

# ALCOHOL, DRUG ADDICTION & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS & ADVOCACY (CR&A) COMMITTEE NOVEMBER 6, 2019

**Committee Members Present:** Harvey A. Snider, Esq., Katie Kern-Pilch, ATR-BC, LPC-S, Reginald C. Blue, Ph.D., Gregory X. Boehm, M.D., Elsie Caraballo, Sharon Rosenbaum, MBA

**Absent:** Erskine Cade, MBA

**Board Staff Present:** Scott Osiecki, C.E.O., Carole Ballard, Linda Lamp, Madison Scagnetti, Beth Zietlow-DeJesus

**Call to Order:** Harvey Snider, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

### **1. Approval of Minutes**

The Community Relations & Advocacy Committee minutes from the September 4, 2019 meeting were approved as submitted.

### **2. Legislative Update**

Ms. Beth Zietlow-DeJesus, Director of External Affairs, highlighted several legislative bills itemized by the Ohio Association of Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) together with a brief description and link to the text/analysis. The document is attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit.

**Senate Bill (SB) 221 - STRONG Ohio:** Ms. Zietlow-DeJesus reported that STRONG Ohio, also called Senate Bill 221, is sponsored by Senator Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) as part of Governor DeWine's broader STRONG Ohio Violence prevention plan that was developed after the Dayton, Ohio shooting of August 4, 2019. STRONG is an acronym that stands for the following:

- Safety protection orders
- Thorough background checks
- Rigorous due process
- Ongoing help to those in crisis
- New state background checks
- Greater penalties for gun crimes

The key components of the bill will:

- Create a process in Ohio law, similar to the current probate court process, called pink slipping, that directs those suffering from severe mental health conditions into court-ordered treatment, to give hospitals and courts a better ability to help those who are legally declared to be a danger to themselves or others due to drug dependency or chronic alcoholism;
- Ensure that citizens have full due process at all probate hearings;
- Ensure that those legally declared by a judge to be a danger to themselves or others because of drug dependency or chronic alcoholism the ability to more easily petition the probate court for court-ordered treatment;
- Mandate that law enforcement agencies and courts enter certain protection orders and arrest warrants for serious crimes into state and federal law enforcement databases to ensure more accurate background check results;
- Create a new private-sale background check process that will increase the number of background checks conducted in Ohio while also protecting the privacy of law-abiding gun owners;
- Create a legal safe harbor for firearms sellers who require private-sale background checks;
- Increase penalties for those who sell or provide a firearm to someone legally prohibited from possessing a gun;
- Give judges a range of sentences for felony cases in which a gun was either possessed, brandished, or used;
- Increase the penalty for those who are found with a gun while legally prohibited from possessing a firearm;
- Increase the penalty for selling a gun to a minor;

- Increase penalties for straw purchases (a firearms purchase by someone legally able to buy, who deliberately diverts guns to people who are unable to legally purchase guns) illegal and knowingly possessing a straw-purchased gun.

Ms. Zietlow-DeJesus highlighted that there are some concerns in the language of the Bill relative to the pink slipping process for individuals with substance use disorders and how the law will allow individuals to receive a continuum of care after the initial 72 hour hold. On the other hand, there could be positive outcomes from pink slipping an individual with substance use disorder; and OACHBA is working with legislators to address these concerns.

Ms. Zietlow-DeJesus noted that OACBHA has not taken a formal position on pending legislation due to the evolving nature of this matter; however, they are suggesting that advocacy efforts continue to get questions answered and review progress that is being made.

#### Committee Input:

- Mr. Snider shared that OACBHA has done a great job with questioning the material in this Bill and inquired as to whether OACBHA's concerns/comments can be shared with newspapers across the State for similar queries; and to let legislators be aware that Bills are being reviewed in detail. Ms. Zietlow-DeJesus noted that discussion transpired on WCPN regarding a hearing on this matter, but it only encompassed background checks and did not focus on the issue related to mental health. A follow-up OACBHA Governance meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 7, 2019, to further discuss this matter.
- Ms. Rosenbaum inquired as to the number of individuals convicted relative to the cost savings and how this is being quantified. Mr. Osiecki also referenced additional questions that remain regarding pink slipping.

#### House Bill (HB) 354:

Ms. Zietlow-DeJesus reported that HB 354 is sponsored by Representatives Phil Plummer, District 40, and D. J. Swearingen, District 89.

The summary of the bill is as follows:

- Expand the offense of having weapons under disability to include additional disabling offenses and classifications;
- Requires the Director of Public Safety to create the Weapons Disability Data Portal to allow for the collection and distribution of data relevant to state and federal firearms disability status;
- Requires law enforcement agencies, courts, and other entities to submit information to the Weapons Disability Portal or to face sanctions for noncompliance;
- Extends the date on which a juvenile court must expunge all records sealed under the continuing Juvenile Sealing Law to require the expungement upon the 28<sup>th</sup> birthday of the person who is the subject of the sealing order;
- Specifies that a "mental illness" for purposes of law governing involuntary commitment of the mentally ill includes a moderate or severe substance use disorder.

Ms. Zietlow-DeJesus reported that extending the age from 18 to 23, by which a juvenile court must expunge all records sealed under the current Juvenile Sealing Law, could possibly impact an individual's attempt for educational and/or employment opportunities.

#### Substitute Senate Bill (SB) 58:

Ms. Zietlow-DeJesus reported that Substitute SB 58; sponsored by Theresa Gavarone, District 2, deals with restoring competency to misdemeanor offenders without an in-person assessment at a state hospital. The bill allows for assessments to be completed via electronic means and considers the person's needs for housing and access to services in the community to which they would be returning.

HB123:

Ms. Zietlow-DeJesus reported that this bill involves suicide prevention education and will require every Ohio Public School to provide 1 hour or 1 class period of Evidence-Based Suicide Prevention Education to every 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grader yearly. This bill has passed the House and is currently being heard in the Senate Education Committee. This bill is supported by the Ohio Suicide Prevention Coalition and Nationwide Children's Hospital; however, OACBHA has not taken a stance.

**3. Roads to Recovery Wrap-Up**

Ms. Zietlow-DeJesus reported that the 2019 Roads to Recovery Conference transpired on Monday, October 21, 2019, at the Cleveland Airport Marriott Hotel on West 150<sup>th</sup> Street. There were 370 individuals registered for this conference; while 360 individuals attended. 50 attendees were clients and 33 were Board and staff members. The conference had 40 event sponsors and 18 Marketplace Table Vendors, which is the most the Board has ever had. The total cost of the event was slightly more than \$41,000.00; which included the hotel, food, service charges, Audio/Visual (AV) equipment and presenter fees. Ticket sales brought in just over \$22,800.00. She also noted that the Training Institute's revenue from January, 2018 through August, 2019 brought in nearly \$14,700.00. After all was said and done, the overall cost to the Board was \$3,474.56, which is the lowest cost the Board has ever paid for this conference.

Ms. Carole Ballard, Director of Training and Education, reported that the 2019 Roads to Recovery Conference evaluations indicated that participants enjoyed the event, thought it was well organized and enjoyed the variety of presentations. She also noted that some attendees reported that too many presentation options were offered and that some of the presentations could have been longer. Overall, the conference was a great success.

Committee Input:

- Ms. Elsie Caraballo provided accolades regarding the conference success. Mr. Snider concurred.
- Ms. Katie Kern-Pilch noted her gratitude for utilizing CE Broker, the official continuing education tracking system trusted by regulating entities across the US.
- Ms. Rosenbaum inquired as to the conference's most popular sessions. Ms. Ballard noted that the most popular sessions offered at the conference respectively were as follows:
  1. African American Males in the Community
  2. Youth in Our Community
  3. Domestic Court
  4. Tapping

**4. Training Institute Update**

Ms. Ballard reported that the Board's Training Institute has accomplished and/or will be accomplishing the following:

- Held 35 Training Institute Workshops this year and that the Fall series is currently in process;
- Held 48 Suicide Prevention trainings that have reached 716 total participants;
- 29 System-wide training requests from the Community; serving 781 individuals;
- Sponsored Continuing Education Credits for 7 outside events; serving 620 individuals;
- Provided Law Enforcement with 2 community Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) trainings that held 45 officers and 16 Cleveland Division of Police In-service trainings that were offered to 810 officers;
- Grant based training activities for 2 law enforcement groups through the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) grant from Berea and Olmsted Falls;
- In partnership with the Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC) the 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training for Cleveland Division of Police has been approved by the Department of Justice and is expected to begin in 2020;
- Ms. Ballard and Mr. Osiecki also updated the Board on the trainings being held in the churches, including suicide prevention and de-escalation trainings, which came about from Mr. Osiecki and Rev. Gohlstin's visits with local clergy groups.

Committee Input:

- Ms. Kern-Pilch; speaking as a licensed clinician, also noted her gratitude for obtaining CEUs for Ethics and Supervision at minimal cost.

**5. Census 2020**

Ms. Madison Greenspan, External Affairs Officer, highlighted the Census 2020 Outreach Plan by noting that the objective of the plan is to make providers, clients and staff aware of the Census. This objective will be accomplished through efforts to identify what the Census is and why it's important, when/how to fill it out and how to stay safe from scams. Board staff are accomplishing this task via the ADAMHS Board's website; social media and through a newsletter story. Also, promotional material; such as yard signs, pens, shirts and flyers, were obtained from Lake County, and will be distributed during resource fairs in the community. Ms. Greenspan noted that relative to next steps, presentations will continue to be scheduled for providers and staff as well.

Committee Input:

- Mr. Snider requested Ms. Greenspan to provide and/or distribute Census 2020 material at the next scheduled Board meeting.

**6. Advocacy Action Agenda**

Ms. Zietlow-DeJesus reported the Advocacy Action Agenda is designed to inform the Board, community and system providers of the advocacy goals for each year to advance important behavioral health issues. The Advocacy Action Agendas for CY2019 and CY2020 were developed with the overarching goal of promoting recovery of individuals living with mental illness and addictions by adopting and acting on the five Recovery Oriented System of Care principles:

1. Focusing on Clients and Families
2. Ensuring Timely Access to Care
3. Promoting Healthy, Safe and Drug-Free Communities
4. Prioritizing Accountable and Outcome-Driven Financing
5. Locally Managing Systems of Care

The Advocacy Action Agenda is in addition to the advocacy and collaboration that the ADAMHS Board provides on a daily basis through its work of ensuring that mental health, addiction treatment and prevention and recovery services and supports are available to help children and adults reach and sustain recovery.

Ms. Zietlow-DeJesus assisted committee members in reviewing each of the goals for the CY2019 Advocacy Action Agenda and noted that all items were completed and/or ongoing.

Ms. Zietlow-DeJesus explained the steps involved in formulating the CY2020 Action Advocacy Agenda. Identified staff have taken an initial look at potential CY2020 goals. The recommended goals were brought first before the Community Relations & Advocacy Committee for feedback and suggestions. These goals will then go on to the Committee of the Whole for additional input and then to the full Board of consideration and approval. The approved CY2020 Advocacy Action Agenda will be posted on the Board's website and shared with Legislators.

Committee Input:

- Ms. Rosenbaum noted that upon review of the Advocacy Action Agenda, the new goals are reflected as active goals versus old goals, which are reflective of a supportive role. Mr. Osiecki reported that originally the Advocacy Action Agenda was established to support these efforts and not accomplish them independently. As a result, Mr. Osiecki noted that this language should be utilized for new goals.

**Motion to recommend acceptance of the CY2019 Advocacy Action Agenda review and approval of the CY2020 Advocacy Action Agenda to the Committee of the Whole.** MOTION: R. Blue / SECOND: S. Rosenbaum / AYES: R. Blue, G. Boehm, E. Caraballo, K. Kern-Pilch, S. Rosenbaum, H Snider / NAYS: None / ABSTAIN: None / **Motion passed.**

## **7. 2020 Annual Meeting**

Ms. Zietlow-DeJesus reported that the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County holds its Annual Meeting Brunch and Awards Ceremony every year. During this meeting, the Board presents its Annual Report to the Community and its Annual Awards. This event has traditionally attracted between 350 and 519 guests and is held during May, which is Mental Health Awareness Month. The ADAMHS Board sells tickets to the event to defray the cost of the food and service charge. Historically, this event alternates from an east side venue to a west side venue each year. Based on considerable research for various downtown, east side and west side locations to host the meeting over the past few years, in addition to the Board requirement for free self-parking and easy highway and bus access, staff is requesting to host the 2020 Annual Meeting at either Cleveland Marriott East located at 26300 Harvard Road, Warrensville Heights, Ohio 44122 or at LaCentre Westlake, 25777 Detroit Road, Westlake, Ohio 44145. External Affairs has requested event proposals from each. Discussion ensued and an informal vote among committee members determined that the Cleveland Marriott East was the preferred location to host the 2020 Annual Meeting; however, Mr. Snider reported that the full Board should make the final decision.

### Committee Input:

- Ms. Rosenbaum inquired as to the cost incurred from past Annual Meetings on the east side and the west side venues. Ms. Zietlow-DeJesus stated that the 2019 Annual Meeting was the Board's ten year anniversary Annual Meeting, which makes it difficult to compare.

**Motion to recommend approval to hold the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County's Annual Meeting Brunch and Award Ceremony on Monday, May 18, 2020, and enter into an Operational Contract with either Cleveland Marriott East or LaCentre Westlake based on Board input to the Committee of the Whole.** MOTION: R. Blue / SECOND: S. Rosenbaum / AYES: R. Blue, G. Boehm, E. Caraballo, K. Kern-Pilch, S. Rosenbaum, H Snider / NAYS: None / ABSTAIN: None / **Motion passed.**

## **8. Social Media and Media Tracking Reports**

- Social Media Tracking Report - Ms. Greenspan provided committee members with an overview of the social media statistics since the last Community Relations & Advocacy Committee meeting. We have added 106 new followers with total of 3,664 fans now on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. Total impressions for the time period (9/04/19 through 11/05/19) were seen 84,100 times.
- Media/Press Tracking Report from 09/05/19 through 11/05/19 indicated that the ADAMHS Board had a total of 80 media mentions; 78 were positive, 2 neutral and 0 negative. The total for calendar year 2019 is 339 mentions; 324 were positive and 15 neutral 0 negative.

### Committee Input:

- Ms. Rosenbaum inquired about the utilization of additional forms of social media applications; such as TicTok and Snapchat. Ms. Zietlow-DeJesus referenced details of both social media applications and reported that Snapchat is for messaging among friends; however, if TicTok is utilized as an avenue for suicide prevention, the Board would need to obtain an influencer. As a result, staff could research the utilization of TicTok next year.
- Mr. Snider inquired about utilizing Mr. Terry Russell, Executive Director, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Ohio to assist with major publicity in Central Ohio.

## **9. New Business**

- Ms. Zietlow-DeJesus noted that a Cuyahoga County resident recently died by suicide and her family asked in her obituary that donations be raised for suicide prevention efforts. To date, these efforts have raised more than \$1,000.00. As a result, the Board will be forwarding thank you correspondence to the family; in addition to each donation received.

- Ms. Zietlow-DeJesus highlighted a sponsorship recommended by Board staff to the CR&A Committee and referenced the details provided in the individual agenda process sheet for:
  - VoiceltRadio's Turkey Jam Free Holiday Concert (Friday, November 29, 2019 from 7:00 pm to 12:00 am at the NEO Sports Plant) - \$500.00

**Motion to approve the sponsorship (listed above) to the Committee of the Whole.**

MOTION: S. Rosenbaum / SECOND: R. Blue / AYES: R. Blue, G. Boehm, E. Caraballo, K. Kern-Pilch, S. Rosenbaum, H Snider / NAYS: None / ABSTAIN: None / **Motion passed.**

Committee Input:

- Ms. Rosenbaum referenced a radio broadcast regarding breaking the stigma of mental illness in Africa where they have been training Grandmothers to converse with individuals on a bench. Ms. Zietlow-DeJesus noted that Representative Stephanie Howse, is advocating to bring this program to Ohio.

***There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.***

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

***Approved by: Harvey A. Snider, Esq., Community Relations & Advocacy Committee Chair***