



**Cuyahoga County Women's Health Commission**

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, September 25, 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 9:05am

**2. Roll Call**

In attendance: Dr. Lauren Beene, Heather Brissett, County Councilwoman Yvonne Conwell, Emily Campbell, Dr. Melanie Golemviewski, Councilwoman Tenille Kaus, Jazmin Long, David Merriman, LaShon Carson (on behalf of MetroHealth), Sabrina Roberts (on behalf of County Executive Ronayne), County Executive Ronayne

Absent: Councilwoman Nakeisha Nickerson, Councilwoman Jasmin Santana, Mayor Kim Thomas

**3. Moment of Silence and Reflection**

Chair Kaus shared that September 25 is designated as the National Day of Remembrance for Homicide victims and held a moment of silence to specifically remember the 125 homicide victims in Cuyahoga County in 2025.

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

Heather Brissett moved to approve the prior meeting minutes; Jazmin Long seconded. Motion was unanimously approved by all members in attendance.

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

No public comment was received

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

##### **a. Vote on Virtual Meeting Policy**

In order for this body or its committees to meet virtually, our members need to vote to approve a virtual meeting policy. This would allow the Commission and committees to meet virtually but would not require it. Members voiced their support for the flexibility that virtual meeting options would allow.

Jazmin Long moved to approve the virtual meeting policy as written; Heather Brissett seconded. The motion was approved by all members in attendance.

##### **b. Committee Reports**

##### **i. Mental Health**

County Councilwoman Conwell shared a brief report of initiatives from the meeting of the Mental Health Committee. First, with October being Domestic Violence Awareness Month, there was strong support for renewed advocacy and programming. For 2025, the committee is aiming to collaborate with Myesha Watkins in the Office of Violence Prevention on a community-centered co-ed event focused on listening, educating, and empowering. This event would include a shared meal, space for storytelling, and highlighting resources. Looking ahead to 2026, the commission would like to bring back the weekly domestic violence awareness series that Councilwoman Conwell used to host. Each week during October 2026 will focus on a different theme and work with different partners throughout the community.

Another initiative that the Mental Health Committee would like to focus on in 2026 is starting a podcast centered on open, healing conversations on women's health and lived experiences. Commission members shared excitement for this idea as well as ideas for topics and speakers.

The Mental Health Committee would also like to replicate the successful event model used by Councilwoman Turner during her Spring fibroid event but focus on some mental health topics and weaving mental health support into existing physical health events.

Finally, the committee is exploring co-sponsoring a forum on the impacts of the recent SNAP and Medicaid policy changes on women in our community. Consensus was reached around the table to move forward with the initiatives that were shared by Councilwoman Conwell.

A question was raised about keeping track of the different initiatives from both committees. The County team will help with creating a calendar to make sure that we are spacing out initiatives as well as communicating them on the County website.

## ii. Physical Health

Emily Campbell shared a report from the recent Physical Health Committee meeting. First, the name of the committee was changed to physical health as it encompasses reproductive health.

Emily then outlined numerous initiatives for the committee in the short term. First, October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and the County will be hosting a wear pink day on October 8<sup>th</sup>. We encourage County staff and WHC members to wear pink in recognition and share with your networks.

In the medium term, the committee would like to build off of the work that Cleveland Foundation Fellow Katura Pleasant was doing surrounding period poverty. The WHC would like to put together a period supplies drive before the end of the year and partner with school districts to make it easier for young women in our community to receive supplies and support.

In the long term, the committee would like to work on replicating the fibroid event that Councilwoman Turner hosted this Spring and highlighting different topics that impact women across the life span.

The commission discussed the various initiatives to build upon them and share feedback. This includes; the recommendation to pair the period product drive with an awareness campaign about using HSA, using social media to educate young women before their first well-woman visit, a screening of a film with an associated panel discussion, specific initiatives related to newcomers.

We are not going to take formal votes at this time on these initiatives. We are focusing more on getting general consensus at this time to help give us some fluidity and flexibility when it comes to the schedule to complete this work. This will assist with intentionality and efficiency.

#### c. Legislative Update – Emily Campbell

Emily Campbell shared a brief legislative and policy update. The state operating budget and the federal budget bill have both been past since our last meeting. The trigger language that was proposed in the state budget for the federal match drops below 90%. That language was passed but nothing in the federal bill at this point triggers that loss.

The state legislature removed the waiver for Medicaid for children from birth to age 4 but the Governor line item vetoed it. The Federal Centers for Medicaid/Medicare said that they will not be approving any of these continuous eligibility waivers.

Work requirements in the Medicaid and SNAP work requirement changes were effective as of July but everyday we are waiting for the regulations from the State. When they come, it is going to happen very quickly. Tens of thousands of individuals in our community are going to be impacted when these new work requirements go into effect. Approximately 30,000 will be impacted in Cuyahoga County.

This is going to have a profound impact on our region and collaboration is going to more important than ever before. How do we ensure that there are not families that are being left by the wayside. Collaboration with many community organizations is so important in the communication of these changes. It is the County's intent to put together advocacy advisory groups on the topics of SNAP and Medicaid to help our community so people know where they can go for help.

**7. Next Meeting**

- a. December 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm

**8. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Councilwoman Conwell; seconded by Jazmin Long. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned by 10:23am.