

**ALCOHOL, DRUG ADDICTION & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (ADAMHS)  
BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**FAITH-BASED OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 7, 2018**

**Committee Members:** Rev. Max Rodas, MA, Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., Gwendolyn Howard, Eugenia Kirkland, LSW, MSSA, CDCA, Mary R. Warr, M.Ed. / **Others:** Sharon Rosenbaum, MA / **Absent:** None

**Board Staff Present:** Scott Osiecki, Acting CEO/Chief of External Affairs, Carol Krajewski, Starlette Sizemore-Rice, Tom Williams

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Rev. Max Rodas noted that it was a pleasure to be appointed to serve as new Committee Chair of the Faith-based Outreach Committee, welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Joint Faith-Based Outreach and Community Relations & Advocacy Committee minutes of November 1, 2017 were approved as written.

**3. OHIO GUIDESTONE PROGRAMMATIC CHANGE**

Starlette Sizemore-Rice, Public Benefits Administrator, highlighted the background regarding the programmatic change recommended. OhioGuidestone, one of the ADAMHS Board's five Faith-based Outreach providers, wished to revise its spiritual care program initiative for CY2018. In 2017, OhioGuidestone provided specialized spiritual care by clergy to clients who indicated that they were open to the inclusion of a client's faith community in the recovery process. Such direct services were provided to over 80 individuals in the most conducive setting—home, school, office or other community site. The agency has since revised its agency-wide intake assessment to include a more in-depth spiritual assessment.

Rev. Andrea Jacobs, MDIV, BCC, Director of Spiritual Care/OhioGuidestone, explained that the agency is looking to revise the Faith-based initiative contract in order to target different populations going forward. The goal is to reach those individuals who are on Medicaid but have been reluctant to receive mental health services perhaps due to stigma, reluctance, etc. The agency desires to reach out through spiritual support to the following specific target groups:

- MomsFirst
- Help Me Grow
- OhioGuidestone's Workforce Development & Job Training Program

Dr. Ben Kearny, OhioGuidestone's Executive Vice President and Chief Clinical Officer, noted that through Ohio's Behavioral Health Re-Design effort the agency asserts that Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS)--a mental health service that is psycho-educational in orientation but is linked to certain interventions, can be provided and are Medicaid eligible. OhioGuidestone has developed a TBS manual with over 300 interventions that focus on symptoms and challenges that people have. As such, the agency has added an indicator on a number of them that can be used as a focus through a lens of spirituality. It was noted that building upon a person's spiritual strengths is very impactful toward a person's recovery path. The agency has produced two manuals entitled, "Overcoming Reluctance" and "Therapeutic Behavioral Services". Dr. Kearny addressed questions of committee members.

Mr. Osiecki reported that he, along with Ms. Sizemore-Rice, previously met with Rev. Jacobs and Dr. Kearny and were very impressed that OhioGuidestone implemented its original goal of giving a spiritual assessment to everyone. Currently, the agency includes a spiritual assessment and questions that may lead to including spirituality in the recovery process for everyone during the intake process.

**Motion to recommend approval of the programmatic change to Ohio Guidestone's Faith-based Program to the Planning & Oversight Committee.** MOTION: B. Gohlstin / SECOND: E. Kirkland / AYES: B. Gohlstin, G. Howard, E. Kirkland, M. Warr / NAYS: None / ABSTAIN: None / **Motion passed.**

#### 4. PROVIDER PROGRESS REPORT

Ms. Sizemore-Rice referenced the Provider Status Report for the Faith-based Outreach Initiative Program, as of December 2017 for the providers listed below. (The document is attached to the original minutes in the Executive Unit.)

- **Inner Healing Ministries** – the document lists the number served as 446 individuals; it should be increased by 19 as the number of people attending the Recovery Conference was inadvertently omitted.

The largest number of youth served are from the South Euclid Court – First-time Offenders Program. The program is also actively reaching out to the community. A conversation was held with this provider around the concept of other initiatives needed in order to reach other populations. A separate class has been created for children to learn basic prevention skills. A volunteer program provides counseling, guidance and mentoring to clients who are referred to the STOP (Student Training Outreach Programs) program by the schools and courts. Rev. Franklin was encouraged to measure progress; consequently, he has formulated a spirituality indicator assessment tool to more precisely denote instances of spirituality that occur.

- **Life Recovery Ministries** – This provider served 315 individuals and continues to hold Mental Health First Aid sessions at Olivet Institutional Baptist Church. Efforts have begun to reach out to Ms. Jennifer Tulli, Director of Matt Talbott, and have received approval to begin services with their residents to assist with the spiritual recovery component.

Rev. McDaniel has been participating with the Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC) University in order to reach out to its 40 member churches that also include Muslim and Jewish populations. The GCC is also working on a mental health element and develop a crisis stabilization unit.

- **NAMI Greater Cleveland** – As of December, NAMI served 720 individuals through awareness training, presentations, support groups, etc. around mental health and substance abuse. NAMI has reported that Nallah, a non-profit organization that focuses on strengthening the emotional, mental health and well-being of the Cleveland Jewish Community, has become a part of NAMI Greater Cleveland.
- **OhioGuidestone** – This agency served 85 individuals; 51 persons continued from CY2016 with 34 new clients in CY2017. Efforts continue to identify opportunities for greater outcomes. Rev. Marc Neal has excelled as the solo community chaplain in his service delivery. The challenge is serving the number of clients; the agency continues to receive referrals and there are clients waiting for help through spiritual care.
- **Trinity Outreach Ministries** – This faith-based program served 113 individuals. October marked the end of their program due to their move to a new location—from 7209 Woodland Avenue to 4600 Carnegie Avenue. They are excited about their new location and reached out to parents, students and the community on the new location. Participants were encouraged to be involved in prayerful, sober and healthy activities during the holiday season.

As of December 2017, the Provider Progress Report reflects serving a total of 1,698 individuals served.

A summary of findings are shown below:

- Majority of individuals served were females.
- Age category with the highest percentage served was 25-44 years.
- Majority of individuals identified themselves as Christian.
- There was an increase in the areas of others faiths and spirituality.

A complete year-end report compiled by Thomas Williams, Data Research Specialist, is anticipated for the next Faith-based Outreach Committee Meeting.

Committee Input:

- Ms. Warr encouraged all committee members to speak out in the community about the importance of spirituality in the recovery process.

- Rev. Gohlstin suggested that NAMI, Rev. Karrell, and Rev Jacobs join forces to reach out to the other faiths in our community.
- Rev. Rodas echoed the need for collaboration; however, he stressed the importance of recognizing the progress made to date.
- Ms. Warr encouraged Dr. Franklin to utilize the marquee in the South Euclid area and offered her assistance in gaining City Council approval.

#### **5. UPDATE ON VISIT TO FRANKLIN COUNTY FAITH-BASED PROGRAM**

The visit to Franklin County to learn information about its faith-based program/s was canceled due to schedule conflicts. For the benefit of the new committee members, Rev. Gohlstin provided historical background of the initial meeting in 2011 with individuals from Franklin County that spearheaded our ADAMHS Board's interest in forming a Faith-based Outreach Committee.

Rev. Gohlstin and Ms. Warr favored the rescheduling of a face-to-face visit to meet with the overall committee in Franklin County; however, if this is not possible, a conference call might also be considered. Ms. Sizemore-Rice will work on rescheduling the visit on behalf of the committee.

#### **6. FAITH-BASED FUTURE RADIO/TV TAPING**

Ms. Sizemore-Rice reported that a live internet radio show was taped on January 20, 2018, that included herself, Rev. Gohlstin, Scott Osiecki, and Rev. Andrea Jacobs from OhioGuidestone. The program was featured on the program, Missions, on Voice-It Radio's sister station, [www.heavenlyhostradio.org](http://www.heavenlyhostradio.org) for future listening. Mr. Osiecki noted that the ADAMHS Board has received another link that will soon be posted on our website. He noted that it was a positive experience and the ADAMHS Board was invited to return for another session. A televised program was taped in July 2018 on Brenda & Friends. Rev. Gohlstin noted that he has a DVD of the program that he can share with Mr. Osiecki.

#### **7. PROPOSED CHANGE OF MEETING SCHEDULE FOR CY2018**

Ms. Sizemore-Rice are proposing that the Faith-based Outreach Committee begin to meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of "even-numbered" months at 4:00 p.m. Our Board Chair has requested this change to bring all Committee Meeting starting times to 4:00 p.m. This change will enable the Community Relations & Advocacy Committee to meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday on odd-numbered months and the Faith-based Outreach Committee to meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday on even-numbered months. As there were no objections, committee members concurred with the proposed change. In light of approving this change, a revised ADAMHS Board Meeting Schedule for 2018 was distributed.

#### **8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

- Mr. Osiecki announced the sad news that our friend, John Chan, Chief Financial Officer of Murtis Taylor Human Services System, passed away on Sunday. John was a dedicated staff member of Murtis Taylor for 40 years, and the ADAMHS Board will begin working on a proclamation recognizing his valuable contributions to the behavioral health system to be given to his family.
- Dr. Deborah Watson-Daniel, of Trinity Outreach Ministries, noted that the faith-based community is still in prayer about the passing of Valeria Harper. She encouraged all to dedicate the faith-based efforts and initiatives to exceed the program's goals in Ms. Harper's honor.

#### **9. NEXT MEETING DATE** - Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.

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

***Submitted by: Carol Krajewski, Executive Specialist***

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