

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Ordinance No. O2023-0016

<p>Sponsored by: County Executive Ronayne</p> <p>Co-sponsored by: Councilmembers Turner, Stephens, Conwell, Sweeney, Miller and Simon</p>	<p>An Ordinance enacting Section 208.05 of the Cuyahoga County Code to establish a Cuyahoga County Advisory Council on Women’s Health to serve as a resource for information, advice and recommendations regarding goals, strategies and programs of the County to support women’s access to the full range of healthcare options, including reproductive and maternal health and to eliminate health disparities; and declaring the necessity that this Ordinance become immediately effective.</p>
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WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court’s decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and other recent political actions around abortion access have put a woman’s ability to make her own reproductive-health decisions at risk; and

WHEREAS, Despite the world-class ranking of health care systems in Cuyahoga County, health disparities persist in Cuyahoga County, disproportionately affecting women, especially women of color; and

WHEREAS, The Eliminating Racial Disparities in Infant Mortality Task Force established by the Ohio Department of Health has found that Black women are 2.5 times more likely to die from a cause related to their pregnancy than white women, from the first months of pregnancy through the first year of delivery; and

WHEREAS, Women in Cuyahoga County have unique health needs that have been historically underfunded and understudied; and

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County desires to establish the Advisory Council on Women’s Health to, among other things, serve as a resource for information, advice and recommendations regarding goals, strategies and programs of the County to support women’s health and the rights of women to make their own healthcare decisions and have access to a full range of reproductive healthcare options; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that this Ordinance become immediately effective in order that critical services provided by Cuyahoga County can continue and to provide for the usual, daily operation of a County entity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION 1. Section 208.05 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

Section 208.05 Cuyahoga County Advisory Council on Women's Health

A. Composition: The Advisory Council on Women's Health shall be composed of thirteen (13) members, including: the County Executive or the Executive's designee; the County Council President or the President's designee; the Director of Health and Human Services or the Director's designee; The President of the Metro Health System or the President's designee; and nine (9) members appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by County Council (the "Community Appointees"). The Community Appointees shall include representatives of community organizations and health providers, members of the legal community active in the defense of full reproductive rights and, where possible, individuals who have lived experience. Community Appointees shall be electors of Cuyahoga County.

1. Three (3) of the Community Appointees shall have an initial term of one (1) year; **three** (3) of the Community Appointees shall have an initial term of two (2) years; and three (3) of the Community Appointees shall have an initial term of three (3) years. Thereafter, all terms shall be for three (3) years.
2. Nothing in this section shall prohibit any initial appointee from being reappointed to the Advisory Council on Women's Health for a three-year term. If a vacancy occurs, the original appointing authority shall appoint a replacement in the same manner as the regular appointment for the unexpired term.
3. Members shall serve without compensation, except for out of pocket expenses, approved by the Advisory Council on Women's Health members.

B. Leadership and Staffing: The Advisory Council on Women's Health shall select a member to serve as Chair and shall develop and adopt its own rules of procedure, consistent with this section, the County Code, and the County Charter; provided that the member initially selected to serve as Chair shall serve in that capacity for a period of two (2) years. The Executive shall provide staff support as needed.

C. Duties: The duties of the Advisory Council on Women's Health shall include:

1. Acting as a resource for information, advice and recommendations regarding goals, strategies and programs of the County to support women's health.
2. Creating recommendations for allocating grant funding related to women's health issues.
3. Providing advice and recommendations regarding funding of programs designed to support better access to women's healthcare.

4. Meeting publicly on a quarterly basis to provide a forum for the public to offer ideas and recommendations regarding women's health.
5. Serving as a resource for crisis responses around the status of reproductive rights in the state of Ohio.

SECTION 2. It is necessary that this Ordinance become immediately effective for the usual daily operation of the County; the preservation of public peace, health, or safety in the County; and any additional reasons set forth in the preamble. Provided that this Ordinance receives the affirmative vote of at least eight members of Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon the earliest occurrence of any of the following: (1) its approval by the County Executive through signature, (2) the expiration of the time during which it may be disapproved by the County Executive under Section 3.10(6) of the Cuyahoga County Charter, or (3) its passage by at least eight members of Council after disapproval pursuant to Section 3.10(7) of the Cuyahoga County Charter. Otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

SECTION 3. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

On a motion by Ms. Conwell, seconded by Ms. Turner, the foregoing Ordinance was duly enacted.

Yeas: Simon, Kelly, Miller, Sweeney, Tuma, Gallagher, Schron, Turner, Conwell and Jones

Nays: None

County Council President

Date

County Executive

Date

Clerk of Council

Date

First Reading/Referred to Committee: September 26, 2023
Committee(s) Assigned: Health, Human Services & Aging

Legislation Substituted on the Floor: October 24, 2023

Additional Sponsorship Requested on the Floor: November 14, 2023

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