



AGENDA
CUYAHOGA COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY & JUSTICE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
JUVENILE COURT ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2025
CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
C. ELLEN CONNALLY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 4TH FLOOR
10:00 AM

Committee Members:

The Honorable Ronald Adrine, Chair
Jennifer Blumhagen Yarham, Vice Chair
The Honorable Robert McClelland
Bridget Gibbons
Marvin Cross

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PUBLIC COMMENT
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 27, 2025 MEETING
5. OLD BUSINESS
6. NEW BUSINESS
 - a) Panel discussion with staff and service providers
7. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS
8. ADJOURNMENT

**Complimentary parking for the public is available in the attached garage at 900 Prospect. A skywalk extends from the garage to provide additional entry to the*

Council Chambers from the 5th floor parking level of the garage. Please see the Clerk to obtain a complimentary parking pass.

***Council Chambers is equipped with a hearing assistance system. If needed, please see the Clerk to obtain a receiver.*



MINUTES

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY & JUSTICE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
JUVENILE COURT ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025
CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
COMMITTEE ROOM A – 4TH 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.