



MINUTES CUYAHOGA COUNTY DIVERSION BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021
CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
5TH FLOOR ROOM 5-006
4:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chief of Special Projects Brandy Carney called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Chief of Special Projects Brandy Carney called the roll. Board members William (Bill) Mason, Cuyahoga County Chief of Staff; Brandy Carney, Cuyahoga County Chief of Special Projects; Dr. Akram Boutros, President and Chief Executive Officer of The MetroHealth System; Chief Calvin Williams, Chief of Police for the City of Cleveland; Crystal Bryant, Executive Director of the Cleveland's National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Joan Englund, Executive Director of the Mental Health & Addiction Advocacy Coalition; Chris Julian, Public Defender leading the Mental Health Unit; Dr. Ted Parran, Case Western Reserve University; and Dr. Lanelle Perry, Contract Monitor were in attendance.

Committee member Donna Weinberger, Criminal Justice Project at the Coordinator Greater Cleveland Congregations, was not in attendance.

3. PROPOSAL OF DOCUMENTS

Chair Dr. Boutros announced the presence of two documents regarding the Diversion Center Program:

- a. Short version
- b. Long version

4. SHORT VERSION DISCUSSION

Brandy Carney noted the short version covers higher level, overall metrics, and corresponding data. The data that is generated from the County Clear Point system, following the providers' (ADAMHS, Oriana, Frontline) regularly scheduled input of information. Presentation of the short version document revealed a general overview that dove into a couple different categories including number of new clients admitted, client types (SUD, SMI, SUD/SMI), agencies referred and average length of stay.

5. LONG VERSION DISCUSSION

Brandy Carney noted the long version document includes metrics and corresponding data, also from the providers', but covering a much larger number of metrics with more granular information on the Diversion program. Discussion on the long version ensued covering each metric. Recommendations for edits to the report were made by members, for inclusion in upcoming reports.

Crystal Bryant requested a short narrative also accompanies upcoming reports describing the overall data included.

6. POLICE UTILIZATION OF DIVERSION

Chief Calvin Williams provided information regarding Cleveland's limited use, to date, of the diversion program. He stated his department recently approved cell phones for use by Cleveland officers, which would increase use of the Diversion Center. The Cleveland Police policy for use of the Diversion Center has not yet been distributed to officers. The County completed a video covering how police use the Diversion Center, which Cleveland Police can also distribute to their officers via their mobile in car computers. Chief Williams added that the Cleveland Prosecutors Office now has a phone that will be given to a Prosecutor to answer any Cleveland Police request calls in the evening and weekends, for taking someone to the Diversion Center.

7. INTRODUCTION

Brandy Carney introduces newly hired, Dr. Lanelle Perry, who will be a contract monitor for the Diversion Program.

8. PRE-ARREST DIVERSION DISCUSSION

Bill Mason discussed the current diversion program only allows law enforcement use as a pre-arrest condition, but the limited use currently may require (temporary) expansion for allowable admissions including Community Drop-Offs. A small ad hoc group was identified to work on this item. He also stated increased use of the Diversion Center may also occur when the County has in effect central booking in February.

9. DIVERSION CENTER BUILD DISCUSSION

Bill Mason discussed the process of building the new diversion center, and that the County Executive and County Council are working to identify a permanent location and site plans with the Prespectus team throughout the upcoming months. Will either be a new build with demolition, or a building conversion.

10. NEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

No new items were discussed.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Without further business to discuss, Chair Dr. Boutros adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m., without objection.