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## Health, Human Services & Aging Committee Meeting

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Agency: Cuyahoga County Council

Date: Jan. 17, 2024

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### Summary

- Council received project overviews from organizations requesting ARPA funding and approved them to move on to the full council.
- Chair Yvonne M. Conwell substituted an additional \$5,000 for the Devin Moore Heart Foundation project.
- Council discussed the need to provide more resources for care of seniors as longevity has increased.

### Follow-Up Questions

- What is the impact of the City of Cleveland's proposed tax increment financing (TIF) legislation on the funding for the county's health and human services programs?
- How is Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) addressing the need for CPR and AED training for staff?

### Notes

Meeting started at 1:05 p.m.

Committee members present:

Yvonne M. Conwell, chair – District 7

Martin J. Sweeney, vice chair – District 3

Meredith M. Turner – District 9

Dale Miller – District 2

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Loh, a community advocate, spoke in support of the resolutions related to the [Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities](#) and Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry to address and provide remedies for homelessness among the developmentally disabled

and elderly. Loh remarked that the homeless population located near Payne Avenue has more seniors now than in the past, possibly due to tax delinquency or family issues.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE NOV. 22, 2023 MEETING

The chair said there is a three-reading process for [American Rescue Plan Act](#) applications.

#### MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE:

a) R2023-0259: A resolution awarding a total sum not to exceed \$50,000 to To Attain Healing LLC for the community mental behavioral health center project from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this resolution become immediately effective.

A proposed substitution was voted on and accepted.

Tara Hill, CEO of To Attain Healing LLC, presented [Let Art Breathe/The LAB](#) projects that provide art therapy and other community outreach. She asked for funds to help with money lost due to a contractor issue. The organization works with Cleveland Metropolitan School District. To Attain Healing LLC provides case management and psychotherapy in underprivileged areas.

Angelique Williams, CEO and executive artistic director of Let Art Breathe, explained they have worked with students (K-12) and families to help them express themselves in a healthy way (arts and mental health) since 2017.

The chair advised the applicants to connect with [Cuyahoga County's Family & Children First Council](#).

Approved to move forward to the third reading.

b) R2024-0010: A resolution awarding a total sum not to exceed \$20,000 to the Zeta Omega Foundation for the annual food basket giveaway from the District 9 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this resolution become immediately effective.

Anthony W. Scott, president of [Zeta Omega Foundation](#), presented. It is a separate entity birthed from the [Zeta Omega chapter](#) of Omega Psi Phi fraternity in Cleveland. The

foundation provides in-kind support and financial donations to assist the community through multiple channels and partnerships.

Scott said each box in the foundation's food basket giveaway can feed a family of five for two days. He said "Holiday Stress Disorder" is an issue that affects families. The chapter will make up any shortfalls for the initiative.

Miller and Conwell attested to the family stress issues during the holiday time.

Conwell said that sororities and fraternities have been instrumental in addressing food insecurity and recommended they look into the Community Block Supplemental Grants offered twice a year.

Turner asked for clarification about how the foundation functioned without government support up until this meeting. Scott said the organization had been dormant until recently due to COVID and the loss of key members and gave an overview of planned new initiatives.

Approved to move forward to the next council meeting.

c) R2024-0011: A resolution awarding a total sum not to exceed \$10,000 to the [Devin Moore Heart Foundation](#) for the CPR/AED Preparedness Training Program from the District 9 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this resolution become immediately effective.

George Berry, treasurer of the Devin Moore Heart Foundation, presented.

Devin Moore was his best friend and fraternity brother who passed away suddenly in 2017 after cardiac arrest at the Kent State University Community Center. No one present was able to provide assistance.

Moore's parents established the foundation to make sure there is CPR and AED training available on the campus. The foundation has provided training and equipment to Cleveland schools such as Glenville High School. They want to provide more training and equipment and expand to doing preventative health screenings. The AEDs that they like to provide cost \$1,400 each.

Turner said she had been impacted by the loss of a loved one due to cardiac-related illness and commended Berry for persevering.

Conwell proposed to substitute the amount with an additional \$5,000. She advised them to contact the Red Cross for additional support.

Approved to move forward to full council.

d) R2024-0025: A resolution authorizing an amendment to Agreement No. 3381 with the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities for reimbursement of staffing services for the DD Medicaid Waiver Program for the period 1/1/2023 – 12/31/2023 to extend the time period to 12/31/2024, to make budget line-item revisions effective 1/1/2024, and for additional funds in the amount not to exceed \$527,573.69; 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.

Marcos Cortes, from Cuyahoga County Health and Human Services, presented.

Miller asked for clarification of the division funds and coordination between Cuyahoga County and the Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Approved to move forward to the full council.

e) R2024-0026: A resolution making an award on RQ13370 to Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry in the amount not to exceed \$1.35 million for adult guardianship services for the period 1/1/2024 – 12/31/2025; authorizing the county executive to execute Contract No. 4013 and all other documents consistent with said award and this resolution; and declaring the necessity that this resolution become immediately effective.

Cortes, Natasha Pietrocola from the [Division of Senior and Adult Services](#), and Kendra Daniel and Michael Garvey from Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry presented.

Chair asked how their resources are keeping up with the current longevity of seniors.

Pietrocola said they moved money from other areas and look for alternate options such as family members to take on an individual's care. They receive clients that are 18 to 59 years old. They are referred through probate court, and a medical expert must confirm that they need a guardian.

Miller asked how guardians are selected and if there are enough. Pietrocola said that last year funding for this contract ran out in September.

Daniel said Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries has 17 staff guardians and served 549 guardianships, the largest in Ohio. They also have volunteers that take on the more stable cases.

Miller confirmed that funds are transferred to families if a case is transferred to them, and volunteers receive training and background checks.

Daniel said they receive 35 to 40 referrals a month and always need more volunteers.

Approved to move forward to the full council meeting.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

Miller said that Cleveland City Council is considering legislation that would create a large tax increment financing (TIF) district for economic development. It will divert revenue into the TIF fund. He said he will hold a hearing regarding this new legislation. Jeff Epstein, the city's chief of Integrated Development, has agreed to come and present.

Meeting adjourned 2:08 p.m.

Additional resources:

Cuyahoga County Council Health, Human Services, and Aging Committee  
<http://council.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/20240117-HHSA.aspx>

Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry Guardianship Services  
<https://www.lutheranmetro.org/what-we-do/programs/guardianship-services/>

Cuyahoga County Adult Protective Services  
<https://hhs.cuyahogacounty.us/programs/detail/adult-protective-services>

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