ADAMHS Tag Line Approved; Spiral Studio to Design New Logo

Charged with developing a tag line for the new Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County, the External Affairs/Public Information co-chairs sought feedback from providers during the first of several stakeholder meetings this past January, solicited input from clients, consumers and providers through online surveys and engaged the assistance of the Board Orientation & Communication Committee.

A tag line was recommended to and approved by the ADAMHS Board at the February 19, 2009 meeting.

Its themes will influence the visual identity and branding package for the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County.

Improving Lives through Wellness, Recovery and Independence.

In early February the Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board (CCCMHB) and the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board of Cuyahoga County (ADASBCC) issued nine Requests for Bids for graphic design services. Four bids were received and evaluated. Spiral Studio, Sandra Graubard principal, was recommended to the ADAMHS Board and a contract was approved at the February 19, 2009 meeting.

Communications staff have had several meetings with Spiral Studios and are fine-tuning design concepts to share with stakeholders through virtual focus groups before making a final recommendation. A final logo design, including a color palette, is anticipated to be presented at the May 21 ADAMHS Board meeting.

Web Site Vendor Approved; Design Begins

On March 6, 2009, the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Service (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Web site design and development. A bidders conference to review the project, as well as answer vendor questions was held on March 19, 2009, with a Question & Answer document distributed to parties expressing an interest in the RFP process by March 24, 2009. Proposals were received until 4:00 p.m. March 27, 2009.

Of the 28 vendors that submitted proposals, 23 met the RFP criteria. William M. Denihan, the ADAMHS Board Executive Director, appointed an RFP Review Committee comprising of Scott Osiecki, CCCMHB Director of External Affairs; Julie Fogel, ADASBCC Public Information Officer; Blessing Nwaozuzu, CCCMHB Director of MIS; Yancey Quinn, ADASBCC Director of MIS; and Joanne Cooke, Member of the CCCMHB Adult Consumer Advisory Council.

Based on the budget, individual rankings, previous experience, familiarity with the county, expertise, and flexible billing, the committee unanimously recommended to award the contract to the Cuyahoga County Information Services Center (CCISC). The committee met with the CCISC to further clarify the project’s scope of work and contract. The selection of CCISC was approved by the ADAMHS Board at the April 16, 2009, meeting.

Board Orientation Event

The Board Orientation Committee is planning an orientation session to provide Board members with an opportunity to become more familiar with alcohol and other drugs (AOD) and mental health issue and services, review commonly used lingo and terminology, as well as client/consumer demographics.

The half-day session will also acquaint Board members with the ADAMHS staff, finances, best practice methodologies and legal guidelines. “Consolidation Challenge,” a game similar in format to Family Feud, will provide both a review of the day’s material and a team-building close to the first of two orientation sessions.

The Orientation will be held on Saturday, June 20 at the Hilton Garden Inn Cleveland Downtown.
At its meeting on Thursday, April 16, 2009, the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County approved By-Laws that will serve to guide its operation. The document defines the Board’s mission “to promote and enhance the quality of life for residents of our community through a commitment to excellence and to a balanced approach in alcohol, drug addiction and mental health services,” and outlines membership, meeting, and organizational procedures.

Additionally, By-Laws describe the Board’s duties and responsibilities, among them overseeing the ADAMHS Board’s Chief Executive Officer, a title William M. Denihan will retain. The Board approved the change in language from executive director. General Board meetings will take place on Wednesdays beginning at 4:00 p.m., except during the months of August and December. Board Committee meetings will also follow this schedule.

The Board also approved the following committee assignments:

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS & ADVOCACY COMMITTEE** - meets the first Wednesday of every other month, starting on July 1, 2009. Members are:
- Ericka L. Thoms, Chair
- Eugenia Cash, Vice Chair
- Kathryn E. Gambatese
- Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr.
- Rick Kemm, MNO
- Mary McElrath
- Lisa Thomas, Ph. D.

**PLANNING & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE** - meets the second Wednesday monthly* beginning in May. Members are:
- Mary R. Warr, Chair
- Felipe Amunategui, Ph. D., Vice Chair
- Reginald C. Blue, Ph. D.
- Kathryn E. Gambatese
- Janet C. Hnanicek
- Cynthia Miller
- Harvey Snider
- Rev. Charlotte Still Noble
- Annagela Williams

To be appointed: 2 non-board members representing the AOD service area. Additionally, the person chosen to fill the psychiatrist position will be asked to join this committee.

**FINANCE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** will meet the third Wednesday of each month* beginning April 22, 2009. Members are:
- J. Robert Fowler, Ph. D., Chair
- Amy L. Leopard, Vice Chair
- Kathryn E. Gambatese
- Mary McElrath
- Rev. Charlotte Still Noble
- Harvey A. Snider
- Lisa Thomas, Ph. D.

(Would like to appoint non-Board member with CPA or banking experience.)

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** will meet the first Wednesday of each month* as needed. Members are:
- Kathryn E. Gambatese, Chair
- Mary McElrath, Vice Chair
- Rev. Charlotte Still Noble, Second Vice Chair
- Felipe Amunategui, Ph. D.
- Eugenia Cash
- J. Robert Fowler, Ph. D.
- Amy L. Leonard, Esq.
- Ericka L. Thoms
- Mary R. Warr

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2009-2010** - Meets as needed. Members are:
- Eugenia Cash, Co Chair
- Amy L. Leonard, Esq., Co Chair
- Rick Kemm, MNO
- Harvey A. Snider
- Rev. Charlotte Still Noble

**SITE COMMITTEE** - Meets as needed. Members are:
- J. Robert Fowler, Ph. D., Chair
- Felipe Amunategui, Ph. D., Vice Chair
- Eugenia Cash
- Kathryn E. Gambatese
- Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr.
- Mary McElrath

*With the exception of August and December.
“Air of Continuity and Certainty”

When William M. Denihan, Chief Executive Officer of the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County, talks about the consolidation, he describes an “Air of Continuity and Certainty” - meaning that there are some definite decisions that have been made. These decisions are:

- **Operating Budget**: All have agreed that the operating budget of the ADAMHS Board will not exceed 5% of the total Board revenue. This decision is based on the current economy, an effort to save money and that the operating budget of all major Boards throughout the State are below 5%.
- **Ongoing Funding Allocations**: Ongoing funding allocations will be continued at a minimum of at least 95% of current allocations.
- **Reserves/Reimbursements**: Any carry-overs, reserves, or reimbursements will continue to be allocated in accordance to the area of origination, i.e., mental health or alcohol and other drug.
- **2010 Budget Process**: Each individual Board will make recommendations on the 2010 budget process and bring them to the ADAMHS Board for discussion and approval. The ADAMHS Board will notify all providers of the allocations.
- **Needs Assessment**: Staff of the ADAMHS Board will develop draft parameters for a Needs Assessment of mental health and alcohol and other drug addiction service needs in the community.

These certainties complement our overall consolidation goals of being a consumer focused entity that provides superior services while saving funds.

**Work Sessions**

Contract service providers shared ideas on specific policies, practices, activities, and provider contracts during the two Work Sessions held on January 22 and March 27. Staff from both Boards that are responsible for overseeing development and implementation of various policies and activities presented background information and framed the issues requiring provider input. In addition, providers had an opportunity to raise other issues for discussion.

**Sites Narrowed Down to Three**

The Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board (ADAMHS) of Cuyahoga County Site Committee has narrowed down possible office locations to three:

1. **Tyler Village** on Superior Avenue.
2. The **Graybar Building** on East 55th Street.
3. The **United Bank Building** on West 25th Street.

The committee will seek input from all staff and Board Members during tours of the sites on Wednesday, April 29, and Thursday, April 30.