



Cuyahoga County Women's Health Commission

Thursday, August 29, 2024

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Kaus at 9:05 am

2. Roll Call

In attendance: County Executive Chris Ronayne, Chris Murray (on behalf of David Merriman), Dr. Lauren Beene, Dr. Melanie Golembiewski, Dr. Connie Moreland (on behalf of Dr. Christine Alexander-Rager), Mayor Kim Thomas, Councilwoman Tenille Kaus, Emily Campbell, Heather Bressett, Jazmin Long

Absent: Councilwoman Yvonne Conwell, Councilwoman Jasmin Santana, and Councilwoman Nakeshia Nickerson

3. Moment of Silence and Reflection

4. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Mayor Kim Thomas motioned to approve the minutes from the prior meeting; Heather Brissett seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

5. Public Comment

No public comments were received

6. New Business

- a. Provider Perspectives on Women's Health

Each member of the committee present at the meeting shared more about the work that they or their organizations do in the area of Women's Health. Overall themes included an emphasis on health care for women across the life span and the impact of social determinants of health. Mayor Thomas shared thanks to Executive Ronayne for his advocacy for women's health and the work that is being done for women's health in Cuyahoga County.

Dr. Beene shared that the 24-hour waiting period is no longer in effect, so people are able to get same day abortions. She also shared that the Hamilton County judge should issue an opinion on the state 6-week ban today.

Jazmin Long shared that in the area of infant mortality and maternal mental health concerns, there are still families that have a lack of access to care and there are impacts that need to be addressed from the social determinants of health as well as the clinical approach.

Emily Campbell shared an appreciation for the emphasis on health across the lifetime. In Cuyahoga County, older adult women are less likely to be up to date on health services. Hopes that the commission can focus on this. Community solutions will be releasing fact sheets for every community county wide- to analyze areas where there might be disparities to address those issues.

Dr. Melanie Golembiewski shared her perspective from work at Neighborhood Family Practice (NFP). Shared that NFP does provide services for individuals throughout the life span and they are looking at the connection between physical and mental health. They are also providing a screener for refugees to get the medical care they need when they settle in Cuyahoga County.

Dr. Moreland focuses on medical diversity and inclusion work at MetroHealth. Has served a range of women and often hears women share that they have not been heard. Particularly black women and other marginalized women. They want us to listen and take action. How can

providers hear better – policy that allows time to listen to patients. There is high need in the county and more time is needed to serve these individuals.

Heather Brissett represents Murtis Taylor human service assistance. We also need to focus on working mothers. Marginalized populations do not have the economic ability to take time for their health and their families health. Jazmin Long shared that educating employers and advocating for family leave are important areas of emphasis as well.

Child care in hospitals and health organization for women.

Chair Kaus shared on hopes for policies related to domestic violence and the work that can be done by this commission. She shared work that she was able to do with the Shaker Library system that can done throughout the county.

b. Vote on Public Comment Process

Chair Kaus opened up discussion on the public comment process that is proposed. This process it utilized.

Verify the process for written comment and ensure that the public receives appropriate notification of all rules. Remove as many barriers as possible to allow for public comment

Number 4 – the committee will provide a specific to the amount of time that is provided.

Motion to approve Heather Brissett as written with the necessary changes as recommended. Jazmin Long seconded. No additional discussion. Vote to approve was unanimous.

c. Vice Chair Discussion and Vote

Chair Kaus invited members to nominate. Mayor Thomas nominated Dr. Beene for the Vice Chair position. Seconded by Dr. Moreland. Dr. Beene asked for more specifics about serving in the vice chair position. Laurel shared that the primary role of the vice chair is to serve as an alternate and support the Chair in her role. Dr. Beene accepted the nomination. Executive

Ronayne shared that as Dr. Beene advocates she educates and appreciates all the work that she has done on reproductive rights for our community. Motion was unanimously approved by the committee.

d. Funding Distribution Strategy

i. Vote on funding related to CCS and Project Noir research

Chair Kaus invited Emily Campbell from Center for Community Solutions to provide background on the proposal. Cuyahoga County provided a grant to CCS to help women have access to reproductive health services following the Dobbs decision. The health landscape has changed since this time. Part of the proposal is to partnering with Enlightened Solutions to utilize a small portion of the grant from the County in order to complete a State of Women's Health report for this commission's consideration to be presented at the next meeting. The policy landscape may be different in November. Also propose utilizing resources from Better Health Resources to put toward Enlightened Solution for data and work from Enlightened solution. Decision support document for this body to consider what can be done and what the highest priorities are for our community to guide dollars and address issues quickly.

Enlightened Solutions shared an overview of Project Noir. In 2020 Cleveland was ranked the worst place in America for black women. Specifically wanted to understand what racism and misogyny looks like in all these systems. Created a survey in 2020 and they have heard from 1324 black women across NEO. Using this data to shift the narrative around what it means to be a black woman in this community through policy.

Close to publication of results from second survey. Community informed data points. Executive Ronayne asked for some recommendations specific to Cuyahoga County at this time. Major themes of not being heard and lack of bedside manner. Understanding the problem and how do we remediate the problem. Tying outcomes to doctor's pay, public data disclosures. What do they look like on an institutional level.

CCS is not involved in project Noir work but they are hoping to bring project noir into different spaces and weaving their data and work into this proposal.

Dr. Beene asked for specifics surrounding the systems that are being referred to. Systems in this particular body the system in reference is health care systems and show how interdependent and interwoven all of these areas are.

Emily Campbell shared specifics on other data sources are data related to birth outcomes, community health needs assessments, CDC data, and mapping, etc. pulling all this data together to put it into a cohesive and digestible report to inform the work of this group. Healthy Cuyahoga reference from CR.

Chair Kaus asked about the demographics for the project noir survey. ES shared that is was 18-over 65. Survey was distributed digitally. Multiple in-person events were also held to have women come in and take the survey together. Worked with 100's of community partners to push the survey out to help

Cr spoke about the importance of Geographically informed government. Asked about updating and measuring as you go and open sourcing. Quantitative can be easily made open but qualitative is more protected. Utilizing data to overlay existing programs and structures.

Motion to approve the amount to utilize the funds in this way by Mayor Thomas and seconded by Dr. Beene. Motion was approved. Emily Campbell abstained from the vote due to her involvement with CCS.

7. Next Meeting

Next meeting will be held on November 21, 2024 at 9am.

First Year Cleveland will be previewing TOXIC a film about infant and maternal mortality that has national impact on September 25 at Severance Hall at 5pm with a panel discussion. Clerk will circulate the event information to the commission following the meeting.

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting Heather Brissett and seconded by Emily Campbell. The motion was adjourned at 10:05.