



Cuyahoga County Diversion Center Board Meeting

August 15, 2024 --- 3:00-4:30 pm

Administrative Headquarters Conference Room 8-007

1. CALL TO ORDER

Director of Public Safety and Justice Services Brandy Carney called the meeting to order. She recognized several new board members including Judge Donna Congeni Fitzsimmons (Rocky River Municipal Court, retired), Chief Annie Todd (City of Cleveland Division of Police), and Chief Calvin Williams (City of Richmond Heights Police).

2. ROLL CALL

Director Carney conducted a roll call for all board members. In addition to Director Carney, Board Members Judge Donna Congeni Fitzsimmons, Chief Annie Todd, Donna Weinberger, Chief Calvin Williams were present.

A quorum was established.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Judge David Matia offered public comment in support of the Diversion Center allowing admission of defendants whose cases were in front of Cuyahoga County courts, regardless of where they live. This would allow out-of-county individuals to access services at the Diversion Center. Upon this public comment, Board Member Chief Calvin Williams made a motion to amend admission policies to include those referred by courts in Cuyahoga County, regardless of the residency of the defendant. Judge Donna Congeni Fitzsimmons seconded the motion. A vote was held and the motion carried.

Rosie Palfy offered public comment. She welcomed the new board members and requested adding board members with lived experience. She requested quarterly meetings of the Board, and noted that Cleveland should not have more than one board member.

4. VOTING ITEMS

A. Approval of Minutes – 5/2/2024

The minutes from the previous meeting held on May 2, 2024 were presented for review. No corrections or amendments were proposed. Brandy Carney moved to approve the minutes as presented. Donna Weinberger seconded the motion. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved unanimously.

5. METRICS OVERVIEW AND DISCUSSION

Rick Oliver, Allyse Hawkins and Dr. Megan Testa provided a presentation on lessons learned from Diversion Center operations and the call-in helpline. The presentation included service numbers to date, trends in demographics, and overall themes. Some of the themes included the realization that the client population has tended towards a dual diagnosis, despite having been developed primarily as a substance use treatment facility. This has led to the need to adjust treatment approaches over time. Additionally, staffing models and needs have changed as the client population has become more fully developed. The Diversion Center team has remained flexible and has adapted along the way to become a reliable facility where same day help can be accessed by people seeking support.

6. OLD/NEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- A. *Community Input Committee Report*- Mr. Larry Heller was not present to provide an update. However he sent handouts, which were provided for the Board members.
- B. *Discussion*- Scott Osiecki from the ADAMHS Board provided a brief update on the planned Crisis Center. The Crisis Center will be operated by the Centers. The Centers recently purchased property on the site of the now closed St. Vincent's Medical Center. Stakeholders are currently planning for the services that will be included on site. Current proposals include providing detoxification services on site. Brandy Carney provided an overview of the status of the planned Behavioral Care Center on the site of the new jail. Additional updates will be provided on an ongoing basis.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in November and notice will be sent.

8. ADJOURNMENT