

**ALCOHOL, DRUG ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 31, 2024**

**ADAMHS BOARD DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

J. Robert Fowler, Ph.D.	Sadigoh C. Galloway, MSW, LSW, LICDC-CS
Bishara W. Addison	Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr.
Reginald C. Blue, Ph.D.	Patricia James-Stewart, M.Ed., LSW
Gregory X. Boehm, M.D.	Kathryn Y. Parks, MBA, MA, LPC, LICDC
Erskine Cade, MBA	Molly Wimbiscus, M.D.
James T. Dixon	

**ABSENT:** Ashwani Bhardwaj, Katie Kern-Pilch, MA, ATR-BC, LPC-S, Steve Killpack, MS, Harvey A. Snider, Esq.

**BOARD STAFF PRESENT:** Scott Osiecki, Chief Executive Officer, Sarah Adkins, Carole Ballard, Danielle Clark, Felicia Harrison, Bill Hebble, Myra Henderson, Leslie Koblentz, Linda Lamp, Jessica Saker, Allison Schaefer, Starlette Sizemore, Nick Weaver, Joicelyn Weems, Leshia Yarbrough-Franklin

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

J. Robert Fowler, Ph.D., Board Chair, called the Special Meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEM**

No public comment on agenda item was received.

**3. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Dr. Fowler announced the need to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters.

- **Motion to ENTER into Executive Session.** MOTION: R. Blue / SECOND: E. Cade / A roll call vote was taken. / AYES: B. Addison, R. Blue, G. Boehm, E. Cade, J. Dixon, S. Galloway, B. Gohlstin, P. James-Stewart, K. Parks / NAYS: None / ABSTAIN: None / **Motion passed.**

*[Molly Wimbiscus, M.D., arrived.]*

- **Motion to EXIT the Executive Session and resume the business of the Special Meeting Agenda.** MOTION: R. Blue / SECOND: E. Cade / A roll call vote was taken. / AYES: B. Addison, R. Blue, G. Boehm, E. Cade, J. Dixon, S. Galloway, B. Gohlstin, P. James-Stewart, K. Parks, M. Wimbiscus / NAYS: None / ABSTAIN: None / **Motion passed.**

**Motion from the Board to approve the issue that was talked about in Executive Session.** MOTION: B. Gohlstin / SECOND: R. Blue / AYES: B. Addison, R. Blue, G. Boehm, E. Cade, J. Dixon, S. Galloway, B. Gohlstin, P. James-Stewart, K. Parks, M. Wimbiscus / NAYS: None / ABSTAIN: None / **Motion passed.**

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was received

**5. FOLLOW-UP**

No follow-up was received.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Mr. Josiah Quarles, Director of Organizing and Advocacy at the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH), emphasized that while everyone has good intentions and wants to help the community, many people are often resistant to critique and prefer to praise each other. He has been involved in care response efforts for several years and is

pleased to see a pilot program being implemented with funding from the ADAMHS Board. However, he noted that there were initial concerns about the lack of community engagement and oversight in the development of this pilot program. These concerns were dismissed without clear justification, and when community engagement finally took place, it consisted of four rushed meetings held immediately after the consultant group's contract was signed. As a result, only five citizens from the targeted pilot program areas participated in these engagements.

Mr. Quarles pointed out that the engagement process's outcome was presented well in an email, but the actual community involvement was a complete failure. He mentioned that numerous individuals have been working voluntarily in the community for years, organizing forums, panels, engagement sessions, and educational events. These grassroots efforts consistently attracted at least five times the number of participants compared to the ADAMHS Board's engagement sessions. This discrepancy, he argued, illustrates why it is challenging to involve the community in such processes and roles, as they are not adequately informed or engaged in the program's development and oversight. Mr. Quarles expressed hope that everyone would learn from these mistakes and improve moving forward.

Dr. Fowler asked Mr. Quarles what the Board could do to address his concerns. Mr. Quarles responded by suggesting that the formation of a community oversight board seems imminent and that those who have been actively involved in the process should have a say in determining their members. He emphasized the importance of being proactive, reaching out to communities that may be hard to reach, and being open and honest. He advocated for incorporating community input and collaborating with those who are striving for improvement.

Loh, an advocate, suggested that more service providers with an ADAMHS Board contract should ensure there is a Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA) fixed route bus stop near their location to improve access to their services.

#### **7. UPCOMING JULY AND SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETINGS:**

- General Meeting: July 31, 2024
- Community Relations & Advocacy Committee Meeting: September 4, 2024
- Finance & Oversight Committee Meeting: September 18, 2024
- General Meeting: September 25, 2024

#### **8. ADJOURNMENT**

*There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.*

**Submitted by:** *Linda Lamp, Executive Assistant*

**Approved by:** *J. Robert Fowler, Ph.D., Board Chair*