

**BEACHWOOD CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING AGENDA
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2020 IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING THE REGULAR CITY
COUNCIL MEETING
at BEACHWOOD CITY HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM
A, 25325 Fairmount Boulevard, Beachwood, Ohio 44122**

James Pasch
Justin Berns
Mike Burkons
Alec Isaacson
Barbara Bellin Janovitz
Eric Synenberg
June Taylor

Agenda Items

1. Mayor's Report
2. Discussion regarding a Resolution in favor of the 2020 Cuyahoga County Health & Human Services Levy
3. Any other matters coming before the Committee of the Whole

#

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
LEVY 2020**

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County has placed on the March 17, 2020, Primary Election ballot a 4.7 mills Health & Human Services (HHS) levy that that would replace Cuyahoga County's current 3.9-mill levy; and,

WHEREAS, Every year, more than 400,000 people from more than 200,000 families access Cuyahoga County's HHS system;

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County's HHS system primary provides services to five groups with critical needs:

- Children who are at risk of abuse and neglect
- People with mental illnesses or an addiction
- People with serious health issues
- Victims of crime
- Senior citizens and people with disabilities; and,

WHEREAS, demand for Health & Human Services in Cuyahoga County has grown as a result of increasing poverty, opioid addiction, changing demographics, and inadequate state and federal funding; and,

WHEREAS, passing this replacement HHS levy will ensure current critical services continue AND will fund investment in targeted, interconnected areas that will amplify the impact of our health and human services efforts, help reduce long-term needs and costs, and provide us with measurable, accountable results; and,

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County's health and human service levies are practical investments in strengthening the resilience of our economy and community, and in reducing future economic and social costs; and,

WHEREAS, Underfunding HHS programs – and walking away from those in need— increases our risk of more costly future problems involving our justice system and hospital emergency rooms,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the _____ recognizes the far-reaching importance of the passage of the Health and Human Services Levy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that _____ supports passage of the Health & Human Services levy renewal and encourages the individual and organizational members of _____ to join this board in actively advocating for its passage on Tuesday, March 17, 2020.



ISSUE 33: The 2020 Health and Human Services Levy

*Funding Vital Lifelines for Abused Children, Vulnerable Seniors,
And Hundreds of Thousands of Cuyahoga County Residents Facing Critical Needs*

What is Health and Human Services (HHS)?

Every year, more than 400,000 people from more than 200,000 families access Cuyahoga County's health and human services system. Cuyahoga County's financial support for these services comes primarily from two countywide health and human services property tax levies. Nearly 80% of these dollars are used to provide services to five groups who are facing critical needs:

- Children who are at risk of abuse and neglect
- People with mental illnesses or an addiction
- People with serious health issues
- Victims of crime
- Senior citizens and people with disabilities

Why is an HHS levy increase needed?

There are four main reasons Cuyahoga County needs more funding for health and human services:

1. POVERTY

- Cleveland is the second-poorest major city in the country.
- One out of five Cuyahoga County residents lives in poverty—which for a family of three is an income of \$21,330 or less.
- Unlike much of the country, poverty in Cuyahoga County has increased since the Great Recession and is 34% higher than the national rate.

2. OPIOIDS

- The rate of opioid-induced deaths in Cuyahoga County is two-and-a-half times the national average. In the City of Cleveland, it is nearly five times the national average.
- Since 2016, opioid addiction among parents has caused the number of children in foster care or under protective supervision in Cuyahoga County to grow by nearly 70%—nearly 1,500 additional children.

3. DEMOGRAPHICS

- More Cuyahoga County residents are now over the age of 60 than under the age of 20.
- Infant mortality and neonatal mortality in Cuyahoga County, particularly among African-American babies, is worse than in many impoverished countries.
- Several age groups of Cuyahoga County residents, including infants, working-age adults, and older adults ages 65–74, have mortality rates that are higher than the state average.

4. STATE AND FEDERAL DISREGARD

- Successive federal and state administrations have reduced their contributions to the health and human services safety net.
- The State of Ohio's funding for children's services has remained the lowest in the nation, even as the number of children in government custody has grown.

ISSUE 33 DETAILS

On the March 2020 Primary Election ballot, Cuyahoga County voters will be asked to consider **ISSUE 33, a replacement property tax levy of 4.7 mills to fund health and human services in Cuyahoga County.** If passed, **ISSUE 33 would increase the millage rate by 0.8 mills** from the current rate of 3.9 mills. The new millage rate would be effective from 2021–2028.

Passing ISSUE 33 would cost property owners roughly \$41 a year more for every \$100,000 in property value—about \$3.50 more per month.

It would generate an additional \$35 million in annual health and human services funding.

How Will Passing ISSUE 33 Help?

Passing Issue 33 will ensure current critical services continue AND will fund investment in targeted, interconnected areas that will amplify the impact of our health and human services efforts, help reduce long-term needs and costs, and provide us with measurable, accountable results. Four critical areas for additional HHS investment are:

CRITICAL INVESTMENT AREAS	GOALS
Infants and Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Saving babies' lives• Protecting at-risk children• Preventing the long-term effects of childhood trauma• Preparing children for school
Mental Health and Addiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Treating more patients• Building a continuum of care for recovery• Helping people become healthier and find homes
Public Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Turning young people away from violence• Diverting people from jail into treatment• Preparing productive opportunities for people re-entering society
Older Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Helping people age in place• Increasing food security• Connecting seniors with caregivers• Promoting strength and independence

ISSUE 33 and the People Who Depend on It Need YOUR support

Cuyahoga County's health and human service levies are **PRACTICAL INVESTMENTS** in strengthening the resilience of our economy and our communities, and in reducing future economic and social costs.

IN THE LONG RUN, INVESTMENTS IN HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SAVE MONEY. As Debbie Read, the Chair of Greater Cleveland Partnership's Government Affairs Council in 2018 said, "The dollars collected [for health and human services] provide a significant social safety net to help reduce higher costs to taxpayers for untreated needs." Underfunding these efforts – and walking away from those in need—increases our risk of more costly future problems in our justice system and hospital emergency rooms.

INVESTMENTS IN HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BENEFIT ALL OF US. Chronic medical conditions and diseases don't discriminate. Traumatic injuries can happen to everyone. We all age. And economic upheavals can affect any of us. Our local economy and our communities gain from helping people bounce back from these challenges so they can build better lives for themselves and their families.

How Will the Additional \$35 Million in New Revenue from ISSUE 33 be Invested?

Ten million dollars in additional annual revenue from ISSUE 33 has been proposed for maintaining existing services.

ANNUAL ALLOCATION	EIGHT-YEAR ALLOCATION	AGENCY	PURPOSE
\$5,000,000	\$40,000,000	Cuyahoga County's Health and Human Services Division	This investment will be used to cover the cost of inflation. HHS property tax revenue in Ohio does not increase each year with inflation. Without setting aside these funds, our health and human system would be forced to cut an average of \$5 million in services every year beginning in 2022.
\$5,000,000	\$40,000,000	Cuyahoga County's Health and Human Services Division	This investment will allow the County to maintain its current level of services without using General Fund dollars that should fund other priorities.

The remaining \$25 million has been proposed for investment in efforts to spur innovation and reduce long-term costs.

ANNUAL ALLOCATION	EIGHT-YEAR ALLOCATION	AGENCY	PURPOSE
\$5,100,000	\$40,800,000	The Cuyahoga County ADAMHS Board	Two million dollars of this investment will restore spending cuts and bolster mental health crisis services, including suicide prevention and responses to addiction/mental health emergencies. Funding additional staff will allow 1,000 more people every year to get in-person assessments and will reduce the wait times for those sessions—which can be lifesaving. The other \$3.1 million will be invested in our Residential Assistance Program that provides housing for adults with severe mental illnesses. No new clients have been able enroll in the Residential Assistance Program since its budget was cut in 2018.
\$2,000,000	\$16,000,000	Cuyahoga County's Department of Senior and Adult Services	This investment will eliminate waiting lists and allow additional seniors to be served through the Options program. It will allow us to provide more meals, hire additional Family Service Aides and Geriatric Assessment Specialists, and expand senior transportation.
\$725,000	\$5,800,000	The Family & Children First Council	This investment will fund crisis coordination, allow us to expand our out-of-school program into additional neighborhoods, and grow our Families and Schools Together (FAST) program.
\$5,000,000	\$40,000,000	Invest in Children	This investment will allow us to maintain our expanded Universal Pre-Kindergarten program and keep open the larger number of slots that are now available for Cuyahoga County's children.
\$6,000,000	\$48,000,000	Cuyahoga County's Department of Children and Family Services	This investment will fund the Kinship Care program, which works to place children who are in protective custody in the homes of members of their extended family. Kinship Care is the most desirable of out-of-home placement options because it offers the greatest stability, allows children to maintain their sense of belonging, and enhances each child's ability to identify with his/her family, culture, and traditions.
\$1,000,000	\$8,000,000	Cuyahoga County's Department of Job and Family Services	This investment will further reduce wait times for those seeking Public Assistance benefits by hiring additional caseworkers.
\$2,500,000	\$20,000,000	Development of a New Diversion Center	This investment will reduce both the jail population and recidivism by creating a new path for diverting people from jail into community-based mental health and addiction treatment services.
\$2,175,000	\$17,400,000	Housing Stability Services	This investment will help families, young adults, and single adults move from emergency shelters and homelessness to permanent housing, and will help them remain stably housed by providing them with supported employment and focused interventions.
\$250,000	\$2,000,000	Cleveland Rape Crisis Center	This investment will replace Federal Victims of Crime Act funding that was cut by the Federal government.
\$250,000	\$2,000,000	The Cleveland Adoption Network	This investment will fund efforts helping children find permanent families.

All of these proposed allocations would need the approval of Cuyahoga County Council and the County Executive before they could be implemented.



Name: _____

Organization (if any): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

☐ I **personally** endorse the 2020 Health and Human Services levy. You may use my name publicly in campaign materials.

☐ The **organization** endorses the 2020 Health and Human Services levy. You may use the organization's name publicly in campaign materials.

☐ I/the organization will help the 2020 Health and Human Services levy by:

☐ Serving as a speaker at community events

☐ Distributing campaign literature

☐ Providing a yard sign pick up location for the public (organizations)

☐ Assembling and/or distributing yard signs

☐ Sharing information on my personal or organizational website and/or social media

☐ Sharing stories and photos about the positive impact of the levy

☐ Working at a polling location on Election Day

☐ Other: _____

Signature: _____