

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

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS & ADVOCACY (CR&A) COMMITTEE NOVEMBER 7, 2012

**Committee Members Present:** Elsie Caraballo, Richard A. Folbert, J. Robert Fowler, Ph.D., Harvey A. Snider, Esq.  
**ABSENT:** J. Richard Romaniuk, Ph.D.,

**Board Staff Present:** Scott Osiecki, Carol Krajewski, Cassandra Richardson

### 1. CALL TO ORDER & AUDIENCE INPUT

Committee Chair, Robert Fowler, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Community Relations & Advocacy Committee minutes from September 5, 2012, were approved as submitted.

### 3. LEGISLATION/ADVOCACY UPDATE

- **State FY14-15 Budget** – Mr. Denihan has taken the lead on the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) committee that is making a business case for increased funding for behavioral health in the 14-15 Budget. The committee's goal is to inform legislators about the misperception that Medicaid Elevation has provided "additional" funding for Boards by stressing 2 major concepts:
  - 1) Expand alcohol, drug addiction and mental health funding for non-Medicaid individuals and services, while ensuring safety and stability in our communities. Additional funding needed to address:
    - Medication, both mental health and medication assisted treatment pharmaceuticals.
    - Kids and family stability programs and services.
    - Treatment and recovery supports for individuals impacted by Ohio's Justice Reinvestment Act.
    - Work with local Chambers and Job Development Corporations to help ensure a healthy, drug free workforce for Ohio.
  - 2) Expand Medicaid as allowable by the Affordable Care Act.
    - Expand Medicaid to cover more of Ohio's uninsured citizens
    - Work with the Federal Government to repeal the Institution for Mental Diseases exclusion for both State Hospitals, and AoD residential facilities – basically allow to be covered by Medicaid.
- **14 - 15 Biennial Budget Advocacy Plan**  
A biennial budget advocacy committee has been established; Mr. Denihan is the Committee Chair. Legislative dinners in districts are being scheduled; Boards are inviting local leaders & advocates. Other portions of the plan aim to:
  - Work with other constituencies that can help make our case
  - Educate legislators on realities of Ohio's AoD/MH System
  - Hold ongoing meetings with the Administration
  - Work with other Constituency Groups
  - Co-Chair the Coalition for Healthy Communities Budget Committee to create a joint platform
  - Schedule OACBHA Representatives to meet with Legislators
  - Aim to produce focused pointed Legislative Reception on January 29, 2013
- **Legislative Lunch/Dinner November 26<sup>th</sup>**  
Small lunch/dinner meetings with legislators throughout the state will provide the opportunity for them to hear from their constituents about how the board helps the state make Medicaid more effective because of non-Medicaid services and supports. Lorain County Boards will join us when Mr. Denihan meets with key Republicans during lunch and key Democrats for dinner on November 26. The location and details are still in the developmental stage.

➤ **Greater Cleveland Congregations Northeast Ohio Medicaid Expansion Coalition**

Mr. Denihan and Mr. Osiecki met with Ari Lipman and 3 other members of the coalition to discuss strategies. The group met with Greg Moody, Office of Health Transformation, who stated that in order for Medicaid expansion to pass, political support is needed. Support is also needed from the business community. Board staff left feeling hopeful. The group is waiting on 2 independent studies of Medicaid Expansion, by Ohio State University and the Center for Community Solutions, before meeting with the Governor. Mr. Denihan agreed to help the group make other contacts with our providers, COSIE, Greater Cleveland Partnership and Ohio Chambers.

Ms. Caraballo suggested distributing the document entitled, "Public Notice of Ohio's Proposed 1115 Waiver Application for the Medicaid Eligibility Modernization Project," to all Board of Directors for their information.

➤ **Chamber of Commerce Jobs/Workforce Readiness Partnership**

Mr. Denihan met with the Ohio Chamber of Commerce to discuss the growing challenge of qualified job candidates who are failing drug tests. The discussion included education, prevention and treatment along with collaboration of drug-free work places for employers. The participants agreed to develop an educational piece regarding the consequences of failing a drug test and the benefits of a drug-free work place. Additional meetings are scheduled.

➤ **Cuyahoga County 2013 Annual Budget**

The ADAMHS Board is scheduled to present an Annual Budget Update to the County Council on Wednesday, 11/14/12. The presentation, about 10 minutes in length, will focus on the 2013 budget and include the following issues: Bridgeway closing & purchasing of property, opening and maintaining intakes, and decreased state funding/505 line item.

Mr. Denihan is considering a funding request for:

- Bridgeway related costs – capital and maintenance costs
- Funding for mental health agency participation in the Team Decision Meetings at Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) – reunification meetings.
- Funding for mental health services in the community Based Correctional Facility
- Funding to treat the growing number of people addicted to opiates and heroin.

➤ **SB 59: Drug Treatment Intervention**

Senate Bill 59 was introduced by Senator Charleta B. Tavares (D) from Columbus in January 2012. It provides for a mechanism for "drug treatment intervention" that authorizes "first-time or second-time offenders" and certain "repeat offenders" who are charged with an illegal possession or use of a controlled substance offense or who have been convicted of or pleaded guilty to an illegal possession or use of a controlled substance, but have not yet been sentenced, to file a request with a court for drug treatment intervention.

The proposed bill creates a \$38 million Substance Abuse Treatment Fund in the state treasury to be financed from the General Revenue Fund, and requires the Director of the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) to distribute annually, using a fair and equitable distribution formula, all moneys appropriated to the Fund to affiliated agencies or bodies in counties or multi-county regions to pay for the costs of providing certain treatment programs. It also seals records upon successful completion of the program.

Since the ADAMHS Board supports prison reform efforts, is a major partner in ensuring reentry services, and believes that treatment is more effective than incarceration for people with addictions, Board staff recommended support of this bill through passage of the proposed draft resolution.

**Motion to recommend support of S.B. 59: Drug Treatment Invention to the full Board.** MOTION: H. Snider  
SECOND: R. Folbert / AYES: E. Caraballo, R. Folbert, H. Snider / NAYS: None / **Motion passed.**

#### 4. SUICIDE PREVENTION

➤ **Crisis Chat Proposal from Mental Health Services**

Mr. Osiecki introduced Rick Oliver, Director of Crisis Services at Mental Health Services, Inc. (MHS), who explained that MHS has been a participant in a pilot program with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to provide an online crisis intervention service through a chat message response system. The project's goal is to intervene on the impact of suicide and mental health crisis among youth ages 15-24. During the initial year, MHS received 266 chats averaging about 40 minutes per chat.

MHS has requested \$79,000 from the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County to sustain and increase the chat intervention. MHS will hire an independently licensed clinician to assume responsibility for creating, training and supervising a group of volunteers (consisting of persons who are graduating from a Bachelor's or Master's degree in counseling or Social Work) to respond to chat requests. It was noted that the funding for the Crisis Chat Pilot Program would be covered by the FY13 ADAMHS Board operating budget through the suicide prevention campaign line item.

**Motion to recommend approval of funding for the Crisis Chat Pilot Program to be operated by MHS to the Committee of the Whole.** MOTION: H. Snider / SECOND: R. Folbert / AYES: E. Caraballo, R. Folbert, H. Snider / NAYS: None / **Motion passed.**

➤ **Suicide Prevention Campaign**

Mr. Osiecki introduced the proposed operational contracts for the 2013 Suicide Prevention Campaign. The agenda process sheet provides details regarding the various advertising venues—Suicide Prevention Awareness Campaign Billboards, RTA Bus Placards, RTA interiors, Television and Radio commercials. Discussion followed.

**Motion to recommend approval of the Suicide Prevention Campaign via the media listed on the agenda process sheet and to approve and/or ratify all advertising contracts to the Committee of the Whole.** MOTION: H. Snider / SECOND: E. Caraballo / AYES: E. Caraballo, R. Folbert, H. Snider / NAYS: None / **Motion passed.**

#### 5. MEDIA TRACKING REPORT

From September 6, 2012, through November 7, 2012, the ADAMHS Board had 27 media hits which are all considered positive this quarter. To date, the overall total stands at 99 media hits, also all considered positive. (The Media/Press Clipping Report distributed is attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit.)

#### 6. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Based upon the request of Board member, Richard Folbert, the committee viewed one of his testimonials posted on the Living Miracles Web site. Mr. Folbert advocated for considering the concept of the Board using such a testimonial exercise as a way to link people to the appropriate resources in the community. Mr. Snider stated that he will bring this suggestion forward to the Executive Committee for its consideration.

*There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.*

*Submitted by: Carol Krajewski, Executive Specialist*

*Approved by: J. Robert Fowler, Ph.D., Community Relations & Advocacy Committee Chair*