



**Cuyahoga County Diversion Center Board Meeting**  
**3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 9, 2021**  
**Administrative Headquarters**  
**Conference Room 5-006**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

- A. Dr. Akram Boutros (**AB**), Chair for the Cuyahoga County Diversion Center (CCDC) Board, called the meeting to order.

**2. ROLL CALL**

- A. Director of Public Safety and Justice Services Brandy Carney (**BC**) went through roll call for all board members. In addition to **AB** and **BC**, the following board members were also in attendance: Crystal Bryant (**CB**) – Executive Director for Cleveland's Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, William Mason (**WM**) – Chief of Staff for Cuyahoga County, Donna Weinberger (**DW**) – Criminal Justice Project Coordinator for Greater Cleveland Congregations, Joan Englund (**JE**) – Executive Director for Mental Health & Addiction Advocacy Coalition, Chris Julian (**CJ**) – Mental Health Unit Lead for Cuyahoga County Public Defender's Office, Dr. Ted Parran (**TP**) – Case Western University School of Medicine.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- A. The following individuals addressed the CCDC Board:
- a. Jenn Lasky (**JL**) – Executive Director of The Edna House for Women – addressed the Board regarding Edna House's tour in January, the expansion of eligibility criteria, and Edna House's linkage services.
  - b. Larry Heller (**LH**) – Northern Ohio Recovery Association – addressed the Board regarding community members and CCDC clients he has spoken to and the benefits they've received by using the Center; and the Community Input Committee's report, role, and objectives.

**4. VOTING ITEMS**

- A. Approval of Minutes – 11/4/21 CCDC Board Meeting

- a. A motion was made by **WM** to approve the minutes, and seconded by **JE**. All board members in attendance voted to approve.

B. Virtual Attendance Option for Board Members

- a. **AB** suggested to revisit this if another COVID spike occurs before the May meeting, and **BC** concurred.

## 5. METRICS OVERVIEW & DISCUSSION

A. Update / Presentation by Contract Monitor (Dr. Lanelle Perry – **LP**)

- a. **LP** presented updates on numerous items that included intake/referral types; prearrest referral breakdown of Cleveland versus other municipalities; staffing overview and challenges; CIT trainings; FrontLine and Diversion Center policies and procedures; metrics; billing; misdemeanor charges and jail data; and client surveys. Discussion ensued throughout the presentation.

B. Year-End Overview Presentation by ADAMHS Board (Chief of Strategic Initiatives Clare Rosser – **CR**)

- a. **CR** provided 2021 Year-End Recap. The overview included a timeline of eligibility criteria; contract components pertaining to call center/FrontLine, operations/Oriana House, and CIT training/ADAMHS Board; statistics and breakdowns for the call center, number of clients served, types of services administered, length of stay, connections to after care, staffing, and CIT training; and pictures of the facility and staff.
- b. Discussion ensued throughout the presentation which included:
  - i. **AB** asking **CR** to continue to ask FrontLine to monitor percentages of callers authorized to go to the CCDC.
  - ii. **AB** discussing the Unite Ohio platform and the benefits it could provide to the CCDC.
  - iii. **CB** asking for a similar report as this 2021 Recap before each Board meeting so Board members can review ahead of time. **AB** asked **CR/ADAMHS** to prepare these presentation-type reports (in addition to the raw data) on a quarterly basis moving forward.

## 6. OLD / NEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Cleveland Police Policy Update

- a. Cleveland Interim Chief of Police Drummond (**WB**) provided an overview of CPD's policy, reminding everyone that it changed on January 17<sup>th</sup> where the prosecutor approval requirement was taken out, and mentioned that a criminal nexus is no longer an eligibility requirement. **WB** stated that CPD

officers will also transport noncriminal individuals in crisis to the CCDC if those individuals voluntarily want to go there. **WB** also provided an explanation on CIT training and how the CCDC is advocated for within the agency.

- b. Further discussion ensued regarding incentivizing officers to utilize the CCDC to increase its usage, clarification of CPD's policy on certain felony charges and escalating misdemeanors, models of diversion centers in other jurisdictions across the country, training details, and leveraging jail data (and eventually Central Booking) to both reroute individuals who should have gone to the CCDC instead and help law enforcement agencies learn from this.

## B. Community Input Committee Report

- a. Rosie Palfy (**RP**) – Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC) member – provided overview of the committee, its members, and roles. She stated they have met twice so far and proposed the following recommendations to the CCDC Board: focus on open access for both the temporary and permanent CCDCs; add a diversion point at central booking; explore a sequential-intercept mapping process; provide the community with regular updates on the jail building project; use jail and CCDC usage data to inform decisions; and prioritize juvenile diversion as well. **RP** also provided an 8-year stats overview (from 2014-2021) regarding total crisis incidents and percentage of arrests. **AB** responded to and clarified a few points that were made.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Meeting adjourned by **AB**