

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

COMMUNITY RELATIONS & ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

MARCH 3, 2010

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

Board Staff Present: William M. Denihan, C.E.O., Scott Osiecki, Carol Krajewski

1. CALL TO ORDER & AUDIENCE INPUT

Committee Chair, Ericka Thoms, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.; no audience input .

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Community Relations & Advocacy Committee minutes from January 6, 2010, were approved as written.

3. LEGISLATION/ADVOCACY

SB22: Offenders- Punishment (Prison Reform)

Ohio lawmakers have had multiple opportunities over the past year to pass SB 22, introduced in April 2009 by Sen. Bill Seitz of Cincinnati, to save money and ease the dangerous overcrowding of inmates. However, the House leadership claims that the problem needs more study. State officials announced that the nonpartisan national Council of State Governments' Justice Center will research the problem of prison overcrowding, cost-containment and return with recommendations this summer. ACLU of Ohio remains hopeful that with enough pressure & continued focus on SB 22 & criminal justice reform we can make some eventual headway.

Alcohol & Other Drugs Mandatory Treatment Process

LSC 128 (*which has not yet been introduced*) provides a mechanism for a probate court to order a person who suffers from alcohol and other drug abuse to undergo treatment. A person (spouse, relative or guardian) may file a petition in probate court for treatment of an individual suffering from alcohol and other drug abuse. The filing fee and costs of treatment are paid by the person who files the petition. Petition must include, among other information, the factual basis for the belief that the respondent is suffering from alcohol and other drug abuse and presents an imminent danger or imminent threat of danger to self, family or others if not treated for alcohol and other drug abuse.

Judicial Process: The Court will examine the petition and examine the petitioner under oath. If the Court finds there is probable cause to believe the respondent should undergo treatment, the Court shall do all of the following:

- Hold a hearing within 7 days.
- Notify respondent of the petition, date and purpose of hearing, and the name and telephone number of attorney who will represent respondent.
- Require the respondent to be examined not later than 24 hours before the hearing date by a physician and a qualified health professional for a drug and alcohol addiction assessment and diagnosis.
- Conduct the hearing.

If the Court finds that respondent should be ordered to treatment, Court shall order the treatment at a level of care and for a length of time recommended by the qualified health provisional who conducted the assessment.

Federal Healthcare Update

On February 22, 2010, the President Obama released details of its compromise healthcare reform proposal which was intended to bridge the gap between earlier House and Senate versions of healthcare reform. The President's proposal is designed to build off the Senate-passed bill and does not directly deal with all elements of a comprehensive healthcare reform package. Some of the major provisions include:

- Eliminating the Nebraska FMAP provision and providing significant additional Federal financing to all States for the expansion of Medicaid;
- Closing the Medicare prescription drug "donut hole" coverage gap;
- Improved cost-sharing assistance for low-income families relative to the Senate bill;
- Strengthening Federal and State oversight of insurance premium increases;
- Strengthens the Community Living Assistance Services and Supports Program which is a voluntary, privately-funded long-term services insurance program.

Federal Healthcare Update, (Continued)

There appears to be growing support among Democrats for the use of a legislative procedure known as reconciliation to pass the bill if bipartisan support doesn't materialize. Some speculate that the vote may come by the end of March.

Federal Parity Final Rules Update

The federal Mental Health Parity Act of 1996 prohibited group plans from establishing annual or lifetime dollar limits for mental health services. The Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Act of 2008 (2008 Parity Act) amends the 1996 Act to include substance use disorders and to require that a group health plan of 50 or more employees (or coverage offered in connection with such a plan) that provides both medical and surgical benefits and mental health or substance abuse use benefits to ensure that:

- Financial requirements (e.g., deductibles, copayments, coinsurance, out-of-pocket expenses, annual and lifetime limits, etc.) applied to MH/AOD benefits are no more restrictive than financial requirements applied to substantially all medical and surgical benefits; and,
- Treatment limitations applicable to MH/AOD must not be more restrictive than those applied to substantially all medical and surgical benefits. (e.g., frequency of treatments, scope or duration of treatment)

If a question comes up about the interplay of Ohio's Parity Act with the federal legislation, committee members can state that: 1) The 2008 Parity Act does not undermine states with parity laws stronger and more comprehensive than the 2008 Parity Act; 2) the 2008 Parity Act establishes a uniform "floor" of coverage across all plans; and 3) Ohio's parity law limits the types of mental illnesses it covers and does not contain AOD coverage. Consequently, the 2008 Parity Act will impact plans directly on these issues.

4. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES ISSUE: MAY 4, 2010

The Health and Human Services issue is on the May 4th ballot. The 2.9 mill renewal campaign kicked-off on 2/12/10. At stake is \$36.5 million from the levy that provides mental health and AOD services. The Board will host phone banks at the ADAMHS Board offices Mondays through Thursdays starting on March 22 through the election. Mr. Osiecki is also coordinating phone banks for other organizations that have volunteered to host, such as United Way and Beech Brook. Ms. Gambatese noted her interest in learning who has volunteered for the Speaker's Bureau in order to help with linking speaking opportunities within the community. It was noted that Ms. Fogel is in charge of the Speaker's Bureau. Mr. Denihan has enlisted all Board staff to participate in campaign activities—making phone calls, literature drops, etc.

5. 2010 ADVOCACY ACTION AGENDA

2009 Goals - Mr. Osiecki led the review of the Advocacy Goals for 2009. Committee members concurred that all goals should be checked as completed with a separate designation made for those goals which are on-going issues.

2010 Suggested Advocacy Action Agenda - Mr. Osiecki highlighted the 3-page handout distributed to committee members. On-going 2009 goals were listed and proposed new goals were identified by underscoring. Committee members were asked to wordsmith and send changes to Mr. Osiecki by e-mail; they also agreed that the Revised 2009 Advocacy Action Agenda and the 2010 Advocacy Action Agenda draft be e-mailed to all Board of Directors for their input prior to the March General Meeting.

6. TRAINING INSTITUTE UPDATE

Mr. Osiecki reported that the Training Institute Budget had been presented to the Training Institute Advocacy Board. The projected estimated operating costs/expenses are significantly decreased by the use of presenters who have agreed to present their workshops at no cost to the Board. The previous operating budget for the Training Institute under the ADASB of Cuyahoga County was \$65,000. Currently, the projected annual operating budget is \$10,700. The goal is to move to ensure that the ADAMHS Board's Training Institute is self-sufficient.

Since nominal training fees are now collected, Mr. Osiecki proposed that any funds left over should be directed back into training initiatives such as the Recovery Conference and to assist in paying for Recovery Conference presenters for specific topics. Committee members concurred that the Training Budget document should be included in the General Meeting agenda packet. (A hard copy of this report is attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit.)

7. ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG PREVENTION CAMPAIGN

Mr. Osiecki attended a recent meeting of the Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Campaign and made the suggestion that similar a concept used by the Suicide Prevention Awareness Campaign might be advantageous for the AOD Prevention Campaign and that the 211 First Call for Help number could be used. Discussion followed.

8. OF 1 MIND CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Mr. Osiecki reported that he and Rev. Gohlstin are members of the OF-1-MIND Steering Committee. The campaign kicked-off on January 26; results of the survey were shared. Weekly Action Alerts have been issued by the campaign; the Web site is www.Of-1-Mind.org. The next meeting is scheduled for 3/9/10.

9. CLERGY VIDEO/VILLAGE TV UPDATE

This project is still in the works. A meeting was held with Village TV on 1/19/10 to discuss available grants and ask Village TV to rethink their proposal for producing and distributing 500 of the DVDs to 300 churches for \$100,000 in order to reduce the cost. Dr. John Garrity and Beth Pfohl are continuing to research available grants to fund the project. An alternative concept that we plan to present to Village TV is to ask them to consider filming the series which we could then post on our Web site, thus eliminating the cost of producing and distributing the DVDs. If this concept flies, we could send postcards or letters describing the series and where to find it on the Web site.

10. CY 2010: MEDIA TRACKING FINAL REPORT *(Information Only)*

2010 is off to a good start with 8 media mentions since the beginning of the year and all are considered positive.

11. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- **Voices for Ohio's Children Sign-on Letter**

The U.S. Senate will soon take up legislation to extend the Unemployment Insurance and COBRA coverage provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). It is essential that an extension of the FMAP (Federal Medical Assistance Percentages) increase under ARRA is also included in this bill. These additional dollars contribute not only to services but help maintain and create jobs. Mr. Osiecki reported that Voices for Ohio's Children is sending a letter to Senators Brown and Voinovich explaining the impact of the FMAP increase and has asked the ADAMHS Board to join others in signing-on. Since we have done so, the letter will be shared with Board members.

- **Film Institute Sponsorship**

The ADAMHS Board is sponsoring a film at this year's Cleveland International Film Festival. We are sponsoring (at \$500) the film *Shirley Adams: a film about the effects of youth violence on a single-parent South American family*. The film covers various emotions and struggles that the family endures after the son is paralyzed and the effect that a young social worker has on the family. The movie screens on Monday, March 22 at 11:50 a.m., Thursday, March 25 at 9:25 p.m., and Friday, March 26 at 2:10 p.m.

- **Phone Book Advertising**

We are working with the AT&T Yellow Pages on our phone book listings. Our ad will be in the alcohol and drug addiction treatment and mental health sections of the Yellow Pages and under the A's in the white pages. We will also be listed in the government section under Cuyahoga County. A contract will be ratified for \$18,204 (\$1,517 per month) during this month's Finance and Operations Committee Meeting and the General Meeting. Mr. Osiecki noted that this is a discounted rate.

Upon returning from Columbus, Mr. Denihan briefed committee members on meetings attended and developments with regard to the 408 funding discussions.

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

Submitted by: Carol Krajewski, Executive Specialist

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