



## **Cuyahoga County Women's Health Commission**

### **Minutes**

**Thursday, March 13, 2025 | 9:00 AM**

**Administrative Headquarters, 2079 E. Ninth Street**

**4<sup>th</sup> Floor – Committee Room B**

The public may also view the meeting via live-stream by using the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/cuyahogacounty>

#### **1. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Chair Tenille Kaus at 9:11 am

#### **2. Roll Call**

In attendance: Heather Brissett, LeVine Ross as alternate for County Councilwoman Yvonne Conwell, Emily Campbell, Dr. Melanie Golembiewski, Councilwoman Tenille Kaus, Jazmin Long, Dr. Connie Moreland, David Merriman, Councilwoman Nakeisha Nickerson, County Executive Chris Ronayne, Councilwoman Jasmin Santana (virtually), Mayor Kim Thomas

Absent: Dr. Lauren Beene

#### **3. Moment of Silence and Reflection**

#### **4. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

Councilwoman Nakeisha Nickerson moved to approve the prior meeting minutes; Mayor Kim Thomas seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

#### **5. Public Comment**

No public comments were received

#### **6. New Business**

a. Strategic Priorities Discussion and Vote

Commission members met in small groups prior to this meeting to engage in brainstorming sessions about priorities and initiatives for this commission. Reproductive/ physical health and mental health are the two priority areas that rose to the top in all small group meetings/discussions. Next steps include breaking into subcommittees to focus effort and dig deeper into initiatives in these two priority areas.

Commission members discussed the priority areas and the various initiatives that were brought forward during the small group meetings. There was special attention brought to the concepts of access, connectivity, and creating safe spaces for connection and care. It was stressed that these should serve as guiding principles in the work that is done by the subcommittees.

Councilwoman Nakeisha Nickerson suggested adding sexual health and education as an area of focus.

Additional discussion around the need for advocacy and support, education at all levels from providers to patients, the importance of cultural competence, empowerment, and need for effective communication. Commission members also discussed the importance of ensuring that focus remains on all of Cuyahoga County and that specific data be used to ensure effective progress is being made in these priority area initiatives.

There was also a focus on including young women and adolescents in the conversations in meaningful ways. Discussions included the possibility of

a Junior Girl's Health Commission or inviting young women to have a voice on this committee or one of the priority area subcommittees.

Mayor Kim Thomas made the motion to approve the Women's Health Commission priorities as Reproductive/Physical Health and Mental Health. The motion was seconded by Dr. Moreland and unanimously approved by the commission.

b. Medicaid Policy Update

Emily Campbell presented on Medicaid policy as it stands and the impact on the work of the commission. It is a vitally important source of coverage for Cuyahoga County residents and there are numerous Federal and State pressures that currently impact Medicaid.

10-11 years ago we experienced expanded Medicaid coverage to adults who didn't have a dependent child. There was an immediate and noticeable change when the expansion was passed. The number and share of residents that are uninsured have been cut in half by the expansion. 1 out of 5 are covered in the expansion group. Expansion enabled our community to move upstream in some ways.

State Budget process, today is in its public comment period. Specific language in the current state budget proposal would immediately discontinue medical assistance for members of the expansion group. Center for Community Solutions is working on an amendment to reduce the impact of the immediate change.

Ohio is seeking continuous eligibility for young children up to their 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. Once they are enrolled, they are able to stay on until they turn

County Executive Ronayne submitted public comments on the Medicaid work requirements. This is an opportunity for workforce development and how to support individuals in this process. We can work together to find these solutions.

**7. Next Meeting**

- a. June 12th, 2025 at 9:30am

**8. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Nakeisha Nickerson; seconded by Heather Brissett. The motion was unanimously approved at the meeting was adjourned.