

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

COMMUNITY RELATIONS & ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

MAY 1, 2013

Committee Members Present: Reginald C. Blue, Ph.D., Elsie Caraballo, Richard A. Folbert, J. Robert Fowler, Ph.D., J. Richard Romaniuk, Ph.D., Harvey A. Snider, Esq. / ABSENT: None

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

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 March 6, 2013, were approved as submitted.

3. LEGISLATION/ADVOCACY UPDATE

Mr. Denihan updated committee members on current legislation and advocacy efforts listed on the agenda.

- **SFY 14-15 State Budget**

The House passed its version of the budget on April 18 that did not contain any real changes for mental health and addiction services; however, \$665,196 per year additional dollars was added to the Continuum of Care line, and allocates that amount to the STAR House at the Ohio State University. Star House provides homeless youth, ages 14-24, a safe respite from the streets where they are able to meet their basic needs and begin reconnecting with the larger social system.

Language was added that requires a managed care organization to provide 90 days' notice when eliminating a contract for any health care provider and the availability of a drug on a preferred list or formulary. This will ensure that patients have notice if their pharmacy, or their preferred drug list changes. Language included will require at least 50% of the \$20 million appropriation added in the substitute bill for addiction services to be used to provide non-opiate drug treatment.

This budget is now in the Senate. On April 24, ODMH Director Tracy Plouck testified before the Senate Medicaid Sub Committee and joined other Health and Human Services Cabinet directors in continuing to press for the extension of Medicaid benefits along with the Kasich Administration's other priorities. Other advocates will testify on May 2nd before the Senate Finance Medicaid Sub-Committee.

- **Medicaid Expansion:**

The news on Medicaid Expansion changes almost daily. Senator Faber recently said that Medicaid expansion is not on the table as it relates to the budget. But, he also said "that doesn't mean we're ending the debate on Medicaid reform. Senator Burke will form a working group on Medicaid reform to focus on the following seven principles:

- 1) Establish firm per member/per month spending targets.
- 2) Establish performance measures and targets that focus on outcomes and not outputs.
- 3) To increase consumer involvement in the delivery of Medicaid services.
- 4) To eliminate costly legislative mandates inhibiting innovation and flexibility.
- 5) To streamline legislative oversight.
- 6) To invest in research and evaluation for Medicaid and the entire healthcare system in Ohio.
- 7) To eliminate statutory regulations impeding cost effective delivery of health care in Ohio.

There is also discussion that there may be a separate bill that both the House and Senate work on.

Senator Faber also spoke about the possibility of the separate Senate and House discussions around Medicaid activities being brought back to the budget bill process. Additionally he stressed several times the need for flexibility from the federal government in order for there to be consensus reached in the general assembly. A compromise is also being considered: That may have some Ohioans enrolled in the traditional Medicaid program, while others would sign up for private health insurance with federal funding.

All adults, including those without children, who earn up to 100% of the federal poverty level, could enroll in the current Medicaid program. That is \$11,490 for a single adult, \$15,510 for a couple and \$23,550 for a family of four. For those earning between 100% to 138%, the state would use Medicaid funds to pay the premiums for them to enroll in a private insurance plan through a statewide health insurance exchange.

Next efforts are to educate the Senate on the following 4 Points: 1) The state of system today; 2) That Treatment Works and People Recover; 3) That once people are in recovery they do get back into the workforce and become a tax paying citizens; and 4) Studies show outcomes from treatment and that the system is willing to continue looking at outcomes and be accountable.

- **SB 95: Court Funding for Mentally Ill Services**

SB 95 was introduced in March and would authorize county commissioners to place a property tax on the ballot to provide funding to probate court to provide services for mentally ill or mentally incompetent adults.

- **SB 43: Civil Commitment**

S.B 43 was introduced in the Ohio Senate on 2/1/13 and seeks to clarify Ohio's existing laws regarding court-ordered outpatient treatment for mental illness. Under current law, Ohio judges are empowered to use the civil commitment code to find the least restrictive alternative for individuals who meet the criteria for court-ordered treatment.

Unfortunately, the criteria states that a court order is issued when the person would benefit from treatment in a "hospital." While many judges understand that they are able to order outpatient treatment, the conflicting language means that this option is not always exercised. Basically, the existing law is confusing, and results in individuals being treated in hospitals and other settings at an increased cost, rather than the least restrictive setting.

The bill also makes the state-approved affidavit form easier to obtain so that in the event there is cause to believe an individual is in need of court-ordered treatment, family members can more easily locate the form and file it with the appropriate Probate Court. A meeting was held with Michael Baskin from NAMI Greater Cleveland, and we agree with a proposal created by NAMI Ohio to change criteria to remove any confusion that outpatient treatment is a viable alternative to hospitalization and to encourage the utilization of outpatient treatment. OACBHA reviewed the bill and had the following issues and recommendations but is not taking a formal position on the bill:

- **NAMI Ohio & Federation for Children's Mental Health Statehouse Rally: May 8**

The ADAMHS Board is sending a bus full of consumers and professionals to NAMI Ohio and the Federation for Children's Mental Health Statehouse Rally in Columbus on Wednesday, May 8th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. The purpose of the rally is to promote recovery and resiliency. An anti-stigma campaign will be launched at this rally. This rally will not be political; it will be focused on educating the community that those who live with mental illness do recover. The rally will also address the issue of stigma by shredding many of the hurtful words that are regretfully used to identify people with a mental illness.

4. **SPONSORSHIPS**

➤ **Edna House Next Step – Race to Recovery : September 1, 2013**

Motion to recommend approval of sponsorship of Edna House Next Step – Race to Recovery in the amount of \$1,000.00 to the Finance & Operations Committee. MOTION: H. Snider / SECOND: R. Blue / AYES: R. Blue, E. Caraballo, R. Folbert, R. Romaniuk, H. Snider / NAYS: None / **Motion passed.**

➤ **NAMIWalks America: September 7, 2013**

Motion to recommend approval of sponsorship of NAMIWalks America in the amount of \$1,500.00 to the Finance & Operations Committee. MOTION: H. Snider / SECOND: R. Blue / AYES: R. Blue, E. Caraballo, R. Folbert, R. Romaniuk, H. Snider / NAYS: None / **Motion passed.**

5. ADAMHS BOARD MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTION SERVICES LEVY UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

Mr. Denihan reported that County Council ultimately will have the authority to put a dedicated mental health and addiction services levy on the ballot. County Council held a meeting with the County Executive; the outcome was that the County Executive did not say no. County Council requested from the ADAMHS Board additional information regarding services that are not available right now or that we need and cannot expand due to financial constraints in order for Council members to evaluate their position.

Mr. Snider requested that this information be shared with Board members. Mr. Denihan confirmed that the report provided to County Council will be shared with Board members and will ask Board members to review and provide input if anything has been missed. Mr. Denihan called the County Executive to be placed on his schedule; however, he has not yet heard back from him.

As a result of several conversations with John A. Begala, Executive Director of The Center for Community Solutions, who did not seem to be in favor of an independent levy, an idea emerged around developing a 5-year plan to identify how much money would be needed for Non-Medicaid services. Mr. Denihan noted that the 5-year plan has been finished and will soon be shared with The Center for Community Solutions and also with Board members.

6. COMMUNITY FORUM: ADDRESSING THE ROLE OF MENTAL HEALTH IN THE COMMUNITY

A planning group has been working on developing a forum in response to several national tragedies or violence involving mental illness for almost 3 months. Through discussion and sharing of ideas, a decision was made to hold one large public event to meet our goals of:

- Reducing stigma while addressing concerns of safety.
- Providing information on what to do when a person exhibits signs of mental illness.
- Making mental illness a permanent community conversation.

The event will focus on the positives rather than the negatives of mental illness, be a method to distribute information, and to start the change the public perception of mental illness (Treatment Works; People Recover). Mr. Osiecki shared that the event is scheduled for Thursday, May 30th at the Visiting Nurse Association and highlighted the tentative program. Mr. Denihan identified several individuals scheduled to participate in the panel discussion.

7. TRAINING INSTITUTE 2012 END OF THE YEAR REPORT

Training Officer, Tonya Birney, highlighted the FY2012 Training Institute Summary which indicates that 77 training events were held in CY2012. Of the 77 events, 12 were offered free to the public and 17 events were coordinated for outside entities, i.e. Veterans Administration, Defending Childhood, ODADAS and OACBHA.

The ADAMHS Board also received funding from ODADAS to provide prevention training for prevention providers in Cuyahoga County and other counties; attendees came as far as Dayton, OH. The prevention training helped to provide participants with the necessary hours needed to become credentialed as a prevention specialist in Ohio. From our records, 5 attendees have passed their exam and others are completing their work experience hours to take the exam. Total gross revenue for the Training Institute in CY2012 was \$27,985.00 with total net revenue of \$17,185.00 after speaker fees were paid. Mr. Osiecki noted that revenue earned is earmarked to underwrite the expenses of the bi-annual Recovery Conferences.

Discussion followed regarding the current presenter's fees. Currently, the Training Institute compensates presenters at a rate of \$200 per ½ day session and \$400 for a full day session. Ms. Birney responded that some presenters require higher rates; consequently, she was not able to secure their services. Training students are charged \$25 for a ½ day session and \$45 for a full-day session.

TRAINING INSTITUTE 2012 END OF THE YEAR REPORT

Mr. Denihan provided background to the discussion and noted that previously the Training Institute did not pay presenters. Based upon discussions with Mr. Osiecki and Ms. Birney, Mr. Denihan changed his stance to set the compensation schedule for presenters that is now in effect.

Dr. Blue advocated for raising compensation rates for presenters as well as the training fees for students. He felt strongly that the workshop fees were extremely low and guessed that they must be the lowest in the area.

Dr. Romaniuk noted that the ADAS Board's Training Institute, in the past, offered agency staff free training sessions in an effort to support the system and as a benefit to staff that had low salaries.

Mr. Denihan suggested conducting an annual evaluation of these financial pieces. He will ask Mr. Osiecki and Ms. Birney to review at year's end:

- Quality of presentations
- Costs of providing trainings
- Stipends being paid
- Fees for trainees

Mr. Osiecki thanked Ms. Birney for the excellent job producing the 2012 End of the Year Report.

8. ANNUAL MEETING: MAY 20, 2013

Mr. Osiecki reported that 183 people have RSVP'd for the Annual Meeting that includes 161 paid reservations and 21 Board Members and Staff. Award winners have not yet been notified. A reminder notice will be sent out soon to provider agencies. The Board will be using Eventbrite for the first time which will permit people to use their credit cards for reservations.

9. MEDIA TRACKING REPORT

For the time period of March 7, 2013 through May 1, 2013, the ADAMHS Board had 6 media hits which were all considered positive. (The Media/Press Clipping Report distributed is attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit.)

10. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Osiecki noted that it is time to renew our AT&T online and yellow/what pages advertising. Board staff recommends keeping our advertising the way that it is at this time. Mr. Denihan signed a contract with that renews our advertising the same as last year, at nearly the same rate of \$18,336 per year. Last year we paid \$18,156 – a difference of \$180. If recommended to the Finance & Operations Committee, an agenda process sheet will be prepared for that purpose.

Motion to recommend ratification of the annual advertising contract with AT&T to the Finance & Operations Committee. MOTION: H. Snider / SECOND: R. Blue / AYES: R. Blue, E. Caraballo, R. Folbert, R. Romaniuk, H. Snider / NAYS: None / **Motion passed.**

- Ms. Caraballo noted that she recently attended the Opiate Conference in Columbus that was excellent. She especially appreciated hearing the stories from those who are now in recovery.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Submitted by: Carol Krajewski, Executive Specialist

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