

OHS Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2025

9:00am

Front Steps Housing & Services

Members Present: Bridget Gill for Dr Kate Nagel, Denise Casino for Barb Karam, Chris Knestrick, Jane Nichols for Dori Nolan, Kris Harsh, LeVine Ross for Yvonne Conwell, Liam Haggerty, Ronnie Simms for Ed Abshire, Allison Schaefer, Marcus Bell for Chamomile Hendricks, Marcus Harris, Eric Milkie, Jeanna Davis, Sherri Clancy, Mike Bernot, Beth Graham, Jacki Salter, Beau Hill, Elaine Gimmel, Mike Sering, Raymond Mills, Loh, Stephanie Thomas

Members Absent: Beverly Torres, Michiel Wackers, Shajuana Gaston, Marcia Zashin, Kellie Glenn, Eric Milkie, Karen McHenry, Linda Uveges, Christian Anderson

Others Present: Marcos Cortes, Erin Rearden, Allison Gill, Nick Butina, Luke Drotar, Christie Sozio, Sharon Parris, Dr Adrienne Hatten, Lonnie Williams, Kimberly Novak, Angela Glassco, Jennifer Harrison Chelsea Black, Ed Gernerchak, Anne Face, Jacquella Lattimore, Richaun Bunton, Spence Kline, Nikki Eggert, Steve Molnar, Kait McNeeley.

- I. Welcome and Opening Remarks
 - a. Elaine Gimmel welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:10am.
- II. Decision Issues
 - a. Approval of Advisory Board Minutes
 - i. Elaine presented the minutes from the 5/25/2025 Board meeting and asked for any discussion.
 - ii. Kris Harsh motioned to approve the minutes, Beth Graham seconded.
 - iii. All were in favor with no opposition or abstentions. Motion carries.
 - b. Approval of Board Members
 - i. Elaine presented board applicants Marcus Harris from Workforce Development and Jacki Salter, HSPA representative.
 - ii. Loh motioned to approve, Chris Knestrick seconded.
 - iii. All were in favor with no opposition or abstentions. Motion carries.
 - c. Approval of OHS Advisory Bd Bylaw changes
 - i. Nick Butina presented the suggested changes
 - ii. Elaine Gimmel motioned to approve, Allison Schaefer seconded.
 - iii. All were in favor with no opposition or abstentions. Motion carries.
 - d. Approval of PSH Transfer Policy
 - i. Matt White presented the policy. The associated forms referenced have not been finalized yet.
 - ii. Beth Graham motioned to approve, Mike Sering seconded.
 - iii. All were in favor with no opposition or abstentions. Motion carries
 - e. Approval of PPC Charter
 - i. Matt White presented the PPC Charter and quite a bit of discussion occurred.

- ii. The following items were brought up: Publish agenda ahead of time, length of time to participate on the committee, Number of members allowed on committee, designating a proxy, allowing for different levels of leadership on committee, ensuring representation from all sectors.
 - iii. Jacki Salter motioned to approve, Mike Sering seconded.
 - iv. Majority were in favor, no opposition but one abstention from Beth Graham. Motion carries.
 - f. Authorizing OHS Advisory Bd Chairs to send letter to HUD on behalf of Cuyahoga County's CoC recommending not to issues a new NOFO for FY25.
 - i. Elaine Gimmel presented
- III. HUD Updates (Howard Burchman)
 - a. FY 26 Appropriations Bill
 - i. President presented "skinny" budget which included:
 - ii. Folding tenant and project based rental assistance, public housing, and housing for persons with disabilities funding into a block grant. Reduce from FY25 budget by \$26billion.
 - iii. Eliminating CDBG and HOME from HUD budget and moving these types of programs to the states. This will reduce programs from FY25 budget by \$4.5bill
 - iv. Consolidating the Continuum of Care (CoC) and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) programs into a more targeted Emergency Solutions Grant program to make it time-limited (up to 24 months). Reduce by \$532million from FY25 budget.
 - v. The House Appropriations didn't uphold most of what was in the President's proposed budget. They did eliminate HOME funding due to having so much unspent HOME ARP dollars.
 - vi. The Senate Appropriations also did not uphold most of what the President proposed, and they put HOME funding back in the budget.
 - b. Potential NOFO Competition –
 - i. Howard reported that it was very likely there would be a new NOFO for FY 25 even though we did a 2 year NOFO last year.
 - ii. It is anticipated the administration's priorities would be included including changes to "housing first" and "harm reduction."
 - iii. Discussion occurred about the importance of advocacy with Congressional leaders and HUD to not have a new competition.
 - iv. Elaine Gimmel suggested our CoC write a letter to HUD asking to not have a FY 25 CoC NOFO competition.
 - v. Discussion occurred and it was decided that due to needing to submit a letter quickly, that the OHS Advisory Board chairs should send it on behalf of our CoC.
 - 1. Beth Graham made a motion to approve, Loh seconded.
 - 2. All were in favor with no opposition or abstentions. Motion carries.
- IV. FY 26 Appropriations Bill Advocacy (Elaine Gimmel)

- a. Discussion occurred about the importance of advocacy not only about the FY 26 Appropriations Bill but for the NOFO as well as many other important topics.
 - b. The county has convened a communications group to respond to issues as they arise.
 - c. The board discussed approaching all members of Congress- Democrat and Republican
 - d. We encouraged everyone to subscribe to listserves to keep up on the latest news coming through.
 - e. The group was encouraged to email, call and if possible, meet in person with reps.
- V. OHS Updates (Marcos Cortes)
 - a. Second interviews took place for OHS Director. The plan is to announce the Director in August.
 - b. Received approval to move office to a location off Community College Blvd. This should happen by end of July.
 - c. The county is working on their biennium budget
 - d. Seasonal Shelter RFP will close on 8/24/25. November 15th is the start of the season.
 - e. There will be an invite to subscribe to emails from the county coming out.
- VI. Governance Committee Updates (Nick Butina)
 - a. Nick to send Google Form link of committees to new Board members.
- VII. A Home for Every Neighbor update (Liam Haggerty)
 - a. Liam shared Lonnie Williams joined the city's case management team.
 - b. 20% of AH4EN will be moving to CoC scattered site subsidies
 - c. There will be a longer report available at the next mtg
 - d. The program will give their 1 year report to City Council in August.
- VIII. Initiative Reports
 - a. Ending Veteran Homelessness (EVH) April-June
 - i. Luke Drotar presented information.
 - ii. Members were given a report. The number of newly identified homeless Veterans is 69 and the number of Veterans entering permanent housing is 51.
 - iii. The number of long term homeless not in housing was 8.
 - b. Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)
 - i. Elaine presented information
 - ii. Members were given a report. RRH has reopened to single adults. WSCC and Univ Settlement are increasing case mgmt. services to meet the need. Permanent vouchers are also available to those who cannot sustain after the 12 months so we have transitioned families to these vouchers. We are seeing families return who have not been able to afford housing long term. Average time in location is 60 days. DV households 159 currently, regular RRH is 148 households.
 - c. Unsheltered Homelessness
 - i. Chris K presented.
- IX. Meeting adjourned at 10:45am.
- X. The next meeting of the OHS Advisory Board is September 18th.