

OHS Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2026

9:00am

ZOOM

Members Present: Denise Casino, Chris Knestrick, Jane Nichols for Dorivette Nolan, Liam Haggerty, Ed Abshire, Allison Schaefer, Chamomile Hendricks, Marcus Harris, Jerry Tucker for Ian Mussell, Kellie Glenn, Dennis Morton, Eric Milkie, Sherri Clancy, Mike Bernot, Jacqueline Salter, Beau Hill, Elaine Gimmel, Mike Sering, Latoyka Priester for Stephanie Thomas, Riesha Carlisle, Jacqueline Salter, Shajuana Gaston, Dr Adrienne Hatten, Morgan Bloodsmith.

Members Absent: Beverly Torres, Jeanna Davis, Kris Harsh, Dr. Kate Nagel, Leah Wallace, Yvonne Conwell, Marcia Zashin, Christian Anderson, Valeria Strange.

Others Present: Linda Uveges, Katura Pleasant, Rebecca Prather, Aida Idiaquez, Ed Gemerchak, Corrie Taylor, Brian Lutz, Danielle Cosgrove, Christina Palangio, Allison Gill, Christopher Murray, Christie Sozio, Samara McCullough, Kathy Harris, Anne Face, Prentis Jackson Jr., Madyson Radle, Jennifer Harrison, Mike Hahn, Nikki Eggert, Erin Kray, Chris Krueger, Jessica Sherwood, Howard Burchman, Amanda Larson, Nicholas Butina, LeVine Ross, Kevin Gowan, Freda Houchins, Fred Berry, Denise Caviness, and Meghan Scheck.

- I. Welcome and Opening Remarks
 - a. Chris Knestrick called the meeting to order at 9:04am. Elaine Gimmel took attendance to establish quorum. Quorum was reached.
 - b. Chris welcomed everyone including new Board members.
- II. Decision Issues (Chris Knestrick/Shajuana Gaston)
 - a. Approval of Tri-Chair: Elaine Gimmel
 - i. Chris presented Elaine Gimmel as the nominee from the governance committee to be the Tri-Chair.
 - ii. Jacqueline motioned to approve the nomination, Michael Sering seconded. All were in favor with no opposition, Elaine Gimmel abstained. Motion carries.
 - b. Approval of Advisory Board Minutes 11-20-2025
 - i. Chris presented the minutes. There were two corrections needed - Dr. Adrienne Hatten was present for the meeting and wanted that noted in the minutes. Michaela D'Alexandro was present for Jacqueline Salter.
 - ii. Allison Schaefer motioned to approve the minutes with the corrections, Mike Bernot seconded.
 - iii. All were in favor with no opposition. Jacqueline abstained. Motion carries.
 - c. Approval of Advisory Board Minutes 12-10-2025
 - i. Chris presented the minutes.

- ii. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Elaine Gimmel, seconded by Mike Bernot.
 - iii. All were in favor with no opposition or abstentions. Motion carries.
 - d. Approval of 2026 PIT/HIC Guidance (Nicholas Butina)
 - i. Nick summarized the PIT and HIC guidance document that outlines the process for conducting the PIT and HIC counts. This was provided via email to all members prior to the meeting.
 - ii. Questions from the audience regarding HIC are as follows:
 - 1. Nikki Eggert asked for clarification on the definition of “other permanent housing” in the document. Nick explained this is a project type in HMIS, but we do not currently have any housing stock under this type.
 - 2. Chamomile Hendricks wondered about the re-entry population counted in the HIC. Nick shared that this is HUD required data. Allison Gill confirmed that this is only homeless system data, so if there was a re-entry program that was serving homeless persons specifically then they would be included. LeVine and Chamomile agreed to be in contact regarding this, to try to capture this population in data.
 - iii. Nick then shifted to discussing the PIT count. There were no questions regarding PIT.
 - iv. Chris asked for a motion to accept the 2026 PIT and HIC guidance.
 - 1. Jacqueline motioned, Riesha Carlisle seconded.
 - 2. All were in favor with no opposition or abstentions. Motion carries.
- III. Federal updates on SNAP and Medicaid (Kevin Gowan)
 - a. Kevin shared a slide deck summarizing the changes to SNAP and Medicaid, which will be emailed after the meeting.
 - b. SNAP changes:
 - i. Expansion of work required population – age increased from 54 to 64. Must be able bodied, not pregnant, and not have a child under 14 (now defined as Able-Bodied Adults ABA). These individuals will be required to work 80 hours/month.
 - 1. Eliminating exemptions are homeless, veterans, and former foster youth
 - 2. Work includes paid employment and volunteer/community service (80 hours/month), in school at least half-time, and others. This will be fully implemented in March.
 - ii. 50% reduction in federal reimbursement of operating funds. Depending on how high the state error rate is, the state could be responsible for covering that amount of funding.
 - iii. Effective date is November 1, notices were issued 12/31/2025. On 1/26/2026 Ohio will publish the rules. March 2026 is the first month that is countable towards the time-limit for the impacted groups.
 - 1. 5,100 customers in Cuyahoga County will be impacted by the new guidelines for work requirement. They will receive another notice in February stating this.

- 2. One member asked if there is an exemption for those in SUD treatment, and there is.
 - iv. Kevin shared exemptions for groups age 60-64 as well as under 59 years.
 - v. Went over SNAP changes for non-citizens which was implemented November 1. Also provided Lawful Permanent Resident guidance.
 - 1. 4,200 people in Cuyahoga county were impacted by this and received notice that they would not get November benefits.
 - 2. Since October 1, over 2,070 residents have been reinstated which were wrongfully impacted.
 - 3. System update is expected in January, including policy clarification surrounding non-citizens and SNAP.
 - c. Medicaid
 - i. 380,000 people in Cuyahoga County currently on Medicaid
 - ii. Expansion population will have a 80 hours per month work requirement. (98,000 people in CC are in expansion population).
 - 1. Will be required to recertify every 6 months instead of once a year.
 - 2. 65,000 likely already meet the requirement or qualify for an exemption.
 - iii. Set to be effective Jan 1, 2027, but subject to change.
- IV. OHS Updates (LeVine Ross)
- a. NOFO update – while we have a little relief, we still need to keep planning for the 30% cap on PSH and moving towards a likely shift to more transitional housing.
 - b. MH and addiction support under SAMHSA was in line to get cut yesterday, totaling \$2 Billion and 2,000 projects. This was rescinded. LeVine encouraged any providers impacted by this to reach out to OHS.
 - i. Riesha shared that the Centers received notice today that 3 programs were cut, totaling \$1MIL. They did not get notice of this cut being rescinded.
 - c. Shelter RFQ – meeting scheduled after this to discuss timeline.
 - i. Ready to release within the next few weeks.
 - ii. Looking at shelter inventory, including one new building.
 - iii. Standardizing shelter standards and performance measures.
 - iv. In the future, all HHS contracts will contain some form of performance measures. This will be phased in.
- V. Seasonal Shelter updates (LeVine Ross)
- a. Metanoia opened up in November. Have been at capacity since December.
 - i. Metanoia is in need of food donations, if any organization can provide help, reach out to Kai.
 - b. Chris K shared that NEOCH has acquired a building in December with 40 beds, 12 different rooms, 8 bathrooms and opened January 1.
 - i. Prioritizing people who are in encampments and street homeless.
 - c. Chris asked about warming centers. Mike Hahn from the City Mission stated they offer overflow in both shelters.
- VI. Norma Herr updates (Elaine Gimmel)
- a. Elaine shared a PowerPoint with photos of the renovations.

- b. Work is focused on aligning the shelter with Goal 2 of CC’s Strategic Action Plan for Homelessness.
 - i. Norma Herr II will be non-congregate shelter.
 - ii. NH I will be partly non-congregate and have shared rooms of 2 persons.
 - iii. August 2026 for NH II completed and for renovations of NH I East building complete, 140 beds between both will be available.
 - iv. June 2027 NH I West renovations set to be complete – 62 beds.
- VII. 2025 NOFO Update (Howard Burchman)
 - a. HUD reinstated the FY 24 25 NOFO.
 - b. Only changes made were the application due date, now 2/9/2026.
 - c. Any grant that was funded by HUD in the 2024 competition should automatically renew, but it is likely we will have to submit something to HUD saying we intend to renew these.
 - d. No funds for bonus or new projects.
 - e. Expected when the 2026 NOFO comes out, there will likely be significant reallocation.
 - f. It remains HUD’s intent to move forward with the NOFO released at the end of 2025 to cap PSH at 30%.
 - g. Elaine encouraged everyone to target the Senate and House members to encourage them to take action to fund the renewal projects that were already approved in 2024.
- VIII. HMIS Updates (Nicholas Butina/Amanda Larson)
 - a. USHAP Universal Supportive Housing Application – training on 1/29/2026. Will go over the application and how to fill it out in HMIS. If you need the link to the training, email Nick or Amanda.
 - b. Outreach Module – Training
 - i. Amanda and Nick are going through additional training on this HMIS module to be able to utilize it fully to help with encampments.
 - c. Inventory Module – Implementation and Training
 - i. Helps track bed by bed, unit by unit, utilization of our housing inventory. Can make direct referrals to the units and increase efficiency.
 - d. Discussed training resources for HMIS available through OHS.
- IX. Initiative Reports
 - a. Ending Veteran Homelessness (EVH) (Luke Drotar/Shawna Gurley)
 - i. Shawna provided an overview of the report provided.
 - ii. 60 veterans exited to PH, there were 70 newly identified veterans.
 - iii. Have seen a decrease in unsheltered homeless veterans.
 - b. Rapid ReHousing (RRH) (Elaine Gimmel)
 - i. Elaine provided an overview of the report provided.
 - ii. Now accepting referrals, were paused for a time during the NOFO release.
 - iii. Referrals must come to coordinated entry
 - c. Unsheltered Homelessness (Chelsea Black)
 - i. Have been rebuilding internal tracking system for unsheltered homeless.
 - ii. Leveraging the outreach module more in HMIS to connect the work to the system.

iii. 278 individuals on the list who are not tracked in HMIS. This is up from 233 last month, but we have been ramping up efforts to reach out and refining our systems. This is about 72 encampments.

X. Meeting adjourned at 10:56am

Submitted by Megan Scheck 1/15/2026