



Cuyahoga County Diversion Center Board Meeting

Thursday, February 22, 2024 --- 3:00-4:30 pm

Administrative Headquarters Conference Room 8-007

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Vice Chairperson Crystal Bryant called the meeting to order.

2. ROLL CALL

A. Director of Public Safety and Justice Services, Brandy Carney conducted a roll call for all board members. In addition to Director Carney and Vice Chairperson Bryant, Board Members William Mason, Donna Weinberger, Dornat Drummond, Joan Englund and Christine Julian were present. Dr. Ted Parran was not in attendance.

B. A quorum was established.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Larry Heller and Rosie Palfy offered public comment.

4. VOTING ITEMS

A. Approval of Minutes – 9/7/2023

- a) The minutes from the previous meeting held on September 7, 2023 were presented by Vice Chairperson Bryant. No corrections or amendments were proposed. Director Carney moved to approve the minutes as presented. Board Member Donna Weinberger seconded the motion. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved unanimously.

5. METRICS OVERVIEW AND DISCUSSION

A. Clare Rosser, Chief Strategy and Performance Officer for the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County, presented an overview of the Diversion Center metrics. These metrics covered the period from January 01, 2023 through December 31, 2023. The metrics encompassed the performance of the call center, the Diversion Center operations, and Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training data.

6. Significant discussion ensued regarding CIT. Board Member Dornat Drummond noted that all Cleveland police officers receive baseline CIT training, while officers interested in further training can volunteer for the full 40-hour CIT course. Both Drummond and Ms. Rosser noted that roll calls have been well received both in Cleveland and in other cities. Rosser noted that data

suggests that police calls to Frontline for Diversion Center screening are lower than they were in previous reporting periods, but there are fewer denials, suggesting calls are more appropriate.

7. OLD/NEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- A. *Community Input Committee Report*- Larry Heller presented a document entitled “Community Input Recommendations”. Although the document has been presented to the Board at previous meetings, he noted the addition of Item 7, which requests that all recommendations made by the Community Input Committee be included in the minutes of the Diversion Board meeting, and that the committee be included in the agenda for each meeting.

In response to the document presented by Mr. Heller, Board Member Drummond offered that arrests made by Cleveland police have been declining, but Cleveland police cannot control the fact that some people are arrested on warrants not issued by Cleveland. Additionally, some individuals who are accused of and charged with crimes are never booked into the jail, rather they are given a summons to report to court.

- B. *Current Diversion Contract Update*- Director Carney updated the Board that Cuyahoga County amended the existing contract with the ADAMHS Board. ADAMHS Board provides CIT training and subcontracts with Oriana House for Diversion Center operations, and Frontline Services for the screening hotline. The amendment included a 30% increase in costs and will continue services through 2024.
- C. *Future Diversion Center Planning* – Director Carney discussed her approach to ongoing Diversion Center planning. This may include the creation of an ad hoc group that can develop specifications for 2024 and beyond, but will also vary based on ongoing discussions with ADAMHS, MetroHealth, and others relative to the planned Crisis Center and the County’s planned campus model for the County Jail.

Significant discussion ensued regarding the planned Crisis Center and its relationship to the Diversion Center. Cuyahoga County, the ADAMHS Board and MetroHealth have been in discussions for several months to determine the best path forward. Cuyahoga County also has been exploring additional opportunities for partnership with the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas for diversion usage by pre-trial and/or probation services. Such planning efforts will be the focus of the Board in 2024.

- D. *Membership, Chair, Board Support*- Director Carney announced that Chairperson Akram Boutros resigned from the committee. A new appointment will be pursued. Additionally, Vice Chair Bryant’s term is set to expire soon. Elections for leadership will follow. Finally, Director Carney noted that Program Specialist Jakolya Gordon, whom had been providing board support, had moved to a new role within the County and would no longer be working on Diversion activities.
- E. *Other*- No additional items were discussed.

7. ADJOURNMENT