

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

COMMUNITY RELATIONS & ADVOCACY (CR&A) COMMITTEE

MARCH 2, 2011

Committee Members Present: Rev. Iris Lynn Bailey, Richard Folbert, Rev. Benjamin F. Gholstin, Sr., Rev. Charlotte Still Noble, J. Richard Romaniuk, Ph.D. / Absent: E. Cash, Tatiana Falcone, M.D., J. Robert Fowler, Ph.D.

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

1. CALL TO ORDER & AUDIENCE INPUT

Rev. Gohlstin, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. No audience input was received.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Community Relations & Advocacy Committee minutes from January 5, 2011, were approved as submitted.

3. CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE – Extensive Care Unit Project

Mr. Denihan introduced two first year medical students from Case Western Reserve University, Ms. Samantha Zwiebel and Ms. Corinne Sweanngen. Both students reported on the Extensive Care Unit Project which focuses on the concepts of public and community health. Approximately eight students participated per workgroup and selected a problem in a designated school area. The group's assigned area was the Tremont neighborhood. After reviewing national and school data, the group decided to work with students at Lincoln West High School around depression education and suicide prevention. A five question survey was administered. High school students were divided by gender for the group discussions. When one of the medical students shared that her brother committed suicide and the impact it had on her family, almost every girl in that group mentioned that they had also thought about committing suicide in the past. The boys also started talking. At the conclusion of the project, most of the students asked if the program would be continued.

The purpose of the presentation was to encourage and advocate for on-going depression education and suicide prevention at this particular high school. Mr. Denihan commended the medical student's efforts to strive to continue this important work. Since the Board has a relationship with the Suicide Prevention Awareness Education Alliance, he suggested the next step might be to include the medical students present or others from the group in the meeting between the SPEA and the Board to follow-up on this concept.

Dr. Romaniuk suggested this presentation might also be shared with CWRU's Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences (MSASS) for potential follow-up. Dr. Romaniuk offered to share the student's names with MSASS.

Rev. Gohlstin recognizes that this is a growing problem and stated that recently the United Pastors in Mission received a report that there are two elementary schools where youngsters are very depressed and stressed; consequently, the clergy group has begun to focus on these issues with the schools.

4. LEGISLATION / ADVOCACY

- Status of State Mental Health Hospital – Mr. Denihan provided details regarding the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) briefing. ODMH recommends that inpatient consumers of mental health at the north campus of Northcoast Behavioral Health be moved to the Sagamore Hills facility on July 1, 2011, and that a decision has been made not to build a state mental health hospital in Cleveland as previously planned.

Mr. Denihan provided a brief background sketch of discussions and planning efforts over the past six years with ODMH around the building of a new facility in Cleveland. Mr. Denihan noted that the ambulance cost from St. Vincent's Psychiatric Emergency Room to the proposed site is \$583.00--an expense that no one has talked about. Also, a considerable number of consumers have families that are dependent upon public transportation. This is a major issue as there is no public transportation that goes out to Summit County from Cleveland.

This decision also impacts our ability to readily use community based services as a support system while an individual is hospitalized. Several community stakeholders are supporting our position regarding the state mental health hospital decision. Mr. Denihan reported on advocacy efforts:

- Board Chair, Rev. Noble & the CEO sent a letter to the Governor asking him to reverse his decision.
- County Executive & County Council have been asked to pass a resolution in support of our stance.
- Mayor Frank Jackson has passed a resolution in support of our advocacy efforts.
- An Action Alert was sent out to all stakeholders and partners enlisting their support.

A proposed resolution was distributed to all in attendance. (A hard copy is attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit.)

RESOLUTION NO. 11-03-01

Call for the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Governor John Kasich to Reconsider the Decisions to Close the Cleveland Campus of Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare and Not Build a New State Health Hospital in Cleveland

Motion to recommend approval of Resolution No. 11-03-01 to the full Board. MOTION: C. Noble
SECOND: R. Romaniuk / AYES: I. Bailey, R. Folbert, C. Noble, R. Romaniuk / NAYS: None / Motion passed.

Mr. Osiecki introduced the new ADAMHS Board: Behavioral Health Legislative Tracking Report included with the agenda packet (attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit.) Mr. Denihan highlighted several issues on the report.

- **SB 10 & HB 86: Prison Reform**
This legislation identifies a host of ways to reduce sentencing to prison and reduce the time spent in prison, and treatment expands treatment in lieu of incarceration and calls for expanded community corrections that are expected to have a treatment component. This bill has bi-partisan support and encompasses many of the concepts that the ADAMHS Board has been advocating for over a number of years.

RESOLUTION NO. 11-03-02

Support of SB 10 & HB 86: Prison Reform

Motion to recommend approval of Resolution No. 11-03-02 to the full Board. MOTION: R. Romaniuk
SECOND: C. Noble / AYES: I. Bailey, R. Folbert, C. Noble, R. Romaniuk / NAYS: None / Motion passed.

- **SB 69: Need-based Programs Drug Testing** is a bill that would establish a drug testing requirement for adults who apply for need-based programs that provide cash assistance, medical assistance, housing assistance, food or energy assistance. Mr. Denihan noted that he does not support the concept of this bill.
- **HB 69 and SB 3: State Retirement Systems** – Items proposed for change in this bill are listed on the matrix. As this legislation also addresses the issue of double-dipping, Mr. Denihan noted in “full disclosure” that he is considered a double-dipper since he began to collect a PERS pension when he retired from public service in 2001. After officially retiring, he was recruited and hired in 2002 to begin to work for the Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board. Mr. Denihan felt that he has the right to collect pension benefits as he paid into the system and added that his former positions were not connected to the area of behavioral health.

5. SUICIDE PREVENTION & AWARENESS CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Mr. Osiecki reported that the Suicide Prevention Awareness Campaign has started up again this week and includes radio spots, billboards and bus placards. A Media Advisory was distributed which lists facts about suicide and offers interview opportunities with either Loree Vick, a survivor, having lost her husband to suicide, or Mr. William M. Denihan, C.E.O., who can speak to available services and address the effect that the economy continues to have both on the need for services and our ability to fund them. (A hard copy of the advisory is attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit.)

6. SEASON OF HOPE SAFE HOUSE GIVING TREE

Mr. Osiecki introduced the concept of the Season of Hope Safe House Giving Tree proposed as an additional way to gain financial support for the Safe House. A personal service contract is being proposed for local artist, Elvin Colon, who will craft the Giving Tree, not to exceed a total of \$3,200.

Motion to recommend approval of a Personal Service Contract with local artist, Elvin Colon, to the Finance & Operations Committee. MOTION: R. Folbert / C. Noble / AYES: I. Bailey, R. Folbert, C. Noble, R. Romaniuk
NAYS: None / Motion passed.

7. SPONSORSHIPS

- **Suicide Prevention Education Alliance 2011 Into the Light Walk, October 2, 2011**

Mr. Osiecki stated that the ADAMHS Board wishes to continue to support efforts that shine the light on depression and suicide prevention. Therefore, staff recommends that the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County's co-sponsor the Suicide Prevention Education Alliance (SPEA) 8th Annual *Into the Light* Walk on Sunday, October 2, 2011.

Co-Sponsorship benefits include:

- ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County logo and sponsorship acknowledgment in all print material, including 10,000 registration brochures, 2,000 posters, and SPEA Web site.
- Sponsorship Acknowledgement on the major sponsor banner displayed at the Walk.
- Five complimentary T-shirts and five Walk registrations

Motion to recommend approval of Co-Sponsoring the SPEA Into the Light Walk to the Finance & Operations Committee. MOTION: I. Bailey / SECOND: R. Romaniuk / AYES: I. Bailey, R. Folbert, C. Noble, R. Romaniuk
NAYS: None / Motion passed.

- **Cleveland International Film Festival: *Addicted in Afghanistan* (Information Only)**

Julie Fogel, Public Information Specialist, noted that this documentary follows the lives of two young boys and highlights the reality that the majority of Afghanistan youth are heroin addicted. The cost for co-sponsorship is \$500 and \$500 of in-kind activities such as a mailing to our distribution list and posting on our Web site. We will receive a number of complimentary tickets. The time/dates are March 28th at 4:30 pm and March 29th at 9:05 pm.

8. CLERGY VIDEO UPDATE

Ms. Fogel met with Rev. Sam Samuel Tidmore, President and CEO of Village TV. A number of pastors have spoken to Rev. Tidmore about the need for a standardized approach for intervention. The goal is to produce four 15-minute video segments that will include a number of individuals from the religious community who represent racial diversity and a multi-denomination effort in addressing behavioral health issues. The production will include interviews and topics with a psychologist, a medical doctor, a recovering person as well as a prevalence overview in Cuyahoga County and the state of Ohio.

9. APRIL & MAY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CALENDAR & EVENTS

April is Alcohol and Drug Addiction Awareness Month. May is National Mental Health Month. A combined Calendar of Events of agency provider activities will be developed and shared. Movie Mondays will be offered at 4:30 PM; CEU credits will be offered by the Training Institute. The Education & Training Events, offered in April and May, will target educators and parents.

10. ANNUAL MEETING – MONDAY, MAY 16, 2011

ADAMHS Board Annual Meeting invitations will go out shortly. Mr. Osiecki noted that this year Mr. Denihan and Board staff intend to nominate and select Annual Award recipients this year.

11. ROADS TO RECOVERY CONFERENCE PLANNING – Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. Osiecki reminded all of the Recovery Conference date, Monday, September 12, 2011. Planning efforts are underway; the next step is to issue a call for presenters. Two plenary speakers have been confirmed: Ms. Lori Vick and Ericka Lauren--both will concentrate on depression and suicide. The Key Note Speaker in the morning session will focus on alcohol and drug issues.

12. MEDIA TRACKING FINAL REPORT *(Information Only)*

For this calendar year, 2011, the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County has had 24 media mentions all that are considered positive from the Board's perspective.

13. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Denihan thanked Scott Osiecki and Julie Fogel for their work around coordinating the various events as well as the tremendous amount of background work involved. The recent decision from Columbus around the state mental health hospital has generated a considerable amount of work within the last two weeks and Mr. Denihan wished to recognize their efforts.
- Rev. Noble brought forward from the February General Meeting Mr. Snider's recommendation that committees consider reviewing the Board's practices around the use of minority vendors. Rev. Gohlstin offered to collaborate with the Chair of the Finance & Operations Committee on this issue.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Submitted by: Carol Krajewski, Executive Specialist

*Approved by: Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Chair
Community Relations & Advocacy Committee*