



CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES & AGING COMMITTEE

CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

4th FLOOR

MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2026— 1:00 P.M.

Committee Members

Yvonne M. Conwell, Chair | Dist. 7
Martin J. Sweeney, Vice Chair | Dist. 3
Mark Casselberry | Dist. 4
Michael J. Houser, Sr. | Dist. 10
Robert E. Schleper, Jr. | Dist. 6

Revised July 24

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Conwell called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Ms. Conwell asked Clerk Richardson to call the roll. Committee members Conwell, Casselberry and Houser were in attendance and a quorum was determined. Committee members Sweeney and Schleper was absent. Council President Miller was also in attendance.

A motion was made by Mr. Casselberry, seconded by Mr. Houser and approved by unanimous vote to excuse Committee members Sweeney and Schleper from the meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments given.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 17, 2026 MEETING

A motion was made by Ms. Conwell, seconded by Mr. Casselberry and approved by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2026 meeting.

Chair Conwell advised the agencies to plan accordingly going forward, as the new Policy Analyst will be on board, and there will be more Committee open discussions under miscellaneous business regarding ongoing issues in Health, Human Services & Aging.

5. MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

- a) R2026-0222: A Resolution authorizing an amendment to Contract No. 3438 (fka Contract No. 2841) with The Centers for Families and Children for the Ohio Works First Program for the period 1/1/2023 - 6/30/2026 to extend the time period to 9/30/2026, to amend budget terms, and for additional funds in the amount not to exceed \$1,209,735.49, effective 7/1/2026; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Marcos Cortes, Administrator of the Division of Contracts and Performance for the Department of Health and Human Services, on behalf of Cuyahoga Job and Family

Services; and Paul Bounds, Deputy Administrator, Cuyahoga Job and Family Services, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2026-0222. Discussion ensued.

Committee members and Councilmember asked questions of Mr. Cortes and Mr. Bounds pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

On a motion by Ms. Conwell with a second by Mr. Casselberry, Resolution No. R2026-0222 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda with a recommendation for passage under second reading suspension of the rules.

- b) R2026-0223: A Resolution authorizing a contract with Catholic Charities Corporation in the amount not-to-exceed \$1,340,000.00 for success coaching services for eligible Ohio Works First applicants and management of the incentive payment system in connection with the Benefit Bridge Program for the period 7/1/2026 - 6/30/2027; authorizing the County Executive to execute Contract No. 6079 and all other documents consistent with said award and this Resolution; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Marcos Cortes Administrator of the Division of Contracts and Performance for the Department of Health and Human Services, on behalf of Cuyahoga Job and Family Services; Paul Bounds, Deputy Administrator, Cuyahoga Job and Family Services; and Jessica Balmert, a Director with Catholic Charities, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2026-0223. Discussion ensued.

Committee members and Councilmember asked questions of Mr. Cortes, Mr. Bounds and Ms. Balmert pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

On a motion by Mr. Casselberry with a second by Mr. Houser, Resolution No. R2026-0223 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda with a recommendation for passage under second reading suspension of the rules.

- c) R2026-0224: A Resolution authorizing an amendment to a Master Contract with various providers for emergency assistance services for the period 9/1/2024 - 8/31/2026 to extend the time period to 8/31/2027, to change terms, and for additional funds in the total amount not-to-exceed \$1,575,000.00, effective 9/1/2026; authorizing the County Executive to execute the Master Contract and all other documents consistent with this Resolution; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective:
 - i) Contract No. 4620 with A-Z Furniture Co., Inc. in the anticipated amount of \$315,000.00.
 - ii) Contract No. 4617 with Burlington Stores in the anticipated amount of \$500,000.00.

- iii) Contract No. 4622 with Dave's Supermarket, Inc. in the anticipated amount of \$125,000.00.
- iv) Contract No. 4621 with Penney OpCo LLC dba JCPenney in the anticipated amount of \$250,000.00.
- v) Contract No. 4619 with West 25th Furnishings and Appliances, Inc. in the anticipated amount of \$385,000.00.

Marcos Cortes, Administrator of the Division of Contracts and Performance for the Department of Health and Human Services; and Kara Davis, Deputy Director of Short Term Services, Division of Children & Family Services, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2026-0224. Discussion ensued.

Committee members and Councilmember asked questions of Mr. Cortes, Ms. Davis pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

On a motion by Ms. Conwell with a second by Mr. Casselberry, Resolution No. R2026-0224 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda with a recommendation for passage under second reading suspension of the rules.

- d) R2026-0225: A Resolution authorizing an amendment to a Master Contract with various providers for operating support of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) approved permanent housing services for the period 7/1/2024 - 6/30/2026 to extend the time period to 10/31/2027, to amend various terms, to change a vendors name, and for additional funds in the total amount not-to-exceed \$2,812,354.00, effective 7/1/2026; authorizing the County Executive to execute the amendment and all other documents consistent with this Resolution; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective:
 - i) Contract No. 4700 with Emerald Development and Economic Network, Inc. in the amount not-to-exceed \$1,419,132.00.
 - ii) Contract No. 4701 with Famicos Foundation, Inc. in the amount not-to-exceed \$200,129.00.
 - iii) Contract No. 6291 (fka Contract No. 4702) with Front Steps Housing & Services, Inc., to change the name of the vendor to Front Steps Housing & Services dba Rising Well Services, Inc. in the amount not-to-exceed \$371,240.00.
 - iv) Contract No. 4703 with Humility of Mary Housing, Inc. in the amount not-to-exceed \$147,728.00.

- v) Contract No. 4704 with Mental Health Services for Homeless Persons, Inc. dba Frontline Service in the amount not-to-exceed \$238,257.00.
- vi) Contract No. 4705 with The Young Women's Christian Association of Greater Cleveland, Ohio - YWCA Cogswell Hall in the amount not-to-exceed \$247,100.00.
- vii) Contract No. 4706 with The Young Women's Christian Association of Greater Cleveland, Ohio - YWCA Independence Place in the amount not-to-exceed \$188,768.00.

LeVine Ross, Director of the Office of Homeless Services; and Sherrie Branden, Chief Executive Officer of Rising Well Services, Inc. fka Front Steps Housing & Services, Inc., addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2026-0225. Discussion ensued.

Committee members and Councilmember asked questions of Ms. Ross and Ms. Branden pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

On a motion by Mr. Casselberry with a second by Mr. Houser, Resolution No. R2026-0225 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda with a recommendation for passage under second reading suspension of the rules.

- e) R2026-0226: A Resolution authorizing acceptance of a grant award from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the amount of \$2,121,305.00 for the Continuum of Care Coordinated Entry System in connection with FY2025 Continuum of Care Homeless Program Competition grant for the period 8/1/2026 – 7/31/2027; and authorizing awards to various subrecipients utilizing the proceeds of the grant award; authorizing the County Executive to execute the grant award and all other documents consistent with said award and this Resolution; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective:
 - i) Mental Health Services for Homeless Persons, Inc dba FrontLine Service will operate Coordinated Intake for the Cleveland/Cuyahoga Continuum of Care, including identifying viable alternatives to entering the shelter, assessing needs for other emergency services, and linking people with the most appropriate housing/shelter resources and also being responsible for comprehensive client assessment, prioritization, and tracking/slotting of available Continuum of Care housing resources in the anticipated amount of \$847,910.00.
 - ii) United Way of Greater Cleveland will use funding to support Housing Navigators who will identify appropriate housing opportunities, assist with housing applications, coordinate with shelter case managers, Coordinated Intake, and community partners to support successful housing placement in the anticipated amount of \$215,380.00.

- iii) Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry will use funding to support Housing Navigators who will identify appropriate housing opportunities, assist with housing applications, coordinate with shelter case managers, Coordinated Intake, and community partners to support successful housing placement in the anticipated amount of \$241,000.00.
- iv) YWCA Greater Cleveland will use funding to support Housing Navigators who will identify appropriate housing opportunities, assist with housing applications, coordinate with shelter case managers, Coordinated Intake, and community partners to support successful housing placement in the anticipated amount of \$241,000.00.
- v) Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority will use funding to support Housing Navigators who will identify appropriate housing opportunities, assist with housing applications, coordinate with shelter case managers, Coordinated Intake, and community partners to support successful housing placement in the anticipated amount of \$65,000.00.
- vi) Family Promise of Greater Cleveland will use funding to support Housing Navigators who will identify appropriate housing opportunities, assist with housing applications, coordinate with shelter case managers, Coordinated Intake, and community partners to support successful housing placement in the anticipated amount of \$68,250.00.
- vii) West Side Catholic Center will use funding to support Housing Navigators who will identify appropriate housing opportunities, assist with housing applications, coordinate with shelter case managers, Coordinated Intake, and community partners to support successful housing placement in the anticipated amount of \$121,510.00.
- viii) The Salvation Army will use funding to support Housing Navigators who will identify appropriate housing opportunities, assist with housing applications, coordinate with shelter case managers, Coordinated Intake, and community partners to support successful housing placement in the anticipated amount of \$157,500.00.

LeVine Ross, Director of the Office of Homeless Services; and Jennifer Kons, Vice President of Community Impact for United Way, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2026-0226. Discussion ensued.

On a motion by Mr. Casselberry with a second by Mr. Houser, Resolution No. R2026-0226 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda with a recommendation for passage under second reading suspension of the rules.

6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business.

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chair Conwell adjourned the meeting at 2:09 p.m., without objection.