support Partner funding was not restored.

DDRDB Staffing – This is Vicki Amsinger's last Board meeting as she will be retiring on April 10. Join us all in congratulating Vicki on her retirement and thanking her for her years of service to the DDRB.

With Vicki retiring, Becky Zerillo has accepted the position of Human Resource Director. Congratulations Becky!

FY26 Strategic Plan Action Items for Tonight:

1. *FY25-FY27 Strategic Plan Goal 1:* The DDRB Commits tax dollars and uses its resources where it can make unique and valuable contributions that meet prioritized needs of the I/DD system (sustainable).

2. *FY25-FY27 Strategic Plan Commitment: Stewarding Tax Dollars and Responding to a Changing Economy:* We recognize that the economy is always changing, and we face pressures on our budget and revenue. It is important to use taxpayers' money wisely and ensure our spending is effective and efficient. Being an ally to the I/DD community means we use our resources to respond to their expressed needs. As those needs change, so must our priorities. By being responsible with public funds, we can continue to support the I/DD community and the needs of all residents, even in challenging economic times.
 - a. **FY26 Financial Status & Outlook**
Kathy Robb reviewed the 6-month FY26 Service Overview Report. Joyce Eichelberger reviewed the Budget Summary, and General Fund Balance and Reserve Worksheet. The Board had discussion, ideas and outcomes will be summarized in next steps.

 - b. **FY27 Budgeting Strategy**
Joyce reviewed the strategies implemented in FY27 to streamline the budget. The Board had discussion, ideas and outcomes will be summarized in next steps.

 - c. **Strategies Forecasting and Budgeting**
Denise reviewed long-term projections of the fund balance, cash flow need, and reserve. These projections were based on assumptions like a 3% increase to most revenue and all expenses. Revenue not increasing is Targeted Case Management and Other Revenue line items. The Board had discussion, ideas and outcomes will be summarized in next steps.

d. Data/Tools to Create

The Board had discussion and had the following ideas for data and/or tools that would be helpful:

- Agency Survey – What future funding options do they see for the DDRB? What do they think DDRB funding priorities should be going forward, given the climate? Has the ERA saved the agency money, as initially hoped for?
- Improve how DDRB calculates assessed valuations for future years. Is there a pattern to see from history?
- Restructure the Long-Term Funding Projections Worksheet with only a 3–5-year projection. Add 2–3 more years of history so patterns can potentially be identified. Make the worksheet easier to adjust variables in time.
- Rank FY2027 Funding by the service hierarchy created.
- Equity Investments knowing how many and total value.
- Sample polling of general public to see if there is support for a tax rate increase or new sales tax.

Next Steps:

The following are next steps, comments, ideas, and questions:

Tax Rate/Sales Tax/Tax Revenue/Revenue Strategy

- What new tax levy rate would produce sustainable revenue for DDRB?
- Confirm all information about getting a tax rate increase on the ballot. (Cost, who, how, when, timeline, etc.)
- What percentage of sales tax would produce sustainable revenue for DDRB?
- Does moving to a sales tax hurt the individuals DDRB supports? Can we give back a stipend to cover sales tax?
- Can we advocate for a sales tax linked to specialized sales? (i.e., Sports betting, slot-video machines, marijuana, etc.)

Agency/Service Funding

- Plan for multiple scenarios (more revenue, less revenue, specialty revenue, etc.) and what the resulting funding would look like.
- Should the DDRB keep 0% growth for a few years, would this help with ongoing sustainability?

DDRB Operations – Ongoing Sustainability

- Reduce fixed assets (property)? What outcome would that have on the current expenses, what expenses would be incurred?
- Should the DDRB offer equity investment repayment?
- Re-examine reserve strategy. Doing a risk analysis of reserves.

- Has participation in the ERA saved us or agencies money?

Missy announced that the April Board meeting is cancelled, due to lack of agenda items.

Adjournment

Bryon Hale motioned to adjourn. Todd Gentry seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.