



CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

4th FLOOR

MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025 — 2:30 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Council President Miller called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Council President Miller asked Clerk Richardson to call the roll. Councilmembers Schleper, Turner, Kelly, Sweeney, Casselberry, Gallagher and Miller were in attendance, and a quorum was determined. Councilmember Yvonne Conwell was absent.

[Clerk's Note: Councilmembers Jones, Houser and Simon entered the meeting after the roll call was taken].

A motion was made by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Casselberry and approved by unanimous vote to excuse Councilmember Yvonne Conwell from today's meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Loh addressed Council regarding various non-agenda items.

4. PRESENTATION

Council President Miller announced that Resolution No. R2025-0241 is being presented for informational purposes only. The legislation is not before the Committee of the Whole, and no vote is required. Mr. Miller said that Council expects to consider and vote on the legislation at the September 23rd Council meeting.

- a) R2025-0241: A Resolution authorizing a contract with The Centers for Families and Children in the amount not-to-exceed \$7,000,000.00 for capital funding towards the construction of a new Comprehensive Behavioral Healthcare Center with priority for the development of a detoxification unit, effective upon signatures of all parties through 12/31/2026; authorizing the County Executive to execute Contract No. 5477 and all other documents consistent with said award and this Resolution; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Mr. Eric Morse, President and Chief Executive Officer of The Centers, addressed Council and gave a presentation on the Centers' Comprehensive Behavioral Health Crisis Center (BHCC) and reported on the historical context; challenges; the current impact on Emergency Departments;

the Justice System's role in Behavioral Health Crisis; analyzing community needs to right size the behavioral Health Crisis Center; the alignment of services toward a common goal; SAMSHA guidelines and the 3 essential elements for effective crisis services; intake services; comprehensive goals; stabilization unit staffing and detox models; residential and outpatient levels of care; how the (BHCC) expands services currently at the Diversion Center; Law Enforcement; Overdose and voluntary walk-in diversion and project costs.

Committee members asked questions of Mr. Morse pertaining to the (BHCC presentation, which he answered accordingly.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a) Pending or imminent court action

A motion was made by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Casselberry, and approved by unanimous roll-call vote to move to Executive Session for the purposes of discussing pending or imminent court action and for no other purpose whatsoever. Executive Session was then called to order by Council President Miller at 3:49 p.m. The following Councilmembers were present: Schleper, Jones, Turner, Houser, Simon, Kelly, Sweeney, Casselberry, Gallagher and Miller.

The following additional attendees were present: Law Director Rick Manoloff; Assistant Law Director; Civil Division Chief David Lambert; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Brendan Healey; Chief Prosecutor Michael O'Malley; Diane Russell; Prosecutor's Office; Senior Counsel Gregory Huth; Chief Counsel Jerad Zibritosky; Aaron Reece; Sheriff's Department; Sheriff Harold Pretel; Erik Janas, Chief of Staff, County Administration; Special Counsel Brendan Doyle, County Administration; Council Chief of Staff Joseph Nanni; Special Counsel Michael King; Legislative Budget Advisor Trevor McAleer and Research and Policy Analyst Laura Black,

At 4:37 p.m., Executive Session was adjourned without objection and Council President Miller then reconvened the meeting.

6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business.

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Council President Miller adjourned the meeting at 4:38 p.m., without objection.