

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

FAITH-BASED OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES

APRIL 1, 2020

Committee Members Present: Gwendolyn Howard, LSW, MSSA, Committee Vice Chair, Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., Patricia James-Stewart, M.Ed., LSW, Mary R. Warr, M.Ed.

Absent: Rev. Max M. Rodas, MA, Crystal L. Bryant, Esq., MS, LSW, Rev. Brenda Ware-Abrams

Board Staff Present: Scott Osiecki, Chief Executive Officer, Carole Ballard, Charde Hollins, Linda Lamp, Kelli Perk, Allison Schaefer, Starlette Sizemore-Rice, Larry Smith, Jr., Michaele Smith, Thomas Williams

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

2. **COMMITTEE MEMBER ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL**

Due to the current public health orders surrounding COVID-19, and the Board's commitment to ensuring the health and safety of our Board members, staff, partners, and stakeholders, the Faith-based Outreach Committee was held via conference call. To assure a quorum, Ms. Linda Lamp, Executive Assistant, completed the committee member attendance roll call.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Faith-based Outreach Committee minutes of October 2, 2019 were approved as submitted.

4. **2019 FAITH-BASED OUTREACH PROGRAM REPORT**

Mr. Tom Williams, Evaluation & Research Officer, highlighted accomplishments of each of the Faith-based Outreach Providers illustrated in the written Faith-based Programs Performance Outcomes 2019 Annual Report dated April 1, 2020. The report is attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit.

Mr. Williams stated that the faith-based programming for children K-12th grade is measured through the Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA) instrument. The DESSA web-based system is designed to help school and after-school program staff promote the healthy social-emotional development of all children. The DESSA is a thorough assessment of the following social-emotional competencies: self-awareness; social-awareness; self-management; relationship skills; goal directed behavior; personal responsibility; decision making skills; and optimistic thinking, which translates to a score and categorized through a numerical value. 60 and above indicate social and emotional "Strengths" showing children doing well; 40-59 indicate "Typical" positive behaviors for children; and 40 and below indicate "Need for Instruction" to further develop social and emotional skills. The report identified the DESSA K-8th completed pre/post assessments in a program for the five agencies to date and noted that results from pre to post assessments indicated the need declined and strengths went up.

The faith-based program for adults demonstrates resiliency measured as Always (A), Sometimes (S), or Not Yet (N) through the Devereux Adult Resilience Survey (DARS) instrument that promotes self-awareness regarding personal strengths to enhance creativity and the ability to set limits to cope with adversity and stress measured through the following areas: Will gain knowledge to develop healthy relationships; Will learn skills to increase self-worth to enhance internal beliefs and values; Will learn strategies to develop/enhance self-motivation to increase independence; and Will learn to self-regulate and control without the use of substance and negative influences. The report identified the four agencies that have submitted their DARS data to date; Trinity Outreach Ministries, Inner Healing Ministries, OhioGuidestone and Coalition for a Better Life.

Mental Health First Aid is designed to teach individuals how to spot the signs and symptoms of mental illness and provide help on a first aid basis. Individuals who are participating in a Mental Health First Aid training provided by a faith-based program provider is expected to successfully complete the course evaluation/quiz and score at least 60% based on the

following topics: Helpful Things to Say; Myths and Facts-Suicide and Self-Injury; Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors; Panic Attacks; Traumatic Events; Auditory Hallucinations; Psychosis; and Substance Use Disorders.

Ms. Starlette Sizemore-Rice, Director of Special Projects, reported on a variety of 2019 highlights from each the faith-based programs and responded to questions from committee members. Overall, Mr. Williams and Ms. Sizemore-Rice noted that the faith-based outreach initiatives are making a difference in the lives of those individuals being served and show movement and growth.

5. 2020 FAITH-BASED OUTREACH PROGRAM

Ms. Sizemore-Rice reported on the CY2020 Faith-based Outreach Program Progress Report and provided an update on the progress and impact of COVID-19 on each of the faith-based provider programs thus far in CY2020. The report is attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit.

6. FAITH COMMUNITY SUPPORTIVE SERVICES, INC. – 2ND CHANCE PROGRAM

Ms. Sizemore-Rice reported that the ADAMHS Board's Faith-based program is making a difference in our communities by reaching thousands of youth, adults and families through trainings, prevention/intervention services and outreach/awareness activities in order to build resiliency in our communities. She stated that the 2nd Chance Youth Program being proposed by Faith Community Supportive Services, Inc. (FCSS) is located inside the Hough Community Multi-Purpose Building and has been providing a variety of services/support to the Hough Community for many years; serving many neighborhoods, races, religions and all levels of income. The 2nd Chance Youth Program's major goals are to (1) provide alternative support services to youth involved in the Juvenile Justice System, (2) demonstrate how faith-based outreach initiatives can reduce delinquency and (3) reduce youth recidivism.

The 2nd Chance Youth Program will provide after-school services/support to high-risk youth (10-17) and their families as an alternative to incarceration in the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court's Juvenile Detention Center. The program will also provide services that prevent at risk youth (10-17) from entering the Juvenile Court System. Participants will include (1) individuals involved in drug violations such as the selling of drugs and/or use of illegal drugs, (2) court referred high risk youth that have been identified as serious felony offenders and (3) individuals expelled from school for repeated violations and behavioral problems. This program is anticipated to serve 60 – 70 individuals.

The 2nd Chance Youth Program will provide services/support that include prevention/intervention services, outreach/awareness activities, substance use education and referrals to support services. Specifically, this program will provide training and mentoring/tutoring support, personal development, leadership development, outreach support, community service projects, concept art, teen/adult parenting training/support and employment assistance. Additionally, this program will provide supportive services and skill development for grandparents that are caring for their grandchildren and utilize referrals for specialized services and support.

Referral sources for the 2nd Chance Youth Program will include the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court, parents, churches, schools, community organizations and other sources with services taking place at the FCSS Center, in the community, schools, home and over the phone. Community resource partners include schools, parents, social service agencies, community-based organizations, political officials, business leaders and volunteers.

Committee members inquired as to the status of FCSS's accreditation. Rev. Gohlstin reported that Ms. Maggie Tolbert, Assistant Chief Clinical Officer, is in the process of assisting FCSS to become accredited.

Motion to recommend approval of entering into a contract with Faith Community Supportive Services, Inc. 2nd Chance Program in the amount of \$20,000 for the probation period of May 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020 to the Finance & Operations Committee. MOTION: P. James-Stewart / SECOND: M. Warr / AYES: B. Gohlstin, G. Howard, P. James-Stewart, M. Warr / NAYS: None / **Motion passed.**

7. FAITH-BASED SELF CARE FOR CLERGY TRAINING, DATE TO BE DETERMINED

Ms. Sizemore-Rice reported that the Intensive 2020 Mental Health and Ministry Conference that was originally scheduled for Friday, May 1, 2020, at the Cleveland Clinic South Pointe Hospital has been postponed due to COVID-19. This conference, which is being hosted by Kingdom Fellowship International and City of God, was scheduled to kick off Mental

Health Awareness month and provide empowerment and assistance to the spiritual, mental and physical health of the pastor/faith leader. Two national speakers have been scheduled to present at this conference.

Ms. Warr inquired as to whether the curriculum and/or a publication regarding this conference had previously been shared with committee members. Rev. Gohlstin reported that a flyer was provided to pastors/faith leaders and that workshops were developed around the spiritual, mental and physical health of the pastor/faith leaders. After a brief discussion of this conference, Rev. Gohlstin indicated that he will forward this information to Ms. Warr's attention.

8. EVALUATION/OUTCOME TRAINING

Ms. Sizemore-Rice reported that a DESSA training was had during January 2020 and included the Board's faith-based providers and prevention providers. This training delved into strategies regarding the DESSA web-based system.

9. NEW BUSINESS – None

10. NEXT MEETING DATE – June 3, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Submitted by: Linda Lamp, Executive Assistant

Approved by: Gwendolyn A. Howard, LSW, MSSA, Faith-Based Outreach Committee Vice Chair