



CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES & AGING COMMITTEE

CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

4th FLOOR

MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2025—1:00 P.M.

Committee Members

Yvonne M. Conwell, Chair | Dist. 7
Martin J. Sweeney, Vice Chair | Dist. 3
Mark Casselberry | Dist. 4
Michael J. Houser, Sr. | Dist. 10
Robert E. Schleper, Jr. | District 6

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Conwell called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Ms. Conwell asked Assistant Deputy Clerk Georgakopoulos to call the roll. Committee members Conwell, Casselberry and Schleper were in attendance and a quorum was determined. Committee member Houser arrived after the roll call was taken. Committee member Sweeney was absent.

In accordance with Rule 12F of the County Council Rules, Council President Miller appointed himself as a Member Pro Tem of the Health, Human Services & Aging Committee.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Brandon West addressed the committee regarding the passing of fallen Lorain Police Officer, Phillip Wagner.

Loh addressed the committee regarding Ordinance No. O2025-0003 and expressed concerns regarding conditions at the local homeless shelter.

Written public comment submitted by Michelle Philippon and Eliza Dennison regarding Ordinance No. O2025-0003 was acknowledged and forwarded to all Councilmembers.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 2, 2025 MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Schleper, seconded by Mr. Casselberry and approved by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the July 2, 2025 meeting.

5. MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

- a) O2025-0003: An Ordinance amending Sections 501.15, 505.03, and 1501.03(A); and enacting Section 1501.08 of the Cuyahoga County Code to prohibit the practice of conversion therapy on minors and vulnerable adults.

Mr. Schleper, Mr. Brendan Doyle, Special Counsel for the County Executive; Mr. Robert Chaloupka, appointee to the Commission on Human Rights; and Mr. Michael King, Special Counsel for County Council, addressed the Committee regarding Ordinance No. O2025-0003. Discussion ensued.

Committee members asked questions of Mr. Schleper, Mr. Doyle, Mr. Chaloupka and Mr. King pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

Ms. Conwell asked if any of the meeting attendees would like to address the committee regarding Ordinance No. O2025-0003. Mr. West and Loh provided their respective remarks regarding Ordinance No. O2025-0003.

On a motion by Mr. Schleper with a second by Mr. Miller, Ordinance No. O2025-0003 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

Ms. Conwell, Mr. Houser and Mr. Casselberry requested to have their names added as co-sponsors to the legislation.

6. PRESENTATIONS

- a) Strategic Plan Development –
Karnese McKenzie, Agency Director, Catholic Charities, St. Martin de Porres Family Center

Ms. Karnese McKenzie, Agency Director, Catholic Charities, St. Martin de Porres Family Center, addressed the Committee and provided an update on the impact of the ARPA funding that allowed the organization to build capacity, expand outreach and lay the foundation for long-term success through the following activities:

- **Hired a consultant who helped identify critical areas of organizational improvement, prioritize funding needs and enhance programs and initiatives aligned with their mission.**
- **Built a development and communications team, who helped to strengthen outreach and funding capacity.**
- **Engaged with a Fund Development Consultant, to identify new donors and sponsors.**
- **Engaged with a Social Media Consultant, who helped to capture client and community stakeholders testimony to be showcased on social media and an upcoming fundraiser.**
- **Completed facility improvements including bathroom renovations in senior and youth services departments.**
- **Upcoming renovation of acoustic panels to improve sound quality in the gym.**
- **Program expansions and new initiatives unlocked new partnerships and funding opportunities, which resulted in summer camp scholarships to families in need through a private donor; a grant award that will create a job and career and training hub housed at St. Martin de Porres Family Center, targeting TANF-eligible families; a grant award to help provide food pantry support services and direct client rental and utility assistance; and a private donation to fund gym renovations and a youth basketball program.**

Ms. McKenzie concluded by stating that the strategic plan development helped to build a stronger, more resilient organization that is better equipped to serve the community.

b) Pregnancy Care in the Jail –

Katie Davis Bellamy, MSN, RN, PHNA-BC, Chief Operating Officer, MetroHealth Community Health Centers

Meaghan Combs, MD, MPH, Division Director, Birth and Babies Services, Department of Family Medicine

The presentation on Pregnancy Care in the Jail was held and will be rescheduled.

7. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business.

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairwoman Conwell adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m., without objection.