



## **MINUTES**

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY & JUSTICE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
JUVENILE COURT ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING  
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS  
COMMITTEE ROOM A – 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
12:00 PM**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

**Chairman Adrine called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.**

### **2. ROLL CALL**

**Chairman Adrine asked Deputy Clerk Carter to call the roll. Committee members Adrine, Yarham, Gibbons and McClelland were in attendance and a quorum was determined. Committee member Cross joined the meeting after the roll call was taken. Councilmembers Schleper, Houser, Simon and Gallagher were also in attendance.**

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**There were no public comments given.**

### **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 21, 2024 MEETING**

**A motion was made by Mr. Cross, seconded by Judge McClelland and approved by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the November 21, 2024 meeting.**

### **5. OLD BUSINESS**

**Judge Adrine and Mr. Cross discussed plans to have the FBI present at the next Committee meeting. Discussion ensued.**

**Ms. Gibbons and Ms. Yarham also gave an update on the request to have frontline staff present at a future meeting as well as developing a survey for family and youth. Discussion ensued.**

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

**[Clerk's Note: Item No. 6 b) was considered prior to 6a).]**

- a) Presentation regarding Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program

**Ms. Nikita Stange, Community Engagement Director; and Ms. Hannah Wilshire, Program Director for CASA, provided the Committee with an overview of the program, including the role of volunteers, history of child advocacy in Cuyahoga County, statistics relating to abuse and neglect as well as the case assignment process. Discussion ensued.**

**Committee members and Councilmembers asked questions of Ms. Stange and Ms. Wilshire pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.**

- b) Presentation from Office of the Public Defender

**Mr. Cullen Sweeney, Chief Public Defender, introduced the following attorneys and staff:**

**Ms. Brooke Burns, Managing Counsel of Youth Defense for the Office of the Ohio Public Defender**

**Mr. Sam Amata, Director of Youth & Parent Defense**

**Ms. Kenyatta Johnson, Social Worker**

**Ms. Keara Mullen, Mitigation Specialist**

**Ms. Sara Honig, Vertical Defender**

**Ms. Ashley Stebbins, Deputy Public Defender**

**Ms. Leah Winsberg, Community Engagement Attorney**

**Mr. Cullen, Ms. Burns, Ms. Winsberg, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Honig, Ms. Mullen and Mr. Amata provided the Committee with an overview of the Cuyahoga County and State of Ohio Public Defenders Offices, crime trends, types of juvenile cases, trauma indicators, average length of stays and bindover data. Discussion ensued.**

**Committee members and Councilmembers asked questions of Mr. Cullen, Ms. Burns, Ms. Winsberg, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Honig, Ms. Mullen and Mr. Amata pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.**

## **7. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

**There was no miscellaneous business.**

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

**With no further business to discuss and on a motion by Judge McClelland with a second by Mr. Cross, the meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m., without objection.**