

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

## FAITH-BASED OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES OCTOBER 3, 2018

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

**Board Staff Present:** Scott Osiecki, C.E.O., Bob Garrity, Carol Krajewski, Starlette Sizemore-Rice, Tom Williams

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Rev. Max Rodas, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and read the committee's mission statement into the record: *"To recognize and advocate spirituality in the recovery process; to connect the spiritual perspective with other interventions and best practices; and to promote the concept that treatment **works** and people recover."*

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Faith-Based Outreach Committee minutes of June 6, 2018 were approved as presented.

### 3. FAITH-BASED OUTREACH INITIATIVE PROGRAM REPORT

Starlette Sizemore-Rice, Director of Special Projects, summarized the Faith-based Outreach Initiative Program Provider Status Report as of August 2018. Updated documents were distributed that provided a review of the five programs and are attached to the original minutes in the Executive Unit.

- **Inner Healing Ministries** – Prevention / "Student Training Outreach Programs (S.T.O.P.) – Church Assistance Program". The number of persons served year-to-date, as of 8/31/18, was 712. This program continues to provide education in drug and alcohol prevention, counseling, and mentoring to church leaders and a Mentoring Training Program for individuals involved in the justice system.

Rev. Franklin was asked to expand on the component of community education given there were no activities reported on in August. Rev. Franklin highlighted community educational activities provided throughout the year; however, he explained that there were no community activities held during August. Efforts are underway to reinstitute a radio broadcast which served as an effective tool for awareness for the community at large. A new person is tracking and sending reports to the ADAMHS Board and is still learning how to include in the report the information required.

- **Life Recovery Ministries (LRM)** – Prevention / Spiritual Recovery & Wellness Program. The number of persons served, year-to-date, as of 8/31/18 is 461.
  - Mental Health First Aid sessions were well received on August 7, 14, 21 & 28 at Olivet Missionary Baptist Church. As a result, an on-going schedule has been formulated with Olivet Baptist Church and efforts are underway to obtain a quarterly commitment.
  - MHFA sessions were provided on Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> at Christian Assembly, 25595 Chardon Road, and on Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> at Olivet Missionary Baptist Church.
  - A training is being developed for providers around spiritual distress.
  - A presentation of Mental Health First Aid is tentatively scheduled for February 2019 for the Jewish community.
  - Interest in Let's Talk Mental Health sessions has been deficient.
  - LRM looks to promote tracts for three religious communities—Christian, Jewish and Islamic.
- **NAMI Greater Cleveland** – Prevention / The number of individuals served year-to-date as of 8/31/18 was 452.
  - NAMI staff and volunteers continue to meet to review material for inclusion in faith-based support groups.
  - Material is being gathered around the various religions: Hari Krishna, Baha'i, Buddhism and Hinduism this month. A resource book is in the developmental stage and will include positive affirmations and prayers.
  - A challenge occurs when scheduled NAMI presentations are canceled by community organizations.

- **OhioGuidestone** – Behavioral Health Treatment: Expanding Spiritual Care
  - The number of individuals served year-to-date as of 8/31/18 is 19.
  - The agency has gotten off to a slow start; however, the program is ramping up. Since this summer, the new community chaplain has been stationed at the Workforce Center in Cleveland. He teaches classes that promote the concept that mental health and spiritual health are both components of healthy mental health.
  - Going forward, the goal is to ramp up the chaplain's hours and to consider creative ways to engage around spirituality and mental health in order to reach 80 persons by the end of the year.
- **Trinity Outreach Ministries** – Prevention
 

As of 8/31/18, this faith-based program has served 103 individuals.

  - The success of the various programs have had a very positive impact on children and their families.
  - Participation on the radio broadcast provided an opportunity to share information about the about the program as well as at meetings and through social media.
  - A theatre component has been added to the list of activities for summer programming and resulted in additional registrations.
  - Participants continue to attend church and volunteer for community service projects.

Dr. Watson-Daniels, of Trinity Outreach Ministries, presented Ms. Sizemore-Rice with a certificate of appreciation and bouquet of flowers for her leadership and support of the various faith-based initiatives. In response, Ms. Sizemore-Rice expressed her thanks and noted that the faith-based outreach program was a collaborative team effort.

Ms. Sizemore-Rice reported on overall year-to-date statistics for the Faith-based Outreach Initiative Program:

- Client demographics show that the majority of participants are female, Christian and African American.
- Highest age group served for the recent time period was children from 25-44 years of age.
- The largest geographical area served was Cleveland Heights.

#### **4. INTERFAITH BREAKFAST DISCUSSION**

Rev. Gohlstin reported that the Interfaith Breakfast was held on 9/17/18 at the Ariel International Center; nearly 50 individuals attended from different faith communities. The program consisted of CEO Scott Osiecki welcoming all to the event, Rev. Gohlstin providing background about the history of the Faith-based Outreach Initiatives, and Rev. Rodas sharing information about our current programs in an effort to reach out and build relationships with the spiritual leaders in attendance.

Dr. Ciara Dennis-Morgan was the guest speaker, along with Pastor Jeff Dennis, from the Minority Behavioral Health Group who presented the concept of cultural specific approaches. As a result, Dr. Dennis-Morgan has been asked to present to the ADAMHS Board of Directors at their upcoming Annual Board Training. Additionally, input received from the Interfaith Breakfast will be considered in the development of the Request for Proposal for the CY2019 Faith-based Outreach Initiative Program.

Debriefing input regarding 9/17/18 Event:

- Discussion followed on the goal of reaching other faith communities.
- The breakfast event title may have been a deterrent as the term, faith-based, may have implied an emphasis on Christianity.
- Building relationships with other faith communities is an essential component in assisting leaders to share education, awareness and referrals regarding mental health and addiction issues with their members.
- It is important to brand all events appropriately in an effort to reach out to other faiths.
- Suggestion was made to highlight the committee's mission statement on all information for future events.

Board Chair, Rev. Gohlstin, has suggested that a similar breakfast and cultural specific presentation be held for ADAMHS Board contract providers early in 2019.

## 5. FAITH-BASED OUTREACH INITIATIVES

- **Authorization to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for CY2019 Faith-based Outreach Initiatives Programs**  
Ms. Sizemore-Rice provided background information about the original pilot Faith-based Outreach Initiative and its success in reaching community members through trainings, prevention and intervention services while keeping in line with the Faith-based Outreach Committee's mission statement.

Board staff requests authorization to issue a RFP for CY2019 Faith-based Outreach Initiative Programs for a total amount not to exceed \$250,000.00 for the term of 1/01/19 through 12/31/19. Discussion followed; Board members expressed their support of increasing the amount to \$300,000.

Mr. Osiecki noted that he and Rev. Gohlstin spoke earlier about the concept of raising the budgeted amount for the RFP but thought that the Board Chair was interested in returning it to the original amount. However, given the additional areas are being asked for in the RFP and community input, consideration of increasing the amount to \$300,000 may be a realistic option. Mr. Osiecki shared the overall RFP goals for entities and faith-based organization responses to:

- Create and administer a behavioral health assistance program geared specifically to faith leaders from all religions. Services may include counseling, supportive holistic services, etc.
- Provide a wide variety of innovative holistic health and wellness services for clients. Services may include yoga, meditation, nutrition, massage, acupuncture, etc.
- Provide inter-faith summer and afterschool programs/camps that include drug and mental health prevention/intervention activities for youth and their families.
- Support a community chaplain who reaches individuals in community programs to help bridge the gap to behavioral health services reducing the stigma.
- Provide programs in behavioral health/recovery/sober living environments.
- Provide programs to educate participants and their families involved in Cuyahoga County's mental health and drug courts about the connection between spirituality / recovery / behavioral health, in addition to providing drug/alcohol free alternative activities for family members.
- Build bridges between the faith community and behavioral health providers through stigma reduction and public awareness programming, various trainings, such as suicide prevention, Mental Health First Aid, etc.

In an effort to reach more people, Ms. Warr suggested using a vendor to produce a motion picture using providers and clients regarding the Faith-based Outreach Initiative for the target audience of pastors and spiritual leaders. Rev. Gohlstin and Mr. Osiecki responded that a previous endeavor to do such a project proved to be unsuccessful.

Regarding the review of RFP responses received, Ms. Warr advocated for doing due diligence by looking for respondents who will address specific cultural needs in their programs and services.

### **Motion to recommend authorization to issue a Request for Proposal for CY2019 Faith-based Outreach Initiatives in an amended amount not to exceed \$300,000.00 to the Committee of the Whole.**

MOTION: B. Gohlstin SECOND: E. Kirkland / AYES: B. Gohlstin, G. Howard, E. Kirkland, R. Rodas, B. Ware-Abrams, M. Warr / NAYS: None / ABSTAIN: None / **Motion passed.**

**6. UPDATES****• Radio Show**

Ms. Sizemore-Rice noted that the committee's latest radio broadcast was held on Monday, 8/27/18, on WERE 1490 AM with Rev. Aaron Phillips--The People, The Issues, The Community. She noted that the arrangement with the radio station has come to an end and that Board staff and committee members are grateful to Rev. Phillips and the station for their volunteer support of our initiative to inform the public about faith-based outreach initiatives as well as mental health and addiction services available throughout Cuyahoga County. It was noted that other potential radio stations have come forward to indicate their interest in sponsoring public service announcement programs.

**7. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

- Rev. Gohlstin announced that one of our newest County appointed Board members, Dr. Gregory X. Boehm, was present in the audience. In response, Dr. Boehm introduced himself as a Psychiatrist and an Addictionologist. For the past 25 years, he has taught at Case Western Reserve University and also has a private practice. He has been actively involved with the Ohio Society of Addiction Medicine for the past 10 years and now serves as its President. Dr. Boehm added that he looks forward to working with the ADAMHS Board of Directors in the near future.
- Rev. Gohlstin expressed his thanks to members of the Board for their thoughts, prayers and cards upon the occasion of his recent major surgery.
- Rev. Watson-Daniels, of Trinity Outreach Ministries, felt that the Interfaith Breakfast event was magnificent.
- Rev. Brenda Ware-Abrams noted that she is glad to be serving on the Faith-based Outreach Committee again and offered to host radio broadcasts on "Brenda & Friends" as there is a need to spread awareness.
- Ms. Sizemore-Rice added that recently the Board has received a number of calls requesting speakers to share information around mental health and addiction issues.

**8. NEXT MEETING DATE - Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.**

***There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.***

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

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