



Contact James Dickman
From Sandusky County Board of DD
Phone 419 332 9296 ext. 123
Email jdickman@scbdd.org
Website www.scbdd.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 23, 2019

SANDUSKY COUNTY BUDGET COMMISSION VOTES TO UPHOLD VOTER APPROVED FUNDING FOR SANDUSKY COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

After a thorough review of fiscal resources, the Sandusky County Budget Commission voted unanimously on Monday, September 23 to sustain voter-approved levy funding for services and supports provided by the Sandusky County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Initially citing concerns of an “inappropriate amount of budget reserve,” the Budget Commission requested a public hearing to vote on potentially changing future funding of the County Board of DD. Instead, the Budget Commission will continue to monitor the Boards budget reserve.

“On behalf of SCBDD and the individuals and families we serve, I am grateful the Budget Commission took the time to carefully consider our evidence and reasoning for maintaining our reserve and carryover funds at this time,” said Sandusky County Board of DD Superintendent Sarah Zimmerman. *“Ongoing stability for SCBDD services and supports relies on our long-term forecasting, close monitoring, and understanding of changing dynamics and needs locally, at the state, and at the federal level. We thank the Budget Commission for their continued support of our DD services and funding,”* she said.

The Sandusky County Board of DD met with members of the Budget Commission in June and again in August of this year to present evidence in support of the preservation of their existing budget reserve. According to Zimmerman, despite their reserves, the Sandusky County Board of DD evidenced a 7-year forecast of their cash balance which projects a 44% decrease in cash reserves in the next 5-years. This due to an increase demand for services, the number of people needing services and supports, and rising costs.

“We are proud of the fact that we have been excellent stewards of the public trust and taxpayer dollars,” said Superintendent Zimmerman. *“At the end of the day, we remain the only social service agency statutorily required to support the needs of individuals with disabilities, for a lifetime. Our reserve account provides us the stability to respond to sudden, short-term service demands, to inevitable cost increases, and uncertainty. Again, we appreciate the time, attention, and consideration of the Budget Commission on this issue”* she said.