CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES & AGING COMMITTEE

CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

4th FLOOR

MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Conwell called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Loh addressed the committee and voiced her support for Resolution Nos. R2026-0297 & R2026-0298.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 30, 2026 MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Casselberry and approved by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the September 30, 2026 meeting.

5. MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

a) R2026-0297: A Resolution authorizing a contract with Emerald Development and Economic Network, Inc. in the amount not-to-exceed $962,896.00 for facility management services at (3) emergency shelters serving adult women: the Norma Herr Women's Shelters, located at 2227 Payne Avenue and 1600 East 23rd Street, Cleveland, and the Walton Avenue Facility, located at 2710 Walton Avenue, Cleveland, for the period 11/1/2026 – 10/31/2027; authorizing the County Executive to execute Contract No. 6435 and all other documents consistent with said award and this Resolution; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

LeVine Ross, Director of the Office of Homeless Services and Elaine Gimmel, Executive Director of Emerald Development and Economic Network, Inc., addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2026-0297. Discussion ensued.

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

On a motion by Mr. Sweeney with a second by Mr. Casselberry, Resolution No. R2026-0297 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.

Ms. Conwell requested to have her name added as a co-sponsor to the legislation.

b) R2026-0298: A Resolution making awards on RQ16336 to various providers in the total amount not-to-exceed $9,469,852.00 to provide emergency shelter operations and support services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Cuyahoga County, for the period 11/1/2026 –10/31/2027; authorizing the County Executive to execute the contracts and all other documents consistent with said awards and this Resolution; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective:

1) Contract No. 6391 with Family Promise of Greater Cleveland in the amount not-to-exceed $50,000.00 for emergency shelter services for families experiencing homelessness.

2) Contract No. 6392 with Stella Maris, Inc. in the amount not-to-exceed $265,000.00 for short-term residential substance use disorder treatment and recovery services for adult men experiencing homelessness.

3) Contract No. 6423 with Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry in the amount not-to-exceed $968,650.00 for overflow shelter services for families experiencing homelessness.

4) Contract No. 6424 with Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry in the amount not-to-exceed $4,031,350.00 for operational and case management services at the men's emergency shelter and to facilitate and coordinate overflow shelter services for single adults and families.

5) Contract No. 6432 with Joseph's Home dba Joseph and Mary's Home in the amount not-to-exceed $267,547.00 for medical respite shelter and supportive services for adult men experiencing homelessness.

6) Contract No. 6433 with Joseph's Home dba Joseph and Mary's Home in the amount not-to-exceed $168,670.00 for medical respite shelter and supportive services for adult women experiencing homelessness.

7) Contract No. 6434 with The Young Women's Christian Association of Greater Cleveland in the amount not-to-exceed $3,200,000.00 for emergency shelter services for women experiencing homelessness.

8) Contract No. 6437 with The Salvation Army in the amount not-to-exceed $250,000.00 for short-term residential substance use disorder treatment and recovery services for adult men experiencing homelessness.

9) Contract No. 6438 with The Salvation Army – Zelma George in the amount not-to-exceed $200,000.00 for emergency shelter services for families experiencing homelessness.

10) Contract No. 6445 with West Side Catholic Center in the amount not-to-exceed $68,635.00 for emergency shelter services for families experiencing homelessness.

LeVine Ross, Director of the Office of Homeless Services addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2026-0298. Discussion ensued.

Committee members asked questions of Ms. Ross pertaining to the item, which she answered accordingly.

Beau Hill, Executive Director of the Salvation Army; Christine Robinson; Chief Executive Officer of Stella Maris, Inc.; Maria Foschia, President and Chief Executive Officer and David Bloom, Interim Director of Housing and Shelter, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry; Ana Stormer, Executive Director of Joseph & Mary's Home; Helen Forbes-Fields; President & Chief Executive Officer of the Young Women's Christian Association of Greater Cleveland; and Michael Bernot, Executive Director of the West Side Catholic Center addressed the Committee shared comments regarding the services their organizations provide and thanked the Committee for their support.

Committee members asked questions of the various providers pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

On a motion by Mr. Casselberry with a second by Mr. Schleper, Resolution No. R2026-0298 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.

Ms. Conwell, Mr. Sweeney, Mr. Casselberry, Mr. Houser and Mr. Schleper, requested to have their names added as co-sponsors to the legislation.

6. PRESENTATIONS

a) Beech Brook – Prevention and Early Intervention – Thomas P. Royer, President & Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Thomas Royer, President & Chief Executive Officer of Beech Brook, addressed the Committee and gave a presentation on the importance of Prevention and Early Intervention services provided by Beech Brook. Mr. Royer expressed his concerns regarding what cutting those services would mean for the organization's future as it pertains to proposed budget cuts.

Mr. Royer spoke about the services that Beach Brook offers. Their Foster care services which provides safe supportive homes where children can grow and heal; The parents and caregivers services, which offer support, education and connection for parents and caregivers; Early support for healthy development and well-being for children and youth, and Early support, education and prevention in schools and communities.

Committee members asked questions of Mr. Royer pertaining to the presentation, which he answered accordingly.

Mr. Royer thanked the Committee for their consideration of the services that will be funded by the County; their partnership and all that the County has done for children and families over the years.

b) Overview of Client Support Services –
Arnell Hurt, Social Program Administrator, Shared Services,
Department of Health & Human Services

Mr. Arnell Hurt, Social Program Administrator, of the Shared Services, Department of Health & Human Services, gave a presentation and provided an overview of the Client Support Services area structure; Responsibilities and process flow as it pertains to the Customer Resolution Team. He spoke about the investigations area that handles possible fraud and overpayments made to public assistance recipients who receive food and cash assistance; Child care licensing; Customer Resolution Team (Customer Care Unit) call center; the Customer Resolution Team process and Customer relations process.

Committee members asked questions of Mr. Hurt pertaining to the presentation, which he answered accordingly.

c) Update on House Resolution H.R. 1 –
David Merriman, Director, Department of Health, Human Services
Kevin Gowan, Director, Cuyahoga Job and Family Services

Mr. David Merriman, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services, and Mr. Kevin Gowan, Director of Cuyahoga Job and Family Services, addressed the Committee and announced that they will be presenting a House Resolution (H.R. 1) Policy update at a public forum regarding the current changes in the system and upcoming modifications, and wanted to share the information with Committee members in advance.

Mr. Gowan said that H.R. 1 was enacted on July 5, 2025, and spoke about the status of the Bill, and how it has evolved. Mr. Gowan provided updates on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) non-citizen Medicaid and work requirements; SNAP Policy changes timeline; SNAP funding changes; H.R. 1 SNAP impact; Federal policy changes impact; Federal SNAP policy national impact; H.R. 1 Medicaid policy changes timeline; Medicaid changes for non-citizens; Medicaid non-citizens – lawfully residing: Pregnant Women and Minor Children (Under 21); Non-citizen emergency medical assistance; Group VIII (Expansion) Medicaid and the New Medicaid Community Engagement Activity (MCEA); MCEA Implementation; Medicaid Changes to Retroactive Eligibility Period; Medicaid Work Requirement Customer communications; H.R. 1. Communications and Engagement and Cuyahoga County Coordinated Response Taskforces.

Committee members asked questions of Mr. Merriman and Mr. Gowan pertaining to the updates, which they answered accordingly.

7. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business.

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairwoman Conwell adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m., without objection.