



Cuyahoga County Diversion Center Board Meeting

Thursday, May 2, 2024 --- 3:00-4:30 pm

Administrative Headquarters Conference Room 8-007

1. CALL TO ORDER

Director of Public Safety and Justice Services Brandy Carney called the meeting to order.

2. ROLL CALL

Director Carney conducted a roll call for all board members. In addition to Director Carney, Board Members William Mason, Joan Englund, Dr. Ted Parran and Christine Julian were present.

A quorum was established.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Larry Heller offered public comment and referenced that he would report out on community recommendations later in the meeting.

4. VOTING ITEMS

A. Approval of Minutes – 2/22/24

The minutes from the previous meeting held on February 22, 2024 were presented for review. No corrections or amendments were proposed. Mr. Mason moved to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Englund seconded the motion. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved unanimously.

5. METRICS OVERVIEW AND DISCUSSION

Clare Rosser, Chief Strategy and Performance Officer for the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County, presented an overview of the Diversion Center metrics. These metrics covered the period from January 01, 2024 through March 30, 2024. The metrics encompassed the performance of the call center, the Diversion Center operations, and Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training data. Discussion ensued and Board Members requested several items for follow-up: (1) information on discharge referrals and placements; (2) information on departures, including those made against medical advice; and (3) lessons learned by Oriana House. This information will be prepared for the next meeting.

6. OLD/NEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- A. *Community Input Committee Report*- Mr. Heller presented the list of recommendations from the Community Input Committee. They are attached as Exhibit A. The Diversion Board has not formally adopted or approved the recommendations.
- B. *Diversion Center Program Planning- Extension of Discussion from Feb. 2024 Meeting*- Director Carney recapped conversations held at the February 22, 2024 board meeting, wherein members discussed the future of the Diversion Center given ongoing conversations about a planned Crisis Center. Director Carney noted that she and other members of the Cuyahoga County Administration would be visiting Nashville to observe their programming as a potential model for a diversion center that could be co-located on the site of the planned jail in Garfield Heights. Discussion ensued and the Board Members determined the need to continue conversation and work towards a true continuum of care for those in crisis due to mental health and/or substance use disorder.
- C. *Membership Update* – Director Carney announced that there were several vacancies on the board due to expired terms. The County Executive will nominate new members who will then be reviewed and confirmed by Cuyahoga County Council. Rosie Palfy, a member of the public, formally requested that community members be permitted to apply to serve on the board.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 15th, 2024 at 3:00.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Parran made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Julian seconded the motion. After a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned.

EXHIBIT A: RECOMMENDATIONS AS PROVIDED BY COMMUNITY INPUT COMMITTEE

(Note: These recommendations have not been voted on or approved by the Diversion Board.)

Recommendations

1. Focus on our Primary Mission – to actually **Divert People From Entering Jail**

- the primary mission **is Diversion from Jail**

- **we are not diverting people from jail**

We need to find new and innovative ways to divert people from jail

2. Distribute Cards to the public

If informing and educating the law enforcement community has not been effective at diverting people from jail -

maybe we can target people at risk for possible future criminal justice involvement -

(at a previous meeting, the Diversion Board suggested printing cards to distribute to the public to increase awareness)

- we can print

"Get Out of Jail Free" cards

and distribute throughout the community, and ask people to present these cards to law enforcement officers - or at least to know to ask - to **remind officers - at the moment and point of decision - that Diversion is a viable option**

- **please see example card attached -**

can we print these (plus maybe add a computer Link and a Q box?) -

with our County Seal and approval/authority from County authority (County Executive or County Council or County Diversion Board, etc?)

3. Communication to the Law Enforcement Community

We understand that many law enforcement agencies have had announcements or instructions during roll calls - but law enforcement

officers still are not diverting people from jail

we therefore suggest -

if roll call announcements by the usual authority figures have not been effective - **can we try announcements by others - including people with lived experience?**

4. increase second chance options – at Booking

if an officer on scene does not divert and takes someone to Central Booking - is there a formal process to screen every incoming arrestee? The Board has previously been told that There Would Be an increase in referrals when Central Booking opened due to this second chance screening

- can we create a screening process for everyone during intake or prior to incarceration?

5. additional Second chance options – Prosecutor

- can we ask that the Prosecutor’s office actively review EVERY defendant and screen for Mental Health or Substance Use treatment needs – and offer the option of diversion to treatment

6. create innovative new ways to divert people from jail - even if they are already there -

- can we screen every jail resident (or at least every pretrial resident) of the jail and offer the option of diversion –

At last meeting we learned that our Specialty Dockets had referred 33 people to the CCDC – **providing EVIDENCE that there ARE people in the jail who can be diverted**

- We have repeatedly been told that population has been minimized in the jail – and that anyone who can safely be released has been released – but this evidence Proves that there ARE people in the jail who can be diverted – how can we do better at reducing Jail Population?

-

7. We respectfully request that Each Recommendation made by the Community Input Committee be included in the Minutes of the Diversion Board meeting –

And that Each Recommendation be included in the Agenda to be addressed during the following meeting