

**MINUTES**  
**BRADD BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**January 28, 2026**

**TIME & PLACE:**

The Barren River Area Development District Board of Directors met at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at the BRADD Conference Center. Due to the weather, some members also participated virtually, via Zoom.

Vice Chair Billy Phelps called the meeting to order.

Judge/Executive Mason Barnes led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

**ATTENDANCE:**

It was determined a quorum was present. (See attached attendance record).

**MINUTES:**

With no corrections or additions, the minutes of the December 17, 2025 meeting were approved as emailed. (See attached)

**Motion was made by Judge/Executive Doug Gorman, seconded by Mr. Lanny White to approve the December 17, 2025 board minutes as emailed. Motion carried.**

**GUEST SPEAKERS:**

Chairman Choate introduced BRADD Auditor, Ms. Jennifer O'Connor, of Carr, Riggs and Ingram. Ms. O'Connor spoke about the audit delay, with the Federal Office of Management and Budgets (OMB) delaying release of a compliance supplement for single audits, related to the government shutdown. Ms. O'Connor informed the BRADDs audit letter disclosed no internal control findings. The independent auditors report included an unmodified opinion, as a result of no audit findings. Ms. O'Connor commended the BRADD staff for sound fiscal responsibility.

Vice Chair Phelps introduced BRADD staff Ms. Alecia Johnson and Mrs. Hollie Smith, presenting the Aging Area Plan. Ms. Johnson began by sharing an overview and purpose of the plan which sets a clear framework of goals and objectives to

meet the needs of the population served, while following the BRADD mission and vision. A graphic was provided containing funding sources spanning, federal, state, regional (ADDs), and local sources. Ms. Hollie Smith reviewed the needs assessment which is used to determine what the needs are and how best to use the funds to address them. It was determined the top three needs include, information and assistance, independent living and mental health. Ms. Smith noted, additional gaps include transportation and housing needs as well as employment opportunities for older adults. Ms. Smith discussed the five goals set in place to help address these areas. Ms. Smith informed a copy of the final Area Aging Plan can be accessed on the BRADD website after DAIL approval.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Executive Council Reports:**

#### **1. Clearinghouse Projects**

Vice Chair Phelps called on Mayor Mike Hughes who reported the BRADD Executive Council met prior to the board meeting and considered seven regional clearinghouse projects. A project description is included in the member packet. Upon review the Executive Council recommended approval.

**Motion: Mayor Mike Hughes made a motion to approve the seven regional clearinghouse projects as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Thurmond. Motion carried. (See attached)**

#### **2. FY 25 Audit**

Vice Chair Phelps called on Judge/Executive Doug Gorman, who reported the Executive Council met prior to the board meeting and reviewed the fiscal year 2025 audit. Ms. Jennifer O'Connor of CRI also provided an overview earlier in this meeting. The Council recommended approval.

**Motion: Judge/Executive Doug Gorman made a motion to approve the FY 25 audit as presented. The motion was seconded by Judge/Executive Mason Barnes. Motion carried. (See attached)**

#### **3. FY 26 Quarter Two Financials**

Vice Chair Phelps called on Mr. Steve Thurmond who reported the members packet contains a copy of the FY 26 financial report for the second quarter ending December 31, 2025. In revenue, BRADD has recognized approximately \$16.8

million. This represents 53 percent of the annual revenue budgeted. In expenditures, approximately \$15.8 million has been spent for the same period. This represents 52 percent of the annual expenditures budgeted.

**Motion: Mr. Steve Thurmond made a motion to approve the FY 26 quarter two financials as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Mike Hughes. Motion carried. (See attached)**

#### **4. Directors Report**

Vice Chair Phelps called on Mr. Eric Sexton, Executive Director who informed Ms. Chelsea Ennis transitioned roles from Case Manager to Senior Center Coordinator. Mr. Sexton recognized three staff one-year anniversaries, Mrs. Paige Hadden, Ms. Chandi Tanner and Mr. Julien Hodge. Mr. Sexton extended thanks to the BRADD Auditors and Finance team on a job well done. He encouraged members to take a BRADD pet calendar located at the sign in table. Mr. Sexton asked members to complete the annual conflict of interest forms and return them to Caleb. Mr. Sexton also thanked Emily Hathcock for her service to BRADD and wished her well in her new endeavor representing Kentucky with the Economic Development Administration (EDA). Mr. Sexton informed the next BRADD Board Meeting would be held March 22, 2026 at the BRADD Office.

#### **REPORTS:**

##### **Aging Council**

Vice Chair Phelps called on Mr. Jesse Varner, Aging Council Chairman, who reported, The BRADD Aging Council met on Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> with a presentation and update on senior centers. BRADD staff discussed recent holiday donation events that helped meet the needs of elderly citizens across the region. Following the council meeting, a public hearing was held to review and make comments on the Aging Services Area Plan. Mr. Varner informed, the next Aging Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 10am in the BRADD Conference Center.

##### **Waiver Services**

Vice Chair Phelps called on Mrs. Ashley Mehmedovic, Director of Waiver, who reported the members packet contains a copy of the FY 25 waiver services payroll impact for each of the BRADD Counties. She described the report's outline of the number of clients served in each county and corresponding payroll total and payroll tax. In summary, a total of \$20 million in payroll was

generated serving 710 clients with over \$300 thousand returned locally in payroll tax dollars across the District.

### **Community & Economic Development**

Chairman Choate called on Ms. Emily Hathcock, CED Director, who reported the members packet contains a project impact report. Ms. Hathcock also reported her resignation with BRADD effective January 30, 2026. She further spoke about projects completed and services rendered during her time at BRADD over almost eight years. She spoke specifically about each county and the various projects accomplished.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **ADJOURN**

**With no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Steve Thurmond and seconded by Mayor Mike Hughes to adjourn.**



Signed, Chairman



Approved, Secretary