



# CUYAHOGA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD(CCESAB)



## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

### MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: 1/6/2026 9:00 AM

Location: HAMY Training Room (2501 Harvard Ave., Newburgh Hts., OH)

#### Attendees

NAME	Present	ASSOCIATION	ALTERNATE	Present
Takisha Fuller		CCBH	Jacqueline Jackson	x
Tracy Pate	x	CDPH	Lexi Shields	x
John Corn	x	NEORS	Tom Madej	
Larry Tafe (non-voting)	x	PSJS Grants	Lezlie White (non-voting)	
Bob Zehentbauer (non-voting)		OEMA	Michelle Sowers (non-voting)	x
Chief Briant Galgas	x	MHFD	Chief Matt Schneider	x
Mark Christie (Chair)	x	CCOEM	Kevin Friis	
Fred Szabo (Vice-Chair)	x	CLE OEM	Bob Horwatt	x
Jeff Minch (Community Rep.)	x	Middleburg Hts. PW		
Gabrielle Hubbard	x	Metro Health	Tara Vargovich	
Paige Herron		CWRU	Jacob Sala	
Sharon Nicastro	x	ARC		
Chief Bev Pettrey		CSU PD	Cpt. Scott Secor	
Nora Wall	x	Services for Ind. Living		
Serena Steele		COAD		
Jeremy Mio (non-voting)	x	Cuyahoga County IT		
Christina Fozio	x	WellLink	Derek Duty	
Robin Roy	x	Cuyahoga County BOE		
Mike Herb (non-voting)		Cleveland Public Safety		
Eric Morgan (non-voting)	x	NEORFC		
Natalia Maikranz (non-voting)	x	CDPH		
Mindy Naticchioni (non-voting)	x	Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter		
Bryan Kloss (non-voting)	x	CCOEM		
Cherron Smith	x	CCBH		

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**MINUTES**

- **CALL TO ORDER**
  - Meeting was called to order at 9:06 AM
  - Roll Call conducted; quorum met.
  
- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - J. Corn motioned to approve the minutes from the 11/18/25 meeting. J. Jackson seconded. All yeas, no nays. Minutes approved.
  
- **PUBLIC COMMENT**
  - None
  
- **GRANTS UPDATE**
  - M. Christie provided an update on the lawsuits pertaining to the federal preparedness grants. He stated that it appeared allocations would revert to the original awards and the initial performance period would be reinstated. However, there was no official confirmation of this yet.
  - L. Tafe discussed the status of FY24 projects and expressed that committees should begin to consider projects submission for FY26.
  
- **ANNOUNCEMENTS / OTHER BUSINESS**
  - M. Christie discussed several administrative items for the committee, including member contact updates and bylaws revisions. M. Christie stated that the bylaws will be revised to reflect representation from the Northeast Ohio Regional Fusion Center (NEORFC) and the Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter. He stated that he will share the proposed revisions with the committee for review. M. Christie also provided updates from the Office of Emergency Management, including; the CodeRED cyber update, impending updates to the incident and functional annexes of the Cuyahoga County Emergency Operation Plan (EOP), and the status of the Office's EMAP reaccreditation.
  - J. Jackson reported that the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) had closed out their Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) grants. Further, she discussed intentions to coordinate a Points of Dispensing (POD) training/tabletop exercise (TTX). Lastly, J. Jackson introduced Cherron Smith as a new health planner with CCBH.
  - M. Sowers discussed Ohio EMA's planned focus on Debris Management and Long-Term Recovery Plans.
  - S. Nicastro discussed the American Red Cross's recent participation in the Thunderbolt exercise. She stated that although each shelter scored above 90%, connectivity within the facilities was identified as a common issue. Lastly, S. Nicastro reported that this year's smoke alarm campaign is halfway over and has already exceeded its goals.
  - E. Morgan reported that the NEORFC responded to approximately 4,000 requests last year.
  - B. Horwatt provided a summary of Cleveland's experience with the CodeRED cyber issue. He also stated that Cleveland will be updating their EOP this year.
  - F. Szabo stated that Cleveland Emergency Management is working on its annual report and stated that there are currently 6 planned EOC activations in 2026. Lastly, he relayed that Mike Herb was officially appointed as Assistant Director of Public Safety for Cleveland.

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- C. Fozio reported that WellLink is currently working through grant deliverables and coordinating exercise planning for Forward Movement of Patients and the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS). Further, the Healthcare Coalition Conference has been scheduled for June 5<sup>th</sup> at Lakeland Community College.
  - T. Pate stated that Cleveland Department of Public Health (CDPH) is conducting planning on an TTX as well as this year's First Responder Conference.
  - G. Hubbard reported that MetroHealth is coordinating Evacuation and Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) planning as well as a TTX.
  - N. Wall relayed that Services for Independent Living is still in transition following K. Hickman's retirement.
  - M. Naticchioni introduced herself to the committee and provided an overview of the mission of the Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter.
  - R. Roy stated that the most recent election had low voter turnout and that the Cuyahoga County Board of Election is expecting higher turnout in 2026. Further, there will no longer be a grace period for mail in ballots.
  - J. Corn discussed a hospital exercise scenario to test loss of wastewater capabilities. Additionally, he reported that he had stepped down as chair of Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN).
  - Chief Galgas and Chief Schneider reported that there were no updates from the Fire Chiefs Association.
  - J. Minch discussed how the early snow impacted Service Departments' leaf collection activities.
  - B. Kloss provided updates on the pending EOC technology refresh, Resource Database, ReadyMaps dashboard, ESF workshops, and planned exercises.
  - J. Mio provided an update on HB96 and its related cybersecurity requirements for public entities.
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- **EXECUTIVE SESSION<sup>1</sup>**
    - No Executive Session
  
  - **NEXT MEETING**
    - M. Christie stated that the next meeting is scheduled for March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  
  - **ADJOURNMENT**
    - Meeting adjourned at 10:40AM.

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<sup>1</sup> **EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY BE HELD PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE (ORC) 121.22(G)** ORC 121.22(G)(5), a public body may hold an executive session to consider "matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or regulations or state statutes." ORC 121.22(G)(6) provides that consideration of "[d]etails relative to the security arrangements and emergency response protocols for a public body or a public office, if disclosure of the matters discussed could reasonably be expected to jeopardize the security of the public body or a public office." Under this exception, both conditions must be met: (1) the subject of the meeting must relate to the security arrangements and emergency response protocols for a public body or a public office; a(2) public disclosure of the matters discussed could reasonably be expected to jeopardize the security of that public body or public office.