Cuyahoga County Women's Health Commission

AGENDA

Tuesday December 1, 2026 | 3:00 PM

Administrative Headquarters, 2079 E. Ninth Street |4th 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**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Moment of Silence and Reflection**
4. **Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**
5. **Public Comment**
6. **New Business**
    a. Period Product Drive Impact – Delesia Robinson, Pride Among Daughters and Sisters (PADS)
    b. Legislative Update – Emily Campbell
    c. Review 2026 Accomplishments
    d. Review Proposed 2027 Initiatives and Proposed Meeting Dates

Initiative	Committee	Date	Notes
Committee Meetings		January, 2027	
Full WHC Meeting		Feb or March 2027	All
Committee Meetings		March/April 2027	
Mental Health Awarness Campaign	Mental	April/May 2027	Points: Brissett, Long, Santana
Full WHC Meeting		May 2027	All
Community Health Event Series - Cleveland Heights	Physical	May or June 2027	Points: Campbell, Moreland, Beene, Thomas
DALE Assessment Advocacy	Mental	July, 2027	Point: Kaus
Full WHC Meeting		August 2027	All
Community Health Event Series - Lakewood	Physical	August or September 2027	Points: Kaus, Golembiewski, Turner
Committee Meetings		September, 2027	
DV event series	Mental	October, 2027	Point: Conwell
Shaker Municipal Courts DV Event	Mental	October, 2027	Point: Kaus
Period Product Drive	Physical	November, 2027	Points: Nickerson, Beene, Merriman
Full WHC Meeting		November, 2027	All

7. **Next Meeting**
    - **a.** Availability will be reviewed and calendar invitations for 2027 will be sent out shortly.
8. **Adjournment**
    a. Join us for a photo op with all the period products that we collected during our November drive!

Cuyahoga County Women's Health Commission

MINUTES

Tuesday September 15, 2026 | 3:00 PM

Administrative Headquarters, 2079 E. Ninth Street |4th Floor – Committee Room B

1. **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Chair Kaus at 3:06pm

2. **Roll Call**

In attendance: Heather Brissett, Councilwoman Yvonne Conwell, Emily Campbell, Dr. Melanie Golembiewski, Councilwoman Tenille Kaus, David Merriman, LaShon Carson on behalf of Dr. Connie Moreland, Mayor Nakeisha Nickerson, County Executive Chris Ronayne

Absent: Dr. Lauren Beene, Jazmin Long, Councilwoman Jasmin Santana, Mayor Kim Thomas

3. **Moment of Silence and Reflection**

Chair Kaus requested a moment of silence and reflection to honor those that we have lost to Domestic Violence and for the important work that we continue throughout the County and the Country to end it.

4. **Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

Heather Brissett moved to approve the prior meeting minutes; Sabrina Roberts on behalf of Executive Ronayne seconded. Motion was approved by all members in attendance and the minutes were approved.

5. **Public Comment**

No public comment was received

6. **New Business**

    a. Domestic Violence Report – Anne Face, CEO of Journey Center for Safety and Healing

Anne Face, CEO of the Journey Center for Safety and Healing was invited to the meeting to share a report on Domestic Violence (DV) in our community and the work that the Journey Center does to help victims and survivors. She shared some background on the Journey Center as the third women's shelter to open in the United States and that they will be celebrating their 50th anniversary at the end of October.

Anne went on to share some specific statistics about DV in our community; approximately 25% of women in the community have experienced DV, which has significant impacts on physical and mental health and intersects with virtually every social determinant of health, including housing, transportation, food access, education, isolation, and homelessness. An estimated 65% of homeless women and children are homeless due to DV, and the Journey Center's shelter can accommodate only 45people; last week alone, staff had to turn people away 71 times.

Anne also highlighted the economic impact of DV in Cuyahoga County with an estimated $120 million annually. In 2024 alone, there were 20 DV-related fatalities in Cuyahoga County. The Journey Center is working to help educate and train law enforcement on new DV laws as well as a pilot for the DA-LE Assessment, which helps law enforcement understand an individuals history with DV. The Commission discussed opportunities to advocate for broader use of the assessment and support DV workplace policies, including safe leave, prevention initiatives, and efforts to identify a new shelter location that would allow Journey to expand services. Anne offered to circulate a list of the Police Departments in the County that they have worked with on the DA-LE Assessments.

Chair Kaus shared that Shaker Heights passed a Safe Leave Act for employees facing DV situations and encouraged members to think about other ways that the legislative process can assist individuals in DV situations.

Further discussion also highlighted gaps in services for youth and adolescents who have experienced DV, including limited access to therapy due to budget constraints. Members discussed opportunities to connect Journey Center with the growing network of 11 communities participating in County Co-response programs, as well as Glick and other justice-diversion initiatives, to strengthen the ecosystem of support for DV survivors. Anne will circulate additional materials with the Commission following the meeting.

b. Community Health Conversation Event Recaps

i. June 11th - Richmond Heights

Chair Kaus shared a report on the success of the June 11th Community Health Conversation hosted by Mayor Thomas and her team in Richmond Heights. More than 60 participants gathered for a highly informative conversation around women's health topics. Chair Kaus extended thanks to Mayor Thomas and the City of Richmond Heights group Women Empowering Women and Girls for hosting, MetroHealth for providing panelists and leading discussion, Councilwoman Meredith Turner for moderating the event, and Birthing Beautiful Communities for providing Grief Counselors.

ii. August 24th- near West Side

Clerk Bucholtz shared a report on the success of August 24th Community Health Conversation on the near West side of Cleveland. More than 40 participants gathered for more conversation and connection on issues of women's health. Clerk Bucholtz extended thanks to Councilwoman Jasmin Santana for hosting, the MetroHealth team for panelists and topics, Dr. Melanie Golembiewski and Neighborhood Family Practice for panelists, and El Kiosquito Boricua for providing the food.

c. Legislative Update

Emily Campbell shared that the Senate Committee on Aging recently held a hearing on menopause, highlighting increased national attention on women's health issues and creating opportunities for future conversations around investment and policies that support women throughout the lifespan.

Emily provided an update on changes to Medicaid, noting that approximately 14,000 women and girls in Cuyahoga County have lost coverage, according to the Ohio Department of Medicaid dashboard. Members expressed concern about renewal and redetermination backlogs at the state level, as well as the upcoming implementation of Medicaid work requirements in January. David Merriman shared that the County and community partners are actively preparing residents for these changes. Similar concerns were raised regarding children losing SNAP benefits, with the County closely monitoring that situation.

Members also discussed provisions related to medical frailty exemptions under HR1. Ohio is currently determining which diagnoses will qualify, with concerns that the proposed list may not adequately including non-cancerous women's reproductive health conditions outside of pregnancy. Cuyahoga County and the Center for Community Solutions (CCS) have submitted public comments regarding these concerns and Ohio's decision not to allow individuals to self-certify qualifying medical conditions. Members were encouraged to continue monitoring developments and advocating for more inclusive policies.

With approximately six months before the first individuals are expected to lose Medicaid access, members emphasized the need for continued advocacy and community outreach. There was discussion about developing volunteer opportunities to help resident identify resources and maintain eligibility. Members also noted that some individuals in the refugee community are expected to lose coverage beginning October 1, and partners are working to support those affected. David Merriman shared that the County HHS recently launched a clearinghouse for information on Medicaid changes, which will be shared with Commission members.

d. Review 2026 Initiatives Calendar

Initiative	Committee	Date	Notes
DV event series	Mental	Thursdays in October, 2026	Point: Conwell
East Side DV Event		October 20, 2026	Point: Kaus
TENTATIVE: Podcast	Mental	November, 2026	Topic: Period Poverty Points: Campbell
Period Product Drive	Physical	November, 2026	Points (External): Beene, Nickerson
Full WHC Meeting		December 1, 2026	All

Chair Kaus reviewed the rest of the 2026 initiatives and encouraged as many folks as possible to participate in those events.

Councilwoman Conwell shared more information about the DV Education Series that she is hosting this October. This is an initiative that she has hosted for many years and she is pleased to be bringing this back to help educate the community. She's happy to be partnering with the commission to promote this fine-tuned program. The flyer with the dates and information about each session was circulated to the commission and it will continue to be promoted on social media. Councilwoman Conwell asked for the Commission to cover meals at one of the sessions; Commission members agreed.

Chair Kaus shared that there will be an additional DV education session in Shaker on October 20th. More information will be circulated once details are confirmed. Chair Kaus also asked for the Commission to cover the meal for the session; Commission members agreed.

7. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on December 1 at 3pm.

8. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Mayor Nickerson; Seconded by Heather Brissett. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 4:14pm.