

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

COMMUNITY RELATIONS & ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 4, 2009

Committee Members Present: Kathryn Gambatese, Benjamin Gohlstin, Sr., Ericka Thoms / Other Board Members Present: Pythias Jones, M.D., Mary Warr / Absent: Eugenia Cash, Cynthia Miller, Rick Kemm, Lisa Thomas

Board Staff Present: Scott Osiecki, Tonya Birney, Julie Fogel, Lisa Griffith, Carol Krajewski, Chris Paternoster, Yancey Quinn, Starlette Sizemore-Rice

1. CALL TO ORDER & AUDIENCE INPUT

Ericka Thoms, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. No comments were generated from audience members regarding agenda items.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Community Relations & Advocacy Committee minutes from September 2, 2009, were approved as written.

3. LEGISLATION/ADVOCACY

State Budget Correction Bill

Mr. Osiecki reported that no news was received regarding the anticipated debate on the state's Budget Correction Bill. When information is learned, the intent is to launch advocacy efforts along with Ohio Association of County Behavioral Healthcare Authorities (OACBHA) to seek the following statutory and funding fixes in the Budget Correction Bill:

Statutory Areas:

- **Conflict of Interest:** A recent Ohio Attorney General Opinion expanded our traditional understanding of what constitutes a conflict of interest that would bar employees of provider agencies from serving on boards especially those receiving Medicaid funds. This now creates a conflict due to language interpreted in ORC 340 and places Boards and their appointing authorities in a Catch 22 scenario as these individuals are required to serve on Boards, but virtually all professionals in the field have a prohibited conflict of interest. This opinion is not rooted in Ohio's Ethics law; therefore, we are interested in deleting the language at issue in ORC 340 and revert to the conflict of interest provision in Ohio Ethics Law.
- **Ensure 408/401 Involvement:** Create language that would require the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) and the Ohio Department of Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) to develop 408 and 401 formulas in consultation with the Boards.
- **Develop a process for development/changing of Per Diem:** Ensure that ODMH would have to go through the rule-making process to change the per diem rate, and delineate details, such as allowable consideration, time frames, other terms and conditions.
- **Create State Hospital Policy Boards:** Insert language into the Budget Corrections Bill that will create a Council for each of the seven state regional psychiatric hospitals. These councils would include representation from the State Hospital CEO, ODMH, Central Office Member, Provider, Consumer, Family Member and the Executive Directors of the Boards in the hospital's catchment area. The council would be responsible for shared policy oversight.

Fiscal Recommendations:

- Take the \$36 million presently in the ODMH 635 line item and place it in the 505 line item; allocate the entire amount to the Boards via the general 505 distribution method with no earmarks.
- Replace the \$7.35 million per year cut from the ODMH 408 line item and distribute funds to the Boards.
- Since Ohio's liquor profits are steadily increasing, request that the 1% (\$4.4 million) of the sales currently provided to ODADAS be raised to 2% for an additional \$4.4 million per year.

State Budget Correction Bill Postcard Campaign

Over 75,000 of the advocacy postcards were delivered to the Governor and Ohio's Legislature. The ADAMHS Board distributed approximately 5,500 of the cards and have turned in about 3,000 signed cards. Some agencies opted to mail them directly to legislators.

SB22: Offenders- Punishment (Prison Reform)

As an follow-up to the ADAMHS Board sign-on support of the ACLU letter to legislators requesting action on much needed reforms in the areas of criminal justice, prison reform, and to urge support for SB 22, the ACLU has decided to wait until a more strategic time to release the letter and interest in the bill resurfaces. ACLU of Ohio remains hopeful that with enough pressure and continued focus on SB 22 & criminal justice reform in general we can make some eventual headway.

4. ROADS TO RECOVERY CONFERENCE '09 DEBRIEFING

Mr. Osiecki highlighted portions of the 8-page Roads to Recovery Debriefing document (attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit). The summary identified that 369 people registered for the conference and that 30% of the participants were consumers. Revenue and expenses for the conference were reviewed; a detailed budget compared revenue and expense figures from the two regional conferences held in 2007 and 2005.

Mr. Osiecki felt that the Roads to Recovery '09 Conference met all of the goals developed with the community planning committee. Mr. Osiecki recommends that the Roads to Recovery Conference should be a one-day conference held in September or October 2011. Feedback from attendees and providers is that a two-day conference takes too much time away from their regular work. It was noted that a 2-day conference is more expensive for meals and room rentals. Also, the cost of providing speakers for two days increases the costs of honorariums, more visual/audio requirements and travel expenses.

5. ADAMHS BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY TRAINING INSTITUTE

The Training Institute, formerly developed and operated by the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Service Board of Cuyahoga County, has a rich history of providing free and quality training to the behavioral healthcare workforce throughout Cuyahoga County and the State of Ohio. The Training Institute also provides CEUs and RCHs without charge. The Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County wholeheartedly supports training and education, especially for our behavioral healthcare system workforce, consumers and family members.

The ADAMHS Board would like to continue the practice of providing trainings and CEUs at no cost; however, given the current economic environment and loss of over \$9.8 million (24.30%) in state funding for community mental health services and over \$1.7 million (10.83%) for community alcohol and other drug addiction treatment and prevention services, it can no longer afford to offer these benefits free of charge. (The ADAMHS Board Training Institute Reorganization Plan, dated November 2009, is attached to the original minutes stored in the Exec. Unit.)

William M. Denihan, CEO; Scott Osiecki, Director of External Affairs, and Tonya Birney, Training Officer, met with the Training Institute Advisory Committee on October 15, 2009, to discuss the Institute and this reorganization plan. After discussion the committee accepted this plan with the following caveats: (1) Reorganization of the Training Institute is a way to sustain this valuable community resource, and (2) The Training Institute is not to be used as a profit maker.

The reorganization proposes:

- a. Utilizing free trainers
- b. Charging Nominal Session Fees
- c. Charging Nominal CEU/RCH Processing Fees
- d. On-Line Registration

6. ADAMHS BOARD ANNUAL MEETING

Efforts have begun to canvass local hotels regarding the ADAMHS Board Annual Meeting in 2010. Ms. Fogel contacted to date: Hilton Garden Inn, Renaissance, Crowne Plaza and Holiday Inn Select in Strongsville, which has been newly renovated. Ms. Fogel has collected information regarding meal prices, available dates, etc. It was noted that the Key Marriot Tower only has availability during the Memorial Day weekend.

Ms. Gambatese suggested that the Marriot Inn in Highland Heights near I-271 be explored. When planning the agenda for the Annual Meeting, Ms. Thoms advocated for allowing guests to enjoy the brunch while the speeches are being made. Ms. Gambatese expressed her interest in taking a tour of the Holiday Inn Select in Strongsville and a tasting as was offered by the hotel staff.

7. ADAMHS BOARD WEB SITE

The new ADAMHS Board Web site was introduced and Mr. Osiecki demonstrated the various features, information and links now available.

8. CLERGY VIDEO/VILLAGE TV

At the recommendation of Rev. Gohlstin, Mr. Denihan and Mr. Osiecki met with Rev. Sam Tidmore of Village TV. He presented a proposal to develop a DVD geared toward clergy that would identify behavioral health issues, offer tips on handling issues and making referrals for treatment. Additionally, the ADAMHS Board would have title sponsorship on shows covering health topics of concerns to minorities. Since the total quoted to produce and distribute 500 of the DVDs to 300 churches was \$100,000 and we do not have the funding for this worthwhile initiative, Mr. Denihan has asked John Garrity and Beth Pfohl to research and write a grant seeking funds for such an endeavor.

9. OHIOANS CALLED TO BE OF 1 MIND CAMPAIGN

OF-1-MIND is a statewide advocacy and education campaign developed by the OACBHA. The goals are to empower individuals and professionals to become active in the fight against stigma, and promote access and funding for alcohol, drug addiction and/or mental health services and supports. The campaign will kick-off on January 26th 2010 – OACBHA Legislative Day. Mr. Osiecki noted that the myths about mental illness and addiction continue and stigma influences decisions at all levels including funding.

It's time for people OF-1-MIND who believe that *TREATMENT WORKS* and *PEOPLE RECOVER* from mental illness and addiction to speak out so that no one goes without care, and everyone has a chance to live productively in the community. The ADAMHS Board is taking an active role in this campaign. Mr. Osiecki has been asked to serve on the committee and is one of only three board staff asked to participate on this committee; consequently, he will share information with the Board in the future.

10. BUSINESS COMMUNITY ADVOCACY - Held until January CR&A meeting.

11. MEDIA TRACKING REPORT *(Information Only)*

There were 13 media hits from 9/01/09 through 10/31/09; 6 were considered positive, 3 considered neutral, and 4 considered negative. The year-to-date total for calendar year 2009 is 119 media mentions, with 108 positive, 6 neutral and 5 negative. (The ADAMHS Board Media/Press Clipping Report referenced is attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit.)

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Carol Krajewski, Executive Specialist

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