



## **Cuyahoga County Diversion Center Board Meeting**

**December 3, 2024 --- 3:00-4:30 pm**

**Administrative Headquarters Conference Room 5-006**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Deputy Director of Public Safety and Justice Services Jill Smialek called the meeting to order. She explained that Director Brandy Carney was providing testimony before the Cuyahoga County Council regarding the Diversion Center and was unavailable for the meeting.

### **2. ROLL CALL**

Smialek conducted a roll call for all board members. Board Members Joan Englund, Judge Donna Congeni Fitzsimmons, Chris Julian, Dr. Ted Parran, Chief Annie Todd, Donna Weinberger, and Chief Calvin Williams were present.

A quorum was established.

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Larry Heller signed in for public comment but deferred his comments until the Community Input Committee Report later in the agenda.

### **4. VOTING ITEMS**

A. Approval of Minutes – 08/15/2024

The minutes from the previous meeting held on August 15, 2024 were presented for review. No corrections or amendments were proposed. Chief Calvin Williams moved to approve the minutes as presented. Judge Donna Congeni-Fitzsimmons seconded the motion. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved unanimously.

### **5. OLD BUSINESS**

Clare Rosser from the Cuyahoga County ADAMHS Board presented data and information on the Diversion Center operations, the call-in helpline and CIT training. Discussion ensued with particular emphasis on intake procedures and information on law enforcement referrals. Board Members requested data and information on individuals taken to the Diversion Center by law enforcement who leave upon drop off, but return later on their own. This could be a new way to frame success, particularly for law enforcement officers who may be hesitant to use the Diversion Center. Personnel from the Diversion Center will review information to present at the next meeting. The final point of discussion for this item was related to staffing difficulties at the Diversion Center. The field of behavioral health in general has seen a great deal of turnover and this has impacted Diversion, too.

However, the Diversion Center has improved retention of nurses recently, resulting in less reliance on temporary agency staffing.

#### **6. OLD/NEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

- A. *Community Input Committee Report*- Mr. Larry Heller presented to the Board Members from the community perspective. He continued to support the use of the Diversion Center and invited Board Members to speak with him directly if there were any items or questions they had that required community input.
- B. *Diversion Center Contract Amendment Status*- The contract amendment for 2025-2026 was simultaneously being reviewed by the Cuyahoga County Council Committee of the Whole and passage was expected later that day. Director Carney was not present at the board meeting because she was attending the Committee of the Whole meeting.
- C. *Discussion*- Director Scott Osiecki from the ADAMHS Board, Director Eric Morse from the Centers, and Smialek provided an 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. As plans for the Crisis Center proceed, members of the Diversion Board will be provided with updates and opportunities for input, as the opening of the Crisis Center will impact the future of the Diversion Center.

#### **7. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held in February 2025.

#### **8. ADJOURNMENT**