

ALCOHOL, DRUG ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY

COMMUNITY RELATIONS & ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 2, 2009

Ericka Thoms, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. No comments were generated from audience members regarding agenda items.

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

Board Staff Present: William M. Denihan, C.E.O., Scott Osiecki, Valeria Harper, Cassandra Richardson, Julie Fogel, Chris Paternoster, Theresa Bynum, Christina Lofton, Lisa Griffith, Carol Krajewski

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Community Relations & Advocacy Committee minutes from July 1, 2009, were approved as written.

2. 2009 ROADS TO RECOVERY CONFERENCE UPDATE: September 14 and 15

Mr. Osiecki reported that over 200 people registered for the conference and registrations are still being received. Consumer scholarships have been offered. Presenters are ready to go. It was noted that registration numbers are down compared to previous years and responses from providers are significantly down. Mr. Denihan recently sent out a memo to providers identifying the excellent value of the conference and potential CEU's for attending clinicians.

Motion to recommend the ratification of personal service contracts for presenters during the Roads to Recovery '09 Conference to the Finance & Operations Committee. MOTION: R. Kemm / SECOND: L. Thomas
AYES: K. Gambatese, C. Miller, R. Kemm, R. Thomas / NAYS: None / **Motion passed.**

3. LEGISLATION/ADVOCACY

State Budget – Mr. Denihan reported that the state budget was a disaster this year despite that fact that advocates from Northeast Ohio and across the state came together. Advocates were told that the Conference Committee placed \$65 million for mental health services above what the Governor proposed in his framework into the final budget. The problem is that no one is able to find the entire \$65 million in the final budget only \$14.7 million was put into the local health systems (505) line item.

State Budget Correction Bill -

Mr. Denihan reported that on July 17, 2009, the FY 2010-2011 State Budget was passed. Reductions in funding to the community mental and alcohol and other drug addiction treatment systems are significant. A total of \$9.8 million (24.30%) in state funding for community mental health services has been lost and over \$1.7 million (10.83%) has been cut for community alcohol and other drug addiction treatment and prevention services.

Another \$14.7 million was moved from the community and hospitals (408) line item to the hospital operating expenses (609) line item. \$36 million that was placed in a Medicaid appropriations line item actually is federal money that needs to be "drawn down." It appears all but \$14.7 million of the \$65 million that the administration and legislature say they put back into the ODMH budget above the Governor's budget framework is "phantom money!"

Additionally, ODMH took an additional \$31 million off the top of the 408 line item for hospital costs despite closing two state hospitals. Governor Ted Strickland and Senate President Bill Harris have stated that lawmakers will be debating a budget correction bill in the near future, including the "phantom money." Even with the entire \$65 million, the behavioral health system in Ohio is inadequately funded.

Mr. Denihan noted that we must continue our advocacy efforts to keep alcohol, drug addiction and mental health treatment on the minds of our legislators so that they have a clear understanding about what will happen to people who are in need of treatment but do not have access due to cuts, and to ward-off any further reductions.

An Advocacy Action Alert Call asked advocates to write and/or e-mail legislators to implore them to:

- Quickly begin the budget correction bill process; stress the importance of not delaying until January as people need behavioral health services .
- Ensure that the entire \$65 million is in the budget correction bill.
- Move the \$36 million from the Medicaid appropriations line item to the 505 community services line item so that it can be used for all services.
- Request that the Governor not allow ODMH to take the additional \$31 million off the top of the 408 line item so that it can be restored for community services.
- Ensure no additional funding cuts to the behavioral health system.

Mr. Denihan noted that the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Healthcare Authorities (OACBHA) used the ADAMHS Board's Advocacy Action Alert as an example to all the other Boards.

SB22: Offenders- Punishment (Prison Reform)

Recently, Mr. Denihan met with Shakyra E. Diaz, the Education Director for the ACLU, about re-entry, criminal justice, and prison reform that are critical issues in our state. The ACLU of Ohio is coordinating a statewide sign-on letter to legislators requesting action on much needed reforms in the areas of criminal justice, prison reform, and to urge support for SB 22. A copy of the letter was distributed to committee members for their review. Basically SB 22 identifies a host of ways to reduce sentencing to prison and reduce the time spent in prison. Some methods include:

- Reducing the number of days spent in prison if the inmate participates in various programs, such as substance abuse, and educational and vocational training.
- Making some changes to the parole board.
- Lessening the prison stay for substance abuse that would lessen, but would require intervention.
- Utilizing mental illness as a factor in deterring or shortening prison time.

The bill would also add the following to the County Local Corrections Planning Board:

- Director of the local ADMHS Board or designee,
- Director of the local Mental Disabilities Board.
- Administrator of a half-way house.
- Administrator of a community-based correctional facility.
- Administrator of a community corrections act-funded program.

October 1st is the deadline to collect all signatures. Mr. Denihan felt that the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County should join the effort and become a signer on the letter.

As a result of a follow-up by Mr. Osiecki, we are partnering with the ACLU by offering our assistance by helping the ACLU make contact with the Board Association, agreeing to set up a table at our Roads to Recovery Conference on September 14 & 15 to gather signatures, and agreeing to issue an e-mail advocacy action alert regarding the letter with instructions to agencies, partners and other stakeholders on how to sign on to the letter.

Motion to recommend support for signing on to the Letter to Legislators regarding Prison Reform to the full Board. MOTION: R. Kemm / SECOND: L. Thomas / AYES: K. Gambatese, C. Miller, R. Kemm, R. Thomas
NAYS: None / **Motion passed.**

America's Affordable Health Choices Act

One of the primary goals of healthcare reform is to design a system to reduce health care costs and improve access to care. Determining which of the elements of the current system should be changed and which should be expanded will be critical in moving forward. Exactly how federal reforms will impact the states is everyone's question. States are a key stakeholder in this process of reform and will be responsible for implementing many of the changes that emerge from this debate. According to Mental Health America:

- Reform includes mental health parity, and the Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee and the three Committees of jurisdiction in the House have already approved very similar health care reform bills, but there are some differences that have to be worked out.

America's Affordable Health Choices Act *(Continued)*

- The Senate Finance Committee is still working on a compromise version of the legislation that they hope will garner some Republican support.
- The Finance Committee is expected to issue its version of this legislation sometime in September.
- Many members of Congress are hearing from radical groups who oppose health care reform. So, it's important for mental health and AOD advocates to help counter these negative messages and speaking out in support of expanding health care coverage to the uninsured and making improvements to our current health care system.
- Here are some priority messages developed by *Mental Health America* to raise with members of Congress regarding health care reform:
 - Expand coverage for the uninsured many of whom have unmet needs for mental health and substance abuse care.
 - Ensure that mental health and substance abuse treatment are fully covered and at parity with other health conditions under any new federal coverage program.
 - Improve coordination between primary care & mental health, substance abuse treatment providers.
 - Increase recruitment of mental health and substance abuse treatment providers.
 - Increase access to services aimed at preventing mental health and substance abuse.
 - Improve quality of care by including consumers and patients in research development and dissemination.

Regional School District Levy

A line item in the budget passed without public discussion allowing groups of Cuyahoga county school systems to combine into regional districts for the purpose of passing a levy for special education and mental health services. Although the Governor vetoed this concept when it was proposed last year, he had a change of heart this year and allowed it to pass.

4. INSTITUTE FOR CREATIVE LEADERSHIP

Mr. Osiecki highlighted the proposed recommendation for a training contract with the Institute for Creative Leadership. Ms. Gambatese voiced her concern about training opportunities that are offered as first come, first served. She advocated for adopting a process to assure fairness in offering training opportunities for provider staff and for measuring training outcomes.

Motion to recommend approval of contracts with Creative Leadership to provide training for our provider network, and team building and leader and ratification of six trainings during the Roads to Recovery '09 Conference to the Finance & Operations Committee. MOTION: L. Thomas SECOND: R. Kemm
AYES: K. Gambatese, C. Miller, R. Kemm, R. Thomas / NAYS: None / **Motion passed.**

5. ADAMHS BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY TRAINING INSTITUTE

There will not be a full fall training institute, because of the time and energy that has been placed into the Roads to Recovery Conference. However, we will develop a special Institute flyer announcing that Dr. Chris will be holding free trainings on IDDT and a few trainings focusing on adolescent issues for the provider network and juvenile court. We continue to internally discuss the possibility of charging fees for CEU's and working with providers to sustain the Institute. Discussions will begin with the Training Institute Advocacy Board around these issues. Dr. Thomas suggested that the target audiences for trainings might be police officers and paramedics from local communities.

6. SPONSORSHIPS - Mr. Osiecki highlighted the ADAMHS Board's sponsorships for the projects listed below:

- Run Jane Run: August 14-16 *(Action Requested)*
- NAMI Greater Cleveland NAMIWalks: August 29
- Suicide Prevention Education Alliance *Into the Light Walk*: September 27 *(Action Requested)*
- Ohio Association of Drug Addiction Counselors Conference: November 2 & 3

Motion to recommend ratification of the ADAMHS Board agreement to co-sponsor the Women's Center of Greater Cleveland's Annual Run, Jane, Run event to the Finance & Operations Committee.

MOTION: C. Miller / SECOND: K. Gambatese / AYES: K. Gambatese, C. Miller, R. Kemm, R. Thomas
NAYS: None / **Motion passed.**

6. SPONSORSHIPS *(Continued)*

Motion to recommend ratification of the ADAMHS Board agreement to co-sponsor the Suicide Prevention Alliance (SPEA) 6th Annual Into the Light Walk on Sunday, September 27, 2009, to the Finance & Operations Committee. MOTION: C. Miller / SECOND: L. Thomas / AYES: K. Gambatese, C. Miller, R. Kemm, R. Thomas NAYS: None / **Motion passed.**

7. SEPTEMBER: NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

Ms. Fogel highlighted various events scheduled during the month of September in recognition of National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month. The Recovery Month Event Calendar included with the agenda provides details on all of the events and is attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit.

- Calendar of Events
- BOCC Resolution
- Recovery Night with the Cleveland Indians: September 22
- Recovery Celebration: September 26
- WMMS Advertising Package *(Action Requested)*

Motion to recommend approval of the ADAMHS Board agreement to air 60, 30-second Recovery Month ads hosted by Maxwell on WMMS 100.7 to the Finance & Operations Committee. MOTION: C. Miller SECOND: R. Kemm / AYES: K. Gambatese, C. Miller, R. Kemm, R. Thomas NAYS: None / **Motion passed.**

8. SUICIDE PREVENTION UPDATE

Mr. Osiecki provided an overview of suicide prevention initiatives listed below:

- Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation
- National Suicide Prevention Week: September 6-12
- Your Teen Magazine Ad *(Action Requested)*
- Salem Communication Package: *(Action Requested)*
 - WFHM 95.5 FM *The Fish* Radio Spots
 - WHK 1420 AM Radio Spots

Motion to recommend ratification of the ADAMHS Board agreement to place a quarter page ad in the fall '09, winter '09, spring '10, and summer '10 issues of Your Teen Magazine to the Finance & Operations Committee. MOTION: C. Miller / SECOND: R. Kemm / AYES: K. Gambatese, C. Miller, R. Kemm, R. Thomas NAYS: None / **Motion passed.**

Motion to recommend ratification of the ADAMHS Board agreement with Salem Communications to air 30, 60-second Suicide Prevention Spots on WFHM – 95.5 FM "The Fish" and 30, 60 Suicide Prevention Spots on WHK 1420 AM, to the Finance & Operations Committee. MOTION: C. Miller / SECOND: R. Kemm AYES: K. Gambatese, C. Miller, R. Kemm, R. Thomas / NAYS: None / **Motion passed.**

9. RE-ENTRYSPECIAL: VILLAGE TV

Mr. Denihan was asked to take part in a special 4-part series on Village TV regarding Re-entry. The show was taped on August 4th and Rev. Otis Moss served as moderator. He appeared with Terry Collins and Phil Nunes and spoke about how prisons have become de facto mental institutions and how the lack of proper mental health treatment impacts the person reentering society, their families and the community. A special screening is being planned for October, before it airs.

10. MEDIA TRACKING REPORT *(Information Only)*

There were 14 media hits from 7/01/09 through 8/31/09; all were considered positive. The year-to-date total for calendar year is 106 media mentions, with 102 positive, 3 neutral and 1 negative. (The ADAMHS Board Media/ Press Clipping Report referenced is attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit.)

11. NEW BUSINESS

- Ms. Bynum inquired about the value of letters or petitions to Legislators and the Governor from consumers mental health services. Mr. Denihan encouraged her and other consumers to various means of communication to stress the importance of our funding needs.
- Elizabeth Cornachione, Program and Policy Coordinator at the Mental Health Advocacy Coalition (MHAC) announced that MHAC, several months ago, partnered with Tri-C to produce a one-hour video on suicide in colleges. It will be re-run next week on cable. Copies of the DVD are also available to those interested. Mr. Osiecki noted an interest in positing the DVD on our ADAMHS Board Web site.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Submitted by: Carol Krajewski, Executive Specialist

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