

**Cuyahoga County Diversion Center Board Meeting  
December 4, 2025, Meeting Minutes**



**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chair Donna Weinberger called the meeting to order.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Roll call was conducted: Brandy Carney, Joan Englund, Judge Donna Congeni Fitzsimmons, Dr. Ted Parran, Chief Annie Todd, Donna Weinberger, Chief Calvin Williams were present. A quorum was established.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Larry Heller signed in for public comment and provided remarks on his support for the Diversion Center. Since announcing new crisis center, he has been receiving questions from community about differences and need for new facility. Larry referred to the results from a prior survey his group produced and hopes community stakeholders are involved in planning efforts of new crisis center. He asked about eliminating the 24-hour rule which states people who leave the Center must wait 24 hours before they can be re-admitted.

**4. VOTING ITEMS**

- A. *Approval of Minutes from May 29, 2025*- The minutes from the 5/29/25 meeting were presented for review. No corrections or amendments were proposed. Dr. Parran moved to approve the minutes as presented. Chief Todd seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- B. *Approval of Minutes from August 14, 2025*- The minutes from the 8/14/25 meeting were presented for review. No corrections or amendments were proposed. Carney moved to approve the minutes as presented. Judge Fitzsimmons seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. *Diversion Center Performance Metrics*- Clare Rosser from the Cuyahoga County ADAMHS Board introduced the new ADAMHS Board CEO Jason Joyce. Jason shared his background (previously with Hitchcock Center for Women, Recovery Resources, and several other behavioral health centers).

Clare then presented 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter data.

- FrontLine received 579 calls for Diversion Center eligibility in July-September.
  - 533 from agencies/self/family
  - 46 from law enforcement
- The Diversion Center had 239 intakes between July-September.
- Since inception (2021)
  - 49% patients left against medical advice
  - 45% successfully completed the program
  - 5% transferred for health reasons
  - 2% involuntarily discharged for rules violations
- 157 law enforcement officers trained in CIT since beginning of 2025

Brandy Carney asked about the patients transferred for health reasons. Allyse Hawkins stated they needed a higher level of medical care than what is provided at Diversion Center. These clients are sent to an emergency room for medical clearance. If they receive clearance from the hospital, they can come back to Diversion to receive appropriate treatment.

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- B. *Evaluation Update*- Karen Flynn 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. They will provide a final report by December 31 and expect to give a presentation at the March 2026 Diversion Board meeting.

Brandy Carney explained Case Western University will also begin mapping the crisis continuum to identify any gaps in crisis services. Jason Joyce added that the ADAMHS Board will also be conducting a full evaluation of their providers in 2027. These projects will complement each other.

- C. *Annual Report Update*- John O'Donnell from PSJS provided an update on annual reporting requirement. Using ADAMHS Board's monthly reports, PSJS will compile an annual report. A draft version was shared in the meeting and members had discussions on info to include. Final report will be shared at the March 2026 meeting.

Allyse Hawkins shared the Diversion Center received the Partner of the Year Award from Greater Cleveland RTA and was presented at RTA's Annual Gala.

Allyse also shared they have had trouble with placing non-English speaking clients with neighborhood agencies. A lot of smaller agencies do not have funds to provide interpreting services, and they struggle to place non-English speakers, including ASL/hard of hearing clients. Brandy Carney said the County would follow up after the meeting to discuss further and try to identify solutions.

Jim Lawrence from Orianna House provided an overview of a story that has made the local news regarding mold/unhealthy environment in the Diversion Center. Two staff members initially raised concerns about carbon monoxide inside the facility. Cleveland Fire, Cleveland Public Health, and OSHA conducted on-site inspections and results indicated the building had no issues with carbon monoxide. The staff members then made complaints about mold within the facility. Orianna House brought in an environmental services company to conduct air sampling and test for mold. The tests showed no elevated levels of mold. Cleveland Public Health conducted several health inspections over multiple months, and the facility passed each time.

- D. *Crisis Center Update*- Eric Morse provided an update on the Crisis Center as construction and planning continues. Transition planning between Diversion Center and opening of Crisis Center continues with PSJS, Orianna House, and The Centers. The group discussed available beds once the new crisis facility is opened.

**6. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on March 12, 2026

**7. ADJOURNMENT**