

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

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS & ADVOCACY COMMITTEE  
JULY 1, 2009**

Ericka Thoms, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Committee Members Present:** Kathryn Gambatese, Benjamin Gohlstin, Sr., Lisa Thomas, Ericka Thoms  
**Absent:** Eugenia Cash, Rick Kemm

**Board Staff Present:** William M. Denihan, Chief Executive Officer; Scott Osiecki, Director of External Affairs; Cassandra Richardson, Chief Financial Officer; Valeria Harper, Chief Operating Officer; Christina Delos Reyes, M.D.; Julie Fogel, Public Information Officer; Carol Krajewski, Executive Specialist

**1. 2009 ROADS TO RECOVERY CONFERENCE PLANNING**

Mr. Osiecki reported that planning continues for the Roads to Recovery Conference which is set for Sept. 14 & 15, 2009 at the Crowne Plaza. The Registration brochure is in process and should be distributed within the next week.

With regard to workshops, keynotes and plenary, a Call for Workshop Proposals was developed and distributed through e-mail and mail to past presenters, presenters of the AOD Board's Training Institute, and presenters from other conferences across the country. Sixty responses were received. The Conference Steering Committee, consisting of 11 staff members and providers, reviewed each proposal and selected:

**2 Keynote Addresses:**

- Trauma to Triumph (Edward Leigh)
- Dealing with the Commonalities of Personality Disorders (Dr. Joseph Shannon)

**2 Plenary Sessions:**

- Distraction as a Focal Point (Owen Lowery)
- A Personal Story of Triumph over drug addiction & Mental Illness (Tonier Cain)

**4 Special Institute Sessions:** (2 workshop sessions totaling 3 hours)

1. Technology, Trauma, Addiction
2. EMDR in the Clinical Setting: New Frontiers in the Treatment of Addiction & Trauma
3. Creative Intervention: Adult & Adolescents in Recovery
4. Families & Systems: Working Together from a Systems Perspective

**46 90-minute Workshops:** ranging from . . .

- Interest Based Communication Skills From Conflict to Resolution and Toby & Friends (Pet therapy) to
- Benefits Planning: What Everyone Should Know and Introduction to Mental Health First Aid Training

Continuing Education Units (CEUs) – The ADAMHS Board has been approved by ODMH to provide 14 credit hours (7 per day) for psychologists, RNs and LPNs, for the Roads to Recovery Conference. The ADAMHS Board will be providing 14 credit hours (7 per day) for Social Workers, Counselors, Marriage & Family Therapists, Chemical Dependency Counselors and Prevention Specialists. Registration brochures should be mailed in mid-July.

Rev. Gohlstin noted that in Ohio, any minister ordained into a major denomination is grandfathered as a social worker and asked whether those CEU's might be available for clergy members as well. Mr. Osiecki noted that he would follow-up on this and that several sessions are specifically targeted for clergy members.

**2. ADVOCACY UPDATE**

**State Budget** - Mr. Denihan noted that there is a tremendous discrepancy between the Governor's proposed budget and the General Assembly mounting to approximately \$60-\$90 million on the mental health side. In terms of alcohol and drug addiction funds the proposed reduction is between \$10-12 million. Efforts are underway to re-emphasize that the mental health and alcohol and drug populations are the most vulnerable residents who face very dire circumstances with these budget predictions.

**408 Line** – An ODMH administrative decision has been tentatively made to reallocate the dollars statewide in the 408 line item. The most recent formula will adversely affect Cuyahoga County by a reduction of \$13 million. Mr. Denihan noted that 74 counties will receive additional dollars while 14 counties will suffer a reduction with Cuyahoga County taking the largest cut. Additionally, Franklin County has filed a lawsuit against the ODMH administration because they wish to receive 100% of their funds upfront instead of receiving it incrementally.

Based upon Ms. Thomas request, Mr. Osiecki noted that he would e-mail the names of those legislators serving on the Conference Committee for the purpose of advocacy.

**Advocacy Action Agenda** - Mr. Osiecki reported that this Advocacy Action Agenda has been updated to reflect what the Provisional ADAMHS Board approved; this version reflects:

- 1) the introduction of *SB15* to expand existing mental health insurance parity law to include all mental illnesses and create insurance parity for substance abuse/addiction conditions.
- 2) a change in the wording describing the Federal Medicaid IMD (institution for mental disease) Rule.
- 3) the grouping of the goals under funding and system of care.

Regarding advocacy efforts, Mr. Denihan highlighted that we:

- Met with the *Plain Dealer* Editorial Board and had an editorial written.
- Kept the community informed with a meeting and advocacy action alerts.
- Mobilized the community on this issue, and had consumers, family members, providers, county partners and other stakeholders writing to ODMH and our state legislators.
- Consumer groups organized petitions.
- An op-ed piece appeared in the *Plain Dealer* regarding Case Western Reserve University.

### **3. ADAMHS BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY WEB SITE**

Mr. Osiecki reported that the ADAMHS Board's temporary site went live on June 30, 2009, complete with ADAMHS Board information, a new look, while the permanent one is under construction. Both of our current sites are up and running and will a link to the new site. Staff has been meeting with the County Information Services Department in designing the full site, which should be live by the end of September.

### **4. SEPTEMBER: NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH**

Ms. Julie Fogel reported that September is National Recovery Month and we will do the following to commemorate it:

- Compile and distribute a Calendar of Events similar to what we do for Mental Health Month that lists events sponsored by our providers.
- Partner with the Northern Ohio Recovery Association to sponsor the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Recovery Celebration which is set from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at the Crowne Plaza.
- The event is a dinner dance.
- Maxwell, a well-known WMMS radio personality who is in recovery from addiction and mental illness will be the Master of Ceremonies.
- James Posey, New Orleans Hornets forward, and his father have been invited to be the speakers.
- Tickets are \$40 each and invitations will be mailed soon.

### **5. MEDIA TRACKING REPORT (Information Only)**

We had 14 media hits since March 4, 2009. Of those, 10 were considered positive, 3 were neutral and 1 negative. Even though most of the topics were about reduced funding, it does not reflect badly on the ADAMHS Board and were rated as a positive – because of our advocacy efforts and getting the word out.

### **6. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Nosek, President of the MH Council of Agency Directors, found it difficult to advocate for two different issues (state budget and ODMH 408 administrative line item reallocation) simultaneously. When taking an advocacy role, he asked whether these issues should be addressed separately in an effort not to confuse and/or dilute the issues. Mr. Denihan suggested that efforts focus on the 408 line item which specifically impacts Cuyahoga County services negatively. Mr. Denihan reported that the ADAMHS Board intends to intervene in the Franklin County lawsuit to protect our interest.

**6. NEW BUSINESS** *(Continued)*

Ms. Gambatese suggested to the Committee Chair that the Community Relations & Advocacy agendas should include the opportunity for audience input at the onset of the meeting.

*There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.*

*Submitted by: Carol Krajewski, Executive Specialist*

*Approved by: Ericka Thoms, Community Relations & Advocacy Committee Chair*