

ADAMHS BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY

FAITH-BASED OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES JANUARY 4, 2017

Committee Members: Mary R. Warr, M.Ed., Committee Chair, Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., Gwendolyn Howard, Rev. Brenda Ware-Abrams, Anngela Williams

Absent: Eugenia Cash, MSSA, LSW, CDCA, Charlotte Rerko, MSN, RN, BC

Board Staff Present: Valeria Harper, Vice President of Operations, Derrick Kirklen, Carol Krajewski, Starlette Sizemore-Rice, Tom Williams

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair, Mary Warr, called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. and asked Ms. Williams to read the committee 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."*

The Chair invited Katie Boland, External Affairs Officer, to share information about an upcoming event sponsored by the Problem Gambling Coalition. Ms. Boland serves on the Coalition's Leadership Committee that meets bi-monthly; the Coalition wishes to inform members of the faith-based community about its events and invite them to become involved.

- A Speakers Bureau Training & Orientation is scheduled for 01/26/17 from 6:00-8:00 PM at Recovery Resources, 3950 Chester Avenue. The goal of the Problem Gambling Speakers Bureau is "to lift up the voices of people that have been impacted by problem gambling to increase awareness of the issue and instigate community actions." Those who can join the speaker's bureau are individuals who have struggled with problem gambling and/or family and friends of gamblers. This event will provide training on effective story telling for social change and provide opportunities to practice skills such as talking to media and use of social media. Flyers were distributed.
- The next Problem Gambling Coalition meeting is February 2nd at Recovery Resources.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the November 2, 2016 Faith-Based Outreach Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

3. CREATIVE DISCUSSION – ADVANCEMENT OF THE FAITH-BASED PROGRAM

Ms. Warr referenced several issues previously discussed by the Faith-based Outreach Committee on January 4th that centered on the desire to promote awareness within our community about current faith-based initiatives, to involve other faith communities, and the potential utilization of unexpended funds as a result of one specific provider opting out of the pilot project for CY2017.

Based upon input generated by committee members, Mr. Denihan held a meeting with Ms. Warr and Rev. Gohlstin to determine how Board staff could assist with issues brought forward. The workgroup discussed the various ideas suggested and agreed upon making a wider appeal through a radio and/or public service television program, through an editorial and/or use of social media. Another realization is that currently the five faith-based programs are very unique in their goals & mission. Consequently, it is important to take advantage of their expertise and to discover from them what two to three things they feel good about in an effort to let people know what is happening and available in our county.

Rev. Marcus Gould of Mt. Zion Church, an associate of Rev. Gohlstin, was invited to consider taking on such an endeavor to: (1) promote faith-based initiatives, (2) interview faith-outreach program representatives to determine what activities are working well and accomplishments made, (3) compose an editorial piece on behalf of the committee and ADAMHS Board, and (4) to reach out and target other faith communities. Committee Chair, Mary Warr, noted that the long-term goal is to reach out to other faith communities.

It was noted that information learned from such an effort will be used to develop an editorial piece and talking points for committee members. CEO Denihan noted that he has the authority to enter into contracts under \$1,000.00 in value and has not done this in the past. However, due to the committee's charge to quick-start the sharing of the information with the community, Mr. Denihan felt quite comfortable in considering the work of an impartial consultant to begin during the first part of 2017.

Motion to contract with Marcus Gould as a consultant to the Faith-based Outreach Committee for an amount not to exceed \$999.00. MOTION: B. Gohlstin / SECOND: A. Williams / AYES: B. Gohlstin, G. Howard, B. Ware-Abrams, A. Williams / NAYS: None / ABSTAIN: None / **Motion passed.**

Discussion followed on the offer extended by Rev. Brenda Ware-Abrams to share information on her television and radio programs. Rev. Ware-Abrams noted that either of the programs will reach persons from all faith communities. The tentative plans for the taping are to hold a round-table discussion with committee members, Chief Denihan and faith-based providers.

Times under consideration are any Monday, 8:00-10:00 AM. The televised round-table discussion is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, January 28th at 4:00 pm; the location is 26210 Emery Road. Mr. Denihan noted that Scott Osiecki, Chief of External Affairs would also be involved with the programming. Once details are firm, the information will be shared with faith-based providers.

Ms. Warr mentioned that recently she has observed when reading obituaries that people are coming forth in expressing the loved ones cause of death. She reiterated her interest in providing literature in funeral homes and churches to refer families to find help. Mr. Denihan asked that this might be a by-product of the consultant's work.

Rev. McDaniel noted that the former Faith-based Outreach Subcommittee drafted a brochure that might be considered for such a purpose. Rev. Gohlstin agreed; however, he felt that it needed to be edited to address all faiths. Rev. Gohlstin also felt that a brochure about the existing faith-based programs would also be helpful in describing the existing programs.

Committee & Provider Input:

- Once literature is available, consider providing it to Grief and Loss Programs such as Cornerstone of Hope and Hospice as well as other service providers.
- Consider sponsoring a quarterly teleconference to share information with other faiths.
- Consider holding a conference during September for Recovery month.

Mr. Denihan credited Starlette Sizemore-Rice as the staff liaison who works to implement many of the suggestions made by the committee. He further noted that both Ms. Sizemore-Rice and Mr. Osiecki will present at the OACBHA 2017 Behavioral Health Conference at the Hyatt Regency in Columbus on January 11 & 12, 2017. They will talk about the Faith-based Outreach pilot project, the Request for Information process utilized, and where the ADAMHS Board Faith-based initiatives are going in the future.

4. NEXT MEETING DATE - Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at 2:30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Submitted by: Carol Krajewski, Executive Specialist

Approved by: Mary R. Warr, M.Ed., Faith-Based Outreach Committee Chair