



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

**February 27, 2025 -- 3:00-4:30 pm**

### **MINUTES**

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

Director of Public Safety and Justice Services Brandy Carney called the meeting to order.

#### **2. ROLL CALL**

Carney conducted a roll call for all board members. Brandy Carney, Chris Julian, Dr. Ted Parran, Donna Weinberger and Chief Calvin Williams were present.

A quorum was established.

#### **3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Larry Heller signed in for public comment and provided remarks on his support for the Diversion Center. He referenced the SAMSHA Sequential Intercept Model and provided information on how the Diversion Center supports community wide crisis response. In response, Cuyahoga County's Justice and Healthy Equity Officer Laurel Diaz noted Cuyahoga County's commitment to creating equitable programs that focus on treatment, housing and re-entry.

#### **4. VOTING ITEMS**

- A. *Approval of Minutes from December 3, 2024*- The minutes from the previous meeting held on December 3, 2024 were presented for review. No corrections or amendments were proposed. Dr. Parran moved to approve the minutes as presented. Weinberger seconded the motion. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved unanimously.
- B. *Membership / Appointment of Chairperson*- Carney discussed that efforts were underway to fill the remaining vacancy on the Board. Additionally, she nominated Weinberger to become the Chairperson of the Board. After brief discussion, Carney moved for a vote to confirm Weinberger as Chairperson. Julian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously and Weinberger will assume the role of Chairperson effective immediately.

Carney expressed interest in revising the bylaws to permit alternates to attend when Board Members are unavailable. The bylaws will be reviewed at the May 2025 meeting.

#### **5. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. *Diversion Center Performance Metrics*
  - a. **2024 Year End**- Dr. Megan Testa and Allyse Hawkins from Oriana House presented data and information on the Diversion Center operations, the call-in helpline and CIT

training. Discussion ensued with particular emphasis on a drop in law enforcement calls to the helpline. Both Frontline and Oriana House believe the decline is due to individuals and families calling for themselves rather than relying on first responders. Carney commented that CIT training saw a marked increase in participation and that is believed to be attributed to opening availability to partner agencies such as the Downtown Cleveland Alliance.

- b. Repeat Clients & Success Stories-** At the December 2024 meeting, 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. Dr. Testa and Hawkins presented several success stories. Board Members discussed each scenario and emphasized concerns around Medicaid eligibility /billing and staffing challenges. Chief Williams requested that these success stories be shared with police chiefs. Carney indicated she would facilitate a presentation at an upcoming meeting of the countywide police chief's association.

- B. Evaluation Update-* Michelle Riske-Morris of Case Western Reserve's Begun Center for Violence Education, Prevention and Research presented information on their efforts to evaluate the effectiveness of the Diversion Center. She outlined the various data points that were under review, presented a timeline, and laid out plans for focus groups and client interviews.

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

- A. Community Input Committee Report-* 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. He is willing to survey community members as needed.
- B. Crisis Center Update and Discussion-* Eric Morse, CEO of The Centers, updated the Diversion Board on Crisis Center plans and progress. He introduced a new project manager, Brian Tilow. Morse presented the current floor plans and noted that the Crisis Center will feature urgent care, pharmacy, detoxification, long term, outpatient, integrated care, case management and counseling services. Discussion ensued among Board members and additional presentations will be made at future meetings as plans progress.

## **7. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on May 29, 2025.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**