

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

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS & ADVOCACY (CR&A) COMMITTEE SEPTEMBER 7, 2011

**Committee Members Present:** Richard Folbert, Robert Fowler, Ph.D., J. Richard Romaniuk, Ph.D., Harvey Snider  
**Absent:** Eugenia Cash, MSSA, LSW, Marc G. Crosby, MBA, Tatiana Falcone, M.D., Rev. Benjamin F. Gholstin, Sr.

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

### 1. CALL TO ORDER & AUDIENCE INPUT

Dr. Romaniuk, Committee Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. No audience input received.

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Community Relations & Advocacy Committee minutes from July 6, 2011, were approved as submitted.

### 3. LEGISLATION/ADVOCACY UPDATE

Mr. Denihan thanked Mr. Osiecki for preparing the legislative information and summarized the following updates:

- **Cuyahoga County Council Proposed Ordinance: Subsidy Guidelines**

County Council is currently considering a proposed ordinance that would require those county departments receiving subsidies to report on a case-by-case basis exactly how a particular subsidy is spent. County Council would have the authority to tell Boards how to spend the funds and attach performance measures that would include a penalty if the performance measures were not met. Mr. Denihan noted that this ordinance has not received overall support from Council committees; one Council member stated that it felt like micromanaging operations. The proposed ordinance is still in the discussion phase.

- **Federal HEARTH Act**

Given the Ohio Department of Mental Health's (ODMH) new emphasis on housing, the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Healthcare Authorities (OACBHA) is reviewing and providing information on the HEARTH Act to ODMH. In May 2009, President Obama signed into law a bill which added "muscle" to Housing Urban Development's (HUD) McKinley-Vento Homeless Assistance programs. The Act was included as part of the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act and provides funding to help the homeless find homes or keep people from becoming homeless and includes: a modified definition of homelessness. HUD's existing definition of homelessness includes people living in places not meant for human habitation (the streets, abandoned buildings, etc), living in an emergency shelter or transitional housing facility, and—facing the loss of housing within the next seven days with no other place to go and no resources or support networks to obtain housing.

The HEARTH Act adds:

- Situations where a person is at imminent risk of homelessness or where a family or unaccompanied youth is living unstably.
- Continuum of Care program that includes Shelter Plus Care and supportive housing.
- Supports Research Programs.
- Added HUD incentives for strategies that are proven to reduce homelessness:
- Rapid re-housing programs for homeless families and permanent supportive housing programs for individuals and families that experience chronic homelessness.

- **Federal Olmstead Act**

Attorney Frank Hickman has informed Boards that if budget cuts in community services lead to increased institutional use, there may be a violation of the American Disabilities Act. Committee members were reminded that the Olmstead Act provides individuals with disabilities opportunities to live their lives like individuals without disabilities, in the least restrictive setting as possible.

### 3. LEGISLATION/ADVOCACY UPDATE (Continued)

- **HB 86: Prison Reform Summary**

Mr. Denihan reported on a meeting held earlier in the day at the Justice Center with about 60 professionals, mostly judges from Municipal Courts, Court of Common Pleas and administrators related to all of the drug courts and mental health courts. The meeting was excellent and focused on informing all about the impact of funding issues and their valuable impact in working with consumers and clients in the behavioral health arena.

- **Legislative Tracking Update**

Since the legislature is on summer recess, there are no updates on the legislative tracking, beyond the addition of the County Council Ordinance.

### 4. CLERGY VIDEO UPDATE

Mr. Denihan reported that Village TV did provide a half-hour video for review. Rev. Gohlstin, Mr. Osiecki, Ms. Harper, Ms. Richardson and Mr. Denihan were present for the screening. All felt that the video missed the mark and did not provide the desired outcome or what was outlined in the contract and subsequent discussions. Consequently, a decision has been made to end the video process with Village TV and not go any further with future endeavors.

### 5. SUICIDE PREVENTION TASK FORCE

Mr. Osiecki reported that the Suicide Prevention Task Force is in the process of rejuvenating itself. Board staff assigned to the task force are Danei Chavez and Scott Osiecki. Rick Oliver from Mental Health Services is the Chair and includes several other key members from agency providers and other community organizations. The rejuvenation efforts include: recruitment of new members and reorganization of working committees.

Based on new data and thinking shared by Mr. Oliver, the task force has tentatively decided to run the Suicide Prevention Campaign in 2012 during the months of January, February and possibly March, rather than November and December of 2011. Former thinking was that people tend to be more depressed during the holidays, but new thinking points to people being more depressed and considering suicide after the holidays and during the dreary months of winter. The task force intends to also look at statistics to determine the target audience for this campaign.

### 6. ROADS TO RECOVERY CONFERENCE UPDATE: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2011

Board staff has been very busy preparing for the conference. Currently, approximately 325 people have registered.

### 7. DEFENDING CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES

- *I Have the Power to Stop Violence Youth Contest Update*

Mr. Osiecki reported that the contest initiative received 53 submissions: 20 in the 10-13 age group, and 33 in the 14-18 age category. The submissions were comprised of videos, songs and posters. Preliminary judging will take place at the Board offices the evening of 9/8/11 to determine finalists. Final judging will be determined at the Defending Childhood Conference held on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

- *Conference: Together, We Have the Power to Stop Violence:*

Mr. Osiecki noted that the ADAMHS Board, as one of the partners of the conference, is serving as the fiscal agent for the Defending Childhood Conference. The responsibilities include travel arrangements, working with the venue--Hilton Garden Inn, paying the bills and organizing/providing Continuing Education Units for attendees.

### 8. RALLY FOR RECOVERY: SEPTEMBER 25, 2011

The ADAMHS Board is helping to promote the Rally for Recovery being held in Columbus on September 25<sup>th</sup> that is being sponsored by the Ohio Citizens Advocates and the Ohio State University Medical Center as an activity of National Recovery Month.

### **9. NARG NATIONAL GAMBLING CONFERENCE**

The National Association for Responsible Gaming is holding its annual conference on October 2-4, 2011, around the issues of gambling addictions. The conference location is in Las Vegas and is being scheduled for this specific time so that participants present there for a Gaming Conference can also attend sessions around the issues of gambling addictions. The ADAMHS Board has applied for a scholarships to attend for Mr. Denihan, Mr. Osiecki and Ms. Harper. Mr. Osiecki will bring back a summary of information learned for the next CR&A Committee meeting.

Dr. Romaniuk reported that he shared the materials and information learned from the Gambling Addiction training provided at the ADAMHS Board last year when in Poland. He has been invited to make another presentation there.

### **10. NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH: SEPTEMBER 2011 AND NATIONAL MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK: OCTOBER 2-8, 2011**

Mr. Osiecki reported that the ADAMHS Board is observing and honoring September as Recovery Month. Events are posted in the calendar section of our Web site. Everyone was encouraged to check out the events and participate as they are able. The NAMI Walk is scheduled for September 24<sup>th</sup> and the Suicide Prevention Walk is October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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

For the time period of July 6, 2011 to September 6, 2011, the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County had 4 media mentions that were all considered positive from the Board's perspective. The year-to-date total is 81 positive media mentions with 0 neutral and 0 negative.

### **12. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

- Mr. Snider referenced an article in the Wall Street Journal that featured the emerging drinking issues/problems on college campuses. Mr. Denihan understood the concern and noted that he would address this with his university contacts.
- Mr. Folbert read a book entitled, "*I'm Not Crazy, I Just Lost my Glasses*", which showcased the stories of people who got lost in the system and led to misinterpretations about them. This book sparked an idea for Mr. Folbert around a project for consideration where consumers could share their stories through art, prose and poetry. This might be a way to help those in recovery reach out to help others and provide a face to the as well. Mr. Folbert has a book published on schizophrenia on the internet through a site where a book can be printed "on demand" (\$5 per printed copy) and offered to support such an effort by doing a lot of the footwork, upon its acceptance.
- Dr. Romaniuk reported that the Veterans Administration has begun to focus on the problem of homeless veterans. A special Kick-Off Event is being planned for October 12, 2011, at Cleveland State University at the Wolstein Center Annex from 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and everyone is invited to attend.

*There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.*

*Submitted by: Carol Krajewski, Executive Specialist*

*Approved by: J. Richard Romaniuk, Ph.D., Community Relations & Advocacy Committee Vice Chair*