

Board Members Present:

Cynthia Mueller, Chairperson
Sarah Sims, Board Member

Patrick Brennan, Treasurer
Delilah Sullivan, Board Member

Mike Fitzgerald, Board Member
Catrina Adams, Board Member

Board Members Absent:

William Siedhoff, Vice-Chairperson
Nina North Murphy, Secretary
Selena Washington, Board Member

Staff Members Present:

Shaelene Plank, Executive Director
Kelly Head, Executive Assistant
Nate Head, Director of Agency &
Community Relations
Olivia Pruitt-Payne, Director of HR
Nathan Patton, Director of IT

Lisa Briggs, Director of Finance
Chris Winkelmann, Dir. of Finance
Jack Neyens, Financial Consultant
Ebony Young, Agency Relations
Representative

Samantha Montgomery, Director
of Service Coordination
Gabrielle Buenger, Marketing &
Communications Coordinator
Mason Witte, Service Advocate

Guests Present by Phone or In Person:

Kathy Ferache, AADD
Pamela Merkle, AADD
Beth Brown, MERS Goodwill
Amanda Kehoe, Sunnyhill
Michelle Tindira, Bridges

Samara Lillioja, Bridges
Holly Turk Collier
Mindy Davis, Recreation Council
Dana Walker, St. Louis ARC
Alisa Walker, St. Louis ARC

Nancy Shrewsberg
Karen, DGC Kids
Rachel Svejkosky, FACT

I. Call Meeting to Order

Cynthia Mueller called the St. Louis Office for Developmental Disability Resources Board of Directors Meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

II. Remarks from visitors – none

III. Introductions –

A. Introductions of the Board Members, staff and guests were made.

IV. Mission Moment – Dana Walker, St. Louis Arc’s Embedded Early Learning Program

A. Dana Walker presented on the Embedded Early Learning Program, highlighting:

1. Over 200 children assessed since the start of the funding cycle
2. Increased demand for embedded specialists from centers
3. Delivery of behavioral, language, and therapeutic supports
4. Strong family engagement through community activities (e.g., Magic House events serving over 300 families)

B. A success story was shared describing significant developmental progress of two children receiving services.

V. Recognition of outgoing Board Members:

A. Sherry Wibbenmeyer was recognized for her years of service

B. Cynthia Mueller was recognized for her leadership and service as Board Chair and committee leader

- Cindy Mueller provided remarks reflecting on her experience and appreciation for the organization.

VI. Special Recognition

- A. Shaelene shared that the Eastern Region Alliance, the collaboration between the four developmental disability boards in the region, received the *Focus St. Louis "What's Right With the Region" Award* for accessibility and inclusion and shared video from the ceremony.

VII. Board Consent Agenda Items: Cynthia Mueller, Chairperson

- A. All matters listed within the Consent Agenda have been distributed to each member of the Board with no separate discussion. If a separate discussion is desired, that item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda by request of a board member.
1. Approval of the minutes of March 12, 2026 DD Resources Board Meeting
 2. Approval of the minutes of March 26, 2026 Program Committee Meeting
 3. Approval of the minutes of April 30, 2026 Executive Committee Meeting
 4. Approval of the minutes of May 7, 2026 Program Committee Meeting
 - **Patrick Brennan moved to approve the board consent agenda items**
Sarah Sims seconded the motion.
All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.

VIII. Executive Director's Report: Shaelene Plank

- A. Shaelene welcomed new staff member Mason Witte and new Board Member Mike Fitzgerald.

B. Agency Relations/ Eastern Region Alliance

1. Agency Relations wrapped up the FY27 funding cycle in March.
 - We received many strong applications to renew funding and for new programs;
 - ◆ The total amount requested far exceeded our budget.
 - ◆ Pending board approval, the FY27 program budget is \$7,654,593.48.
 - ◆ We are expanding our portfolio with 3 new projects, bringing the total to 81 programs from 43 organizations.
 - ◆ Within that budget is:
 - \$1.4 million to support employment services
 - \$2.1 million for community living services
 - \$300,000 for professional services (ex, counseling, adaptive equipment)
 - \$1.2 million for community integration services
 - \$2.6 million for support systems (ex. family support, respite)
 - \$38,000 for agency support (ex. capital and one-time projects)

C. TCM

1. The TCM Department has officially launched the SetWorks AI platform for all users
2. The Director of TCM continues to participate in the following DMH/MACDDS sustainability workgroups:
 - Medicaid
 - TCM Provider Administrative Efficiencies
 - TCM Support Monitoring
3. The TCM annual audit with The Columbus Group is scheduled for June 8th-10th at the DD Resources Office.
 - We expect that there will be more scrutiny of TCM documentation and billing as the Governor has made it a priority to identify fraud, waste and abuse for Medicaid services.
4. The TCM contract has been extended again with an end date of 6/30/26. The new contract is back from procurement and will hopefully be sent to us for review soon. DMH states that they anticipate it being ready by 7/1/26 and that we will not have to be given another extension.

D. Legislative Updates

1. Shaelene shared Legislative updates impacting tax revenue and funding

- MACDDS has been working with their lobbyist to advance a bill that would allow us to ask voters to approve a sales tax for DD boards if we experience a cut to revenue through property taxes. Rep. Hausman filed sales tax authority legislation (HB 3467). It passed out of the House Local Government Committee 16-0.
 - ◆ The key change is that the sales tax can go on the ballot only if there has been a decrease in property tax collections.
 - ◆ The bill passed out of the House Rules - Legislative Committee.
 - ◆ They are working with our sponsor to find other bills with similar topics moving through the legislature onto which we could try to amend our language.
- SB 1410 appears to be the vehicle for property taxes now that the Senate has taken a position on what changes they would like to make regarding property taxes.
 - ◆ proposes to silo property taxes
- HB 2944 is the senior citizen property tax credit change.
 - ◆ Currently, DD Resources is not impacted by the senior property tax credit freeze. This new bill changes that and we would have to be included.
 - ◆ Our assessor has told us that this would have about a \$43,000 impact on us.
- The State budget has been sent to the governor's desk.
 - ◆ The conference committee decided to compromise on waiver slots at 50. Originally, we thought we might get 100, but now we're going to get 50.
 - ◆ Self-directed supports and DayHab line items were not in conference and remain funded heading to the governor's desk.
 - The governor had originally made those budget cuts and he can do line item vetoes.
- House Bill 1827 adds licensed occupational therapists to the definition of other authorized health care practitioners for the purposes of physician statements required for disabled license plates and placards.
- Income Tax Elimination
 - ◆ House joint resolutions seeking voter approval to eliminate the income tax were combined into House Joint Resolution 173.
 - If passed at the ballot, it would require the legislature to pass a proposal to reduce and eliminate the state income tax.
 - It allows the legislature to offset income tax cuts with an expansion in the sales tax base.
 - The legislation also requires a one-time decrease by local tax entities receiving any sales tax increases due to an expansion of the base.

E. Board Membership

- This will be Cindy's last board meeting.
- Nina North-Murphy has agreed to be the Chairman of the Board June 2026- October 2027.
- Sarah Sims will assume the role of Secretary when Nina becomes Chair, and beginning in November 2027, she has agreed to serve as Chairman of the Board.
- The Nominating/Personnel Committee will review all of this information at their next meeting in May, and this new slate of officers will be presented to the full board in June.
- Mike Fitzgerald will be filling the board vacancy for Sherry Wibbenmeyer and should be approved by the mayor for the June board meeting.
- We are still looking for someone to fill the vacancy left by Cindy.

F. Board Assessment

- Shaelene reviewed the results of the board assessment.

IX. Committee Reports:

A. Finance Committee: Pat Brennan

1. Review and recommendation to approve February and March 2026 financials, Lisa Briggs, Director of Finance
 - Lisa Briggs reviewed the March Financials.
 - ◆ Total funds of approximately \$18.6 million as of March 31
 - ◆ Non TCM revenue is almost \$9.4 million and the TCM revenue is just over 1.4 million.

- ◆ Revenue is exceeding budget expectations, and Expenses are under budget

- **Catrina Adams moved to approve the February and March financials.**
Sarah Sims seconded the motion.
All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.

B. Program Committee: Cynthia Mueller

1. Review and recommendation to approve FY27 partner agency budget, Nate Head, Director of Agency & Community Relations
 - The committee met in March and May.
 - Nate gave a summary to the board of the FY27 program portfolio and budget.
 - ◆ Renewal of currently funded projects.
 - 65 programs are recommended with no major changes
 - 10 programs recommended for reduced funding
 - 8 programs recommended for increased funding
 - ◆ New Initiatives Highlighted
 - Hyde Park Housing Case Management
 - This position provides housing case management and support services for the 15 residents at Hyde Park's site.
 - Committee is recommending funding for one more year.
 - Bridges "SHADE" program (relationship & safety education)
 - This equips caregivers and professionals with the tools necessary to support individuals with developmental disability in developing and maintaining healthy relationships. The program teaches individuals with IDD abuse prevention skills and about sexual health.
 - Southside Early Childhood Center coordination program
 - This funding supports a full-time early intervention coordinator serving as the central point of connection between children, families, educators, and community-based service providers at its two early learning sites, Jefferson Campus and Campus at KIPP.
 - **Patrick Brennan moved to approve the total recommended FY27 program budget of \$7,654,593.48.**
Sarah Sims seconded the motion.
All voted in favor. None opposed.
Motion passed.

C. Executive Committee: Cynthia Mueller

1. The Executive Committee met on April 30th. During the meeting, the Committee:
 - Reviewed the proposed update to the Board Performance Policy, which includes restrictions on the use of public artificial intelligence tools.
 - ◆ Under the update, Board members are prohibited from using public AI tools for DD Resources business.
 - Reviewed the results of the Board assessment.
 - Reviewed the minutes from the Board strategy scenario planning meeting held on April 24 and the resulting strategic plan..

X. Unfinished Business: none

XI. New Business:

A. Additional Funding Request – Easterseals Supported Employment Program

1. Shaelene Plank, Executive Director, presented a request from Easterseals for additional funding to support its Supported Employment program.

- Easterseals requested an additional 300 units for their supported employment program, totaling \$17,988, to meet increased demand and continue services for individuals currently receiving support.
 - ◆ So far this year, they have served 21 individuals.
 - ◆ They've had three new placements move into DDR supported employment for long term follow along, with Voc rehab case closed and two individuals who have moved to St. Louis City and transition to DDR funding.
 - ◆ Without the additional units, they're not able to support all of the individuals through the end of the fiscal year.
- Staff confirmed that sufficient funds are available and that approval would not require use of contingency funds.
 - **Sarah Sims moved to approve the additional funding request for Easterseals' Supported Employment program in the amount of \$17,988.**
 - Catrina Adams seconded the motion.**
 - All voted in favor. None opposed.**
 - Motion passed.**

B. Approval of the minutes from the April 24, 2026 Board Strategy Session, Shaelene Plank, Executive Director

1. Shaelene Plank reviewed the purpose and outcomes of the April 24, 2026 Board Strategy Session.
 - The session's purpose was to set explicit boundaries around financial risk, priorities and strategic intent.
 - Board members present at the strategy session were empowered to make decisions on behalf of the board with outcomes to be shared with the full board tonight for approval.
 - ◆ The four required outcomes for that session were:
 1. **Establish a maximum acceptable local subsidy for targeted case management**
 2. **Identify which services are protected versus conditional if our levy revenue declines**
 3. **Adopt a board definition of our restricted housing funds,**
 4. **Clarify board goals, role, and risk tolerance for IDD housing in the city of St. Louis**
2. The minutes of the session were presented for Board consideration.
 - **Patrick Brennan moved to approve the minutes of the April 24th board strategy session**
 - Sarah Sims seconded the motion.**
 - All voted in favor. None opposed.**
 - Motion passed.**

C. Approval of DD Resources' Strategic Plan for July 2026-December 2027, Shaelene Plank, Executive Director

1. Shaelene Plank presented the proposed DD Resources Strategic Plan for July 2026 through December 2027.
 - The plan reflects the Board's guidance from the April 24 strategy session and establishes clear strategic intent, outcomes, and governance parameters for the 18-month period.
 - The plan outlines four strategic initiatives based on the four outcomes:
 - 1) **Targeted Case Management sustainability and redesign**
 - **Strategic Intent:** Preserve access to high quality mission aligned targeted case management while defining and containing DD Resources long term financial exposure to a structurally underfunded Medicaid program.
 - **Intended Outcome:** TCM remains viable, transparent and aligned with board defined risk tolerance with clear triggers for future decisions.
 - 2) **Levy risk preparedness and service prioritization**
 - **Strategic intent:** Ensure continuity of statutorily critical services and preserve public trust in the event of levy revenue decline while avoiding reactive across the board reductions.
 - **Intended Outcome:** DD Resources is prepared to respond decisively and transparently to revenue volatility without compromising statutory obligations or essential mission functions.
 - 3) **Housing strategy with defined governance guardrails**

- **Strategic intent:** Advance accessible housing opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities while clearly defining DD Resources role, financial boundaries, and risk tolerance.
- **Intended Outcome:** DD Resources contributes meaningfully to housing solutions without assuming unsustainable financial or operational obligations.

4) System leadership, collaboration, and advocacy

- **Strategic intent:** leverage DD Resources financial position, credibility, and convening power to influence systems level improvements beyond direct service funding.
 - **Intended Outcome:** DD Resources strengthens the broader IDD system while remaining disciplined about its unique role and responsibilities.
- In conclusion, over the next 18 months, DDR will focus on protecting core services, managing known financial risks, and exercising disciplined system leadership. These initiatives reflect the board's commitment to thoughtful stewardship, proactive governance, and long-term sustainability, positioning DD Resources to navigate uncertainty while continuing to serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities with integrity and purpose.

➤ **Patrick Brennan moved to approve the DD Resources Strategic Plan for July 2026–December 2027.**

Sarah Sims seconded the motion.

All voted in favor. None opposed.

Motion passed.

XII. Announcements: none

XIII. Call for motion to Adjourn

➤ **Catrina Adams moved to adjourn the general board meeting.**

Sarah Sims seconded the motion.

All voted in favor. None opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Nina North Murphy

[Nina North Murphy \(Jun 16, 2026 13:16:03 CDT\)](#)

Nina North Murphy, Secretary

06/16/2026

Date Approved