



Cuyahoga County Women's Health Commission

Thursday, August 29, 2024

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Minutes

I. Call to Order

Laurel Domanski Diaz called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

II. Roll Call

A quorum was present.

In Attendance- County Executive Chris Ronayne, David Merriman, Dr. Airica Steed, Dr. Lauren Beene, Nakeshia Nickerson, Tenille Kaus, Councilwoman Jasmin Santana, Mayor Kim Thomas, Heather Brissett

Excused Absence- Council President Pernel Jones, Dr. Melanie Golembiewski, Jazmin Long (sent an alternate), Emily Campbell

III. Moment of Silence and Reflection

Laurel Domanski Diaz spoke about recognizing the contribution and challenges faced by women across the world.

IV. Public Comment

There were no public comments submitted.

V. Message From County Executive

The Cuyahoga County Executive Chris Ronayne welcomed the commission to its first meeting and shared that he looks forward to the insights the commission will bring.

Executive Ronayne identified the issues and disparities of women's health in Cuyahoga County, especially amongst women of color. He highlighted the maternal mortality rate of women of color is 2.5 times higher than white counterparts, emphasizing the importance of the commission to improve health equity in the community. He also stated his pledge to protect reproductive freedoms in the community.



Executive Ronayne highlighted his and Cuyahoga County Council's interest and power to implement powerful ideas into policies, emphasizing the 13 commission members were carefully chosen for their efforts in health equity in the community.

Executive Ronayne recognized that Laurel Domanski Diaz serve as the County Liaison to the Commission, Sabrina Roberts will be his designated Commission alternate, and Zoe Toscos will serve as the Clerk. He also recognized that Council President Pernel Jones and Councilwoman Yvonne Conwell will attend meetings and be instrumental in the Commission. He also thanked David Merriman of Cuyahoga County Human & Health Services for being a member of the Commission.

Executive Ronayne thanked all members for their service on this important Commission.

VI. New Business

a. Introduction of Commission Members

Laurel Domanski Diaz thanked everyone in attendance and asked all Commission members to state their name, profession, and share a short story about their motivations for serving on the Women's Health Commission. Executive Ronayne urges members to touch on lived experiences with their introduction as well if possible. Commission members & County staff went around and completed introductions and touched on lived experiences.

Councilwoman Conwell was brought to Commission table from audience to introduce herself to Commission. She is Committee Chair for Health and Human Services.

b. Chair Discussion and Vote

Laurel Domanski Diaz opened discussion for Commission to vote on Chair position.

Jasmin Santana motioned to nominate Tenille Kaus for Chair Position. Heather Brissett seconded the motion.

Laurel DomanskiDiaz motioned for vote to approve Tenille Kaus as Chair of the Women's Health Commission. Motion has passed with no opposition.

c. Bylaws Discussion and Vote

Laurel Domanski Diaz opened the discussion of the proposed bylaws. Zoe Toscos shared that the bylaws are present in packets in front of Commission members.



Laurel Domanski Diaz motioned to accept by the bylaws as written. Nakeshia Nickerson seconded the motion. Motion passed with no opposition and the bylaws were approved, as written, by the Commission.

d. Vice Chair Discussion and Vote

Laurel Domanski Diaz opened discussion for Commission to vote on Vice Chair position.

Mayor Kim Thomas motioned to nominate Dr. Airica Steed for the Vice Chair position. Motion was seconded. Motion passed with no opposition.

e. Special Summer Meeting Discussion

Laurel Domanski Diaz announced next meeting is scheduled for August 29th at 9:00 AM EST. Meeting agenda will include hearing the state of Women's Health proposal. Information on Health Proposal will be sent out in advance of the meeting.

Zoe Toscos mentioned next meeting will feature proposal from Community Solutions and Enlighten Solution about collecting data on Women's Health in the County for Commission. Planning to have data for August meeting. Meeting must be held before August meeting so data can be collected.

Laurel Diaz states Zoe will send out poll about data discussion. Laurel Diaz reiterates August 29th meeting and mentions last meeting of the year to be scheduled on November 21st. Both meetings are scheduled to be held on 9:00 AM EST. Poll will be sent out about feasibility of those dates and times.

f. Additional Items

Dr. Steed asked a question about potential redundancies and a duplicative nature Black Women & Girls Commission appointed by the City of Cleveland. Zoe Toscos and Executive Ronayne highlighted synergies and opportunities for collaboration between the City of Cleveland's Black Women & Girls Commission and the Cuyahoga County Women's Health Commission.

Nakeshia Nickerson shared a hope that the focus of this group remains all County residents and not just Cleveland if there is collaboration on projects with the Black Women & Girls Commission.

Jasmin Santana expressed curiosity about County resources surrounding women's health. Executive Ronayne touched on both financial and human capital resources available and emphasized that they should be across organization/inter-departmental. David Merriman specifically highlighted inter-



departmental resources within Health & Human Services. Sabrina Roberts touched on County investment into several non-profits throughout Cuyahoga County.

Dr. Beene asked what tasks Commission members should complete prior to the next meeting. Zoe Toscos urged members to make suggestions for how Community Solutions endowment should be allocated and reiterated the proposal on women's health and information necessary for data will be available at the August 29th meeting.

Dr. Steed emphasized the importance of the proposal being focused on all women's health, not just black women. Zoe mentioned that Community Solutions will take lead on proposal and their dataset will incorporate all demographics of women.

Chair Kaus urged Commission members to contact her about agenda items and suggestions.

g. Adjournment

The Women's Health Commission meeting adjourned.