

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

COMMUNITY RELATIONS & ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

JULY 3, 2013

Committee Members Present: Richard A. Folbert, J. Robert Fowler, Ph.D., J. Richard Romaniuk, Ph.D.,
ABSENT: David E. Biegel, Ph.D., Reginald C. Blue, Ph.D., Elsie Caraballo, Harvey A. Snider, Esq.

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

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 May 1, 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**

Governor Kasich signed the SFY 14-15 Budget Bill on 6/30/13 that allotted \$95 million - \$47.5 million per each year of the budget in additional funding for mental health and addiction services. This includes \$5 million for a Medicated Assistance Treatment (MAT) pilot for addictions.

This is a positive step toward replacing the \$140 million per year in funding cuts over the last decade and will help to soften the loss of \$18 million in block grant funding to communities over the biennium. Language that would have diminished fiscal and programmatic accountability for public funds in the behavioral health system was removed from the budget. This means that a Board's authority to perform programmatic audits for state and federal funds and special fiscal audits done at the Board's expense remains intact.

The budget also removes the 12.5% property tax roll-back. Currently, each county auditor reduces the amount of property taxes collected by 12.5% and the state reimburses this 12.5% to local governments. Since this budget removes the language allowing for this 12.5% roll-back, any new or replacement levies placed on the November 2013 ballot or beyond will cost a property owner 12.5% more. Voters can approve a straight renewal of an existing levy and continue to receive the 12.5% reimbursement from the state.

Lastly, the Governor vetoed language that explicitly prohibited the Medicaid expansion from occurring. This leaves it open for further discussion and passage of Medicaid Expansion by the end of the year.

- **Medicaid Expansion:**

Medicaid Expansion was not included in the budget bill; however, other bills have been introduced for consideration.

HB 176 was introduced on 5/28/13, by State Representative Sears that is designed to reform Ohio's Medicaid system. This legislation would require Ohio's Medicaid Director to implement reforms to lower costs, reduce uncompensated care, and extend coverage to Ohio's most vulnerable citizens and extend coverage to Ohioans under 138% of the federal poverty level and will provide critical health services to Ohioans in need.

HB 208 (by State Senator Amstutz-Sykes) and **SB 145** (by State Senator Burke) were introduced in mid-June concerning Medicaid reform. While neither of these bills includes specific language regarding Medicaid Expansion, they both open the door for further discussions. Highlights include: Creating the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee made up of 10 legislative members, five from each chamber, to look at the Medicaid program and workforce development activities and make recommendations for improvements in rules or legislation reform. By 1/1/14, this group shall submit a report to the General Assembly on statutory changes needed to implement innovative methodologies for setting Medicaid payment rates to limit the growth of Medicaid and establish guiding principles for Medicaid providers and recipients.

By 6/30/14, this group shall submit a report to the General Assembly, Medicaid Director, and Job & Family Services Director that provides recommendations to create a comprehensive pilot program to use peer mentors to work with the Medicaid transition population (those with incomes with 25% of the top income limit in their eligibility group) to develop and implement plans to overcome barriers to self-sufficiency.

Mr. Denihan reported that NAMI has scheduled a demonstration in Columbus on 7/9/13 to continue advocacy efforts in support of Medicaid Expansion.

- **SB 43: Civil Commitment**

Senate Bill 43: Outpatient Civil Commitment has a companion bill in the House – HB 104, which was introduced in March. Both bills seek 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.

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. This 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. OACBHA reviewed the bill and testified in the House Judiciary Committee to express concerns about the HB 104:

- Narrow the standard for who can be subject to an outpatient civil commitment.
- Redefine the treatment plan to address what happens regarding Medicaid/health homes, etc.
- Conduct a fiscal analysis.
- Address what happens when the order is not followed.

The bill was scheduled for a vote, but the Chairman decided not to do so in light of concerns. An amendment was presented to tighten the standards for individuals that meet the threshold for being ordered into outpatient commitment and language was added to state that the treatment plan was limited to "available" services.

- **Legalization of Marijuana**

A hearing was held in June on House Joint Resolution 6, introduced by Rep. Hagen and co-sponsored by Rep. Foley on 5/2/13, that proposes amending the constitution to legalize marijuana and industrial hemp. The resolution was introduced in the interest of the efficient use of law enforcement resources, enhancing revenue for public purposes, and individual freedom and would declare that the use of marijuana should be legal for persons 21 or older and taxed in a manner similar to alcohol. If passed, would leave the decision up to the voters during the November 5, 2013, election. An excise tax would be levied upon marijuana sold or otherwise transferred by a marijuana cultivation facility to a marijuana product manufacturing facility or to a retail marijuana store.

On a related note, HB 153 - a Medical Marijuana bill was also introduced by Rep. Hagan. This bill would allow state residents the opportunity for a statewide vote to legalize and tax medical marijuana.

Constitutional Amendment:

A proposed constitutional amendment that would legalize medical marijuana and industrial hemp production in Ohio cleared a preliminary hurdle with the state's Ballot Board. The issue, which is referred to as The Ohio Cannabis Rights Amendment, is now certified and petitioners must now collect more than 385,000 signatures to place the measure on the ballot. The Ohio Rights Group has until August 2 to collect and submit the signatures.

4. SPONSORSHIPS

- **Women's Center of Greater Cleveland's 25th Annual run, jane, run on August 11, 2013**

As the ADAMHS Board should continue to support efforts that bring an awareness of recovery from alcohol and other drugs to the general public and *provide* opportunities for women in recovery to take greater control over their lives – physically, emotionally and economically, Board staff recommends that the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County co-sponsor the Women's Recovery Center's 25th annual run, jane, run event on August 11, 2013, at the \$1,500 level.

- **Hispanic UMADAOP Substance Abuse Prevention Trolley Tour, Prevention & Wellness Fair and Luncheon on October 10 & 11, 2013**

The ADAMHS Board strives to support efforts that bring an awareness of recovery from alcohol and other drugs to the general public; therefore, staff recommends that the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County provide \$1,000 in financial support to the Hispanic UMADAOP to help defray the cost of hosting this awareness event.

Motion to recommend approval of sponsorship of Women's Center run, jane, run event and sponsorship of Hispanic UMADAOP's Substance Abuse Prevention Trolley Tour, Prevention & Wellness Fair and Luncheon to the Finance & Operations Committee. MOTION: R. Romaniuk / SECOND: R. Folbert / AYES: R. Folbert, R. Fowler, R. Romaniuk / NAYS: None / **Motion passed.**

5. ONLINE MENTAL HEALTH & ALCOHOL ADDICTION SCREENING RENEWAL

Mr. Osiecki reported that screenings for Alcohol Addiction, Depression, Bipolar Disorder, Eating Disorders, General Anxiety Disorder, Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Adolescent Depression have been available on the ADAMHS Board Web site since January 2011. Through the online screenings, community members learn about the ADAMHS Board and receive referrals to our providers for evaluation and/or treatment. The online screenings also help to raise awareness and combat stigma. The screenings do not provide a diagnosis, but only indicates if a disorder may be present and where to go for further evaluation or treatment.

As access to this year's screenings expires on 8/31/13, Board staff recommends that the ADAMHS Board renews its partnership with The Screening for Mental Health Organization to allow the ADAMHS Board to continue to offer free behavioral health screenings at www.adamhsc.org from 9/1/13 – 8/31/14 for a total amount of \$695.

Monthly reports are received that show how many people have taken a screening. The Strategic Plan Update indicates that we were one of the top 25 sites in the nation for people who took a free online depression screening on National Depression screening Day—67 screenings were taken.

Motion to recommend renewal of its partnership with The Screening for Mental Health Organization to provide online free behavioral health screenings to the Finance & Operations Committee. MOTION: R. Romaniuk / SECOND: R. Folbert / AYES: R. Folbert, R. Fowler, R. Romaniuk / NAYS: None / **Motion passed.**

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

Mr. Denihan updated committee members on the levy deliberations held by the Health, Human Services and Aging Committee. Since Committee Chair, Dan Brady, was able to secure only 7 votes for the initial levy bill introduced for a 3.0 mill Mental Health and Addiction Services levy when 8 votes were needed to advance the recommendation to the full Council, he decided to change the approach and go for a 1.0 mill replacement 5-year levy. This levy would address the needs of the community, assist with dwindling revenues and increase resources for mental health & addiction services in Cuyahoga County. The replacement of the existing 2.9 mill Health and Human Services (HHS) levy would include an increase of 1.0 mills. Mr. Denihan did not make a comment at the recent committee meeting, but plans to reserve his comments until the next Cuyahoga County Council meeting on 7/23/13.

7. 2013 ANNUAL MEETING WRAP-UP REPORT

At our Annual Meeting on 5/20/13, we had a total of 376 people attended--59 comp & 317 paid. A total of \$8,253.16 was raised through ticket sales, less the \$318.84 for the EventBrite fee. The cost of the venue at Marriott was \$8,830.36; therefore, the total cost to the ADAMHS Board for the Annual Meeting was \$577.20. (The overall cost last year was \$1,000). Mr. Osiecki noted that the cost for awards was \$2,813.00 not included in cost of Annual Meeting.

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

The Community Forum was held on 5/30/13 at the Visiting Nurse Association. Participation included 93 individuals, 23 Provider Agencies and 35 Evaluations were received. The group felt that the forum went very well and that thought was reflected in the evaluations.

Ideas generated from reviewing the evaluation comments were:

- Advertise the forum in more ways to the general public.
- Host a Webinar or telecast the forum.
- Make a video of the personal testimonies to be used at other events.

- Hold forum at least twice a year.
- Hold a similar forum with the same format at a school; possibly during an open house
- Hold a similar forum in a faith-based environment/church, etc.
- Seek out the Woodruff Foundation for monetary sponsorship of the forums and strategy.

Discussion of City Club Event

The City Club is interested in hosting a series of forums on the topic of mental illness; mental illness in the justice system; mental illness in the schools, mental illness and the family, etc., beginning in late August or early September. The forums would not be the standard Friday Forums that are televised, but would be part of a series of panels that would be taped with an audience and packaged further purposes, such as ideastream, Web sites, etc.

Title of the series: Creating Community Solutions: A National Dialogue on Mental Health and would correspond to President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden launching a national conversation to increase understanding and awareness of mental health on June 3rd. The goal is to help people make progress on one of the most critical and misunderstood public issues we face. This will help break down stigma and build community support around an issue that faces all communities. City Club & ADAMHS Board drafted and sent invitation letters to Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and Patrick Kennedy to participate in a forum. We are working on the first forum with Councilman Joe Cimperman as the moderator.

9. ROADS TO RECOVERY CONFERENCE UPDATE: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2013

Mr. Osiecki reported that all presenters for the conference have been selected including the keynote speaker, a plenary speaker, 3 special institute sessions and 25 workshops spread-out in 3 sessions. Workshops include great topics such as: Social Anxiety; Addressing Opiate Abuse; Treating Gambling Addiction; Treatment of Internet Addiction; Yoga for stress management, etc.

The Keynote Speaker is Dr. Kevin Sabet who will talk about Medical Marijuana: The Smart Approach to Marijuana. His objective is to allow participants to articulate the difference between smoked versus non-smoked marijuana for medical purposes. Dr. Sabet has over 18 years of experience working on drug policy and is the Director of the Drug Policy Institute at the University of Florida and an Assistant Professor in the College of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry. He served in the Obama Administration as the Senior Advisor to the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy from 2009 – 2011 and is a nationally known speaker.

The second half of the keynote will be Medical Marijuana You Decide: A Debate. Dr. Sabet will debate the pros and cons of medical marijuana with Dr. Robert J. Fitrakis, of Columbus State University and a Board Member of the Ohio Rights Group that is working on placing the Ohio Cannabis Rights Amendment on the ballot.

Our Plenary Speaker is Kathy Leichter and her talk is titled: "Documentary film as a way to reduce stigma--a presentation by on her latest film, Here One Day".

10. ADVOCACY/SOCIAL MARKETING STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Osiecki highlighted accomplishments for the four major objectives of the Advocacy/Social Marketing Strategic Plan Update for the first half of CY2013. (The entire report is attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit.)

11. MEDIA TRACKING REPORT

For the time period of May 2, 2013 through July 3, 2013, the ADAMHS Board had a total of 30 media hits, several focusing on the mental health levy. The letters to the editor were rated as neutral, as they are for or against the levy – they really did reflect positive or negative on the Board. Our total media hits for the year is 65, with 53 positive and 12 neutral. (The Media Tracking Report is attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit.)

We also had a hit in the national political magazine *Mother Jones*, where Mr. Denihan is quoted and the ADAMHS Board is highlighted in this very lengthy feature article about mental illness and lack of funding for services. Mr. Denihan explains the lack of funding from the state for Non-Medicaid services and that the jail system has become the new state mental health hospitals.

12 OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- Gambling Rack Cards:

With casino funding that was directed to the Board from the state, Mr. Osiecki ordered personalized *Gambling is All Fun and Games Until...* rack cards that can be distributed at health fairs. The card offers tips on when gambling begins to become an addiction and offers resources on where to find help, including our Web site that will be updated to include information about gambling addiction and the Recovery Resources treatment program. The order of 2,500 cards came to a cost of \$674.93

- Opiate/Heroin Prevention Campaign:

Mr. Osiecki noted that the Board has begun working on a new opiate/heroin prevention campaign that will be similar to our suicide prevention campaign, but on a smaller scale hopefully launched in the fall.

- Veterans Administration Summit

Dr. Romaniuk announced that a VA Summit will be held at Tri-C on Friday, August 9th from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM entitled, “Homeless not Hopeless: Helping our Veterans on the Home Front” The goal of this workshop is to inform community social service providers about the specificity of working with veterans. The discussions will focus on cultural competency, confidentiality, and safety issues while working with veterans.

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