

**ALCOHOL, DRUG ADDICTION & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY**  
**FAITH-BASED OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 6, 2019**

**Committee Members:** Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstein, Sr., Gwendolyn Howard, LSW, MSSA, Rev. Max Rodas, MA, Rev. Brenda Ware-Abrams, Mary R. Warr, M.Ed. / **Absent:** Eugenia Kirkland, LSW, MSSA, CDCA  
Other Board of Directors Present: Gregory X. Boehm, M.D.

**Board Staff Present:** Scott Osiecki, C.E.O., Bob Garrity, Felicia Harrison, Myra Henderson, Carol Krajewski, LaVedia Smith, Maggie Tolbert, Starlette Sizemore-Rice, Tom Williams, Beth Zietlow-DeJesus

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Rev. Max Rodas, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Faith-Based Outreach Committee minutes of October 3, 2018 were approved as submitted.

**3. 2018 FAITH-BASED OUTREACH INITIATIVE YEAR-END REPORT**

Starlette Sizemore-Rice, Director of Special Projects, referenced the Faith-based Outreach Initiative 2018 Final Report. The Executive Summary noted that the Faith-Based Outreach Initiative 2018 for the ADAMHS Board is a continuation of a pilot project that began in November 2015 and ended in December 2016. The ADAMHS Board continued funding the project for 2017 and 2018 for five of the providers from the pilot project. The report shows the status of the continuing projects for 2018.

Overall, the five providers met their overall objective of serving 1,480 individuals; they served 2,742 individuals in 2018. All providers exceeded their target numbers. Several used a variety of curriculums for both prevention and treatment interventions for children and adults. Some curriculums were presented in a single session while others were presented over many weeks or months.

Client demographics show that the majority of participants were female, Christian, Black or African American with 45-64 as the highest served age group. Program objectives were met at a variety of levels depending upon the program. Some program participants met nearly all program objectives while other programs showed much lower levels of meeting objectives. The complete 35-page report is attached to the original minutes in the Executive Unit.

The Provider Status Report, as of December 2018, distributed was briefly reviewed by Ms. Sizemore-Rice. This document is also attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit.

**4. 2019 FAITH-BASED OUTREACH INITIATIVES**

Starlette Sizemore-Rice, Director of Special Projects, shared that 22 responses were received to the Request for Proposal (RFP) issued in October 2018. Based upon the findings of the RFP Review Committee, 9 organizations are being recommended (listed below in alphabetical order) to participate in the CY2-019 Faith-based Outreach Initiatives Program to serve approximately 1,500 children, young adults and adults:

1. **Coalition for a Better Life/Peace in the Hood: Mt. Pleasant NOW Development Corporation** - Project Community Empowerment Holistic Solutions for Holistic Problems
2. **Far West Center** – Bridges Program – Linking Faith & Mental Health Communities
3. **Inner Healing Ministries** – Student Training Outreach Prevention (STOP) Program
4. **Life Recovery Ministries** – Community Mental Health Chaplain of Life Recovery Ministries, Spiritual Recovery & Wellness Program and Open Hearts/Healthy Minds – Mental Health Support Group
5. **Naaleh Cleveland** - High Risk Teen Mentorship
6. **NAMI Greater Cleveland** – Mental Health Awareness, Support and Education
7. **OhioGuidestone** – Utilizing Spiritual Care as a Bridge to Mental Health Services
8. **St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church** – School Suspension Diversion
9. **Trinity Outreach Ministries – Another Chance of Ohio** – The FAITH Program Inner City Youth & Families Cultural Arts Performance

Ms. Sizemore-Rice noted that the ADAMHS Board of Directors are scheduled to vote on the recommended CY2019 Faith-based Outreach Initiatives at the General Meeting immediately following this meeting and that the total amount of recommended allocations for CY2019 is \$300,000.00, an increase of \$50,000.00 from last year.

Committee members asked that the representatives from the CY2019 faith-based programs be reflected in the minutes; see information below:

1. Coalition for a Better Life/Peace in the Hood: Mt. Pleasant NOW Dev. Corp. – Raj Roberson, Project Director
2. Far West Center – Kelly Dylag, RN, APRN, Executive Director
3. Inner Healing Ministries – Dr. Benjamin Franklin, Pastor
4. Life Recovery Ministries – Rev. Karell McDaniel, Executive Director
5. Naaleh Cleveland – Rabbi Chaim Helman, Co-Founder/Director; Esther Lubing, Program Manager
6. NAMI Greater Cleveland – Marsha Blank, Program Director
7. OhioGuidestone – Rev. Andrea Jacobs, MDIV, BCC, Director of Spiritual Care
8. St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church – Pastor Daryl B. Ingram
9. Trinity Outreach Ministries – Dr. Deborah Watson-Daniels, Program Operations Director/Manager

#### **5. PRESENTATION: HIGH RISK TEEN MENTORSHIP PROGRAM**

Rabbi Chaim Helman, Co-Founder and Director of Naaleh Cleveland explained that the word, Naaleh, means to go up or to rise. Naaleh began as a grass-root organization in response to a growing need. It was noted that people, especially in the Orthodox Jewish community, did not know where or how to find a good provider that would match their mental health concern as well as their insurance needs. Additionally, Rabbis and school personnel also needed to know where to refer those who were reaching out for their help along with a profound stigma surrounding mental health concerns especially in the Orthodox Jewish community that prevents people from reaching out.

Rabbi Helman shared the steps taken to develop the program that includes awareness advertising and support groups. Many of the teens participating in the mentorship program were referred by their parents or by school personnel. The accomplishments of the program and teens include:

- Those employed learn responsibility and gain confidence and esteem.
- Passing GED's
- Breaking drug and alcohol habits
- Learning vocational skills such as carpentry, electrical work/plumbing

The program found that children needed mentors outside of their family to help them and provide therapy. Currently there are 45 children in the program that is located at 23940 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, Ohio.

#### **6. EVALUATION/OUTCOME TRAINING**

Ms. Sizemore-Rice reported that in prior years evaluations for faith-based initiatives utilized a Prevention Workbook and Objectives. In CY2019, Board staff will introduce and use the Devereux Student Strength Assessment (DESSA) tool that will demonstrate social-emotional enhancements and the Adult Resilience Survey (DARS) that demonstrates and measures resiliency. Both tools will allow the Faith-Board Outreach Initiative to fully evaluate the performance of the CY2019 faith-based contract providers.

Training sessions on the Evaluation Tools have been scheduled for all faith-based providers:

- March 4, 2019 – DESSA Training: Instructor is an outside presenter
- March 8, 2019 – DARS

Board staff will also provide additional training to providers when needed as well as technical assistance.

#### **7. UPDATES**

- **Radio Show** - Rev. Brenda Ware-Abrams noted that committee members are welcome to share information on her public service radio broadcasts free of charge on Mondays between 8:00-10:00 p.m. Her program is entitled, "Healing the Hurt" and she wishes to provide open communication to bridge the information gap.

Mr. Osiecki reported that Starlette Sizemore-Rice is in charge of coordinating the radio programming and that any providers or committee members interested in participating on a radio broadcast should contact Ms. Sizemore-Rice.

- **Culturally Competent Materials** – Beth Zietlow-DeJesus, External Affairs Director, reported that as a result of a suggestion made at the recent Faith-based Breakfast, materials are now available in Spanish. Rev. Gohlstin requested the Faith-based materials also be translated into Spanish. Faith-based colorful/double-sided cards listing all of the CY2019 Faith-based Programs and contact numbers were also distributed and were very well received.
8. **OLD/NEW BUSINESS** - None
  9. **NEXT MEETING DATE** - Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

*There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.*

*Submitted by: Carol Krajewski, Executive Specialist*

*Approved by: Rev. Max Rodas, MA, Faith-Based Outreach Committee Chair*