

ADAMHS BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY

FAITH-BASED OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES MARCH 1, 2017

Committee Members: Mary R. Warr, M.Ed., Committee Chair, Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., Gwendolyn Howard, and Rev. Brenda Ware-Abrams / **Absent:** Eugenia Cash, Charlotte Rerko, Anngela Williams

Board Staff Present: Valeria Harper, Vice President of Operations, Tami Fischer, Carol Krajewski, Starlette Sizemore-Rice, Michaele Smith, Tom Williams

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair, Mary Warr, called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Ms. Howard read into the record the committee mission statement, *“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 minutes from the January 4, 2017 Faith-Based Outreach Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

3. PILOT PROGRAM'S CLOSING REPORT

Starlette Sizemore-Rice, Public Benefits Administrator, referenced the Faith-Based Outreach Initiatives Pilot Final Report and noted that the initial pilot reflects a partnership between the providers and the ADAMHS Board. (The document prepared by Ms. Sizemore-Rice and Thomas Williams is attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit.) While the projected number of participants for the overall pilot program was 1400 people, the actual number of people served was 2,551. The majority served were females—70% females, 30% males. The average age range of participants was 45-64 years.

Pilot Study Results:

- Overall, the actual number of enrollees was greater than the projected number.
- 18% of time spent on pilot project was for Administration: Back-office processes; only 3% of time was spent on planning or administration of project evaluation.
- The majority of participants were female.
- Some programs had difficulty getting age group data; two providers had high rates of missing data.
- Four of the six providers had high percentages of participants who identify as Black or African American.
- Five of the six providers had high percentages of Christianity as the participants identified religion. The sixth provider had a very high rate of unknown religion preferences.

Recommendations going forward:

- Follow the same Board contract standards of quality improvement for other funded programs. For prevention, there is an expectation that at least 60% of each objective will be met or statistically significant improvement for each performance objective above the prior year. For treatment, there is an expectation of statistically significant or clinically significant improvement across programs using an accepted clinical monitoring tool.
- With buy-in from all providers, better define program objectives with numeric thresholds for all objectives.
- Establish an expectation for an increase in diversity in the participant population with a special emphasis on increasing the number of male participants, other races and religions other than Christianity.

Provider Input:

- It was noted that, in the faith community, adult females are typically more active than males.
- A barrier was identified when trying to obtain demographic statistics at larger educational/community events.
- Suggestion: it may be helpful to obtain accurate census data regarding the various faith communities that exist within our County.
- Trinity Outreach Ministries reaches out to families/children and is able to impact young boys at an earlier age.

Mr. Denihan arrived and acknowledged the excellent job of Ms. Sizemore-Rice and Mr. Williams on the Faith-based Outreach Initiative Pilot Final Report. Ms. Sizemore-Rice reported that a meeting with providers has been scheduled for Friday, 3/03/17, to further discuss the Final Report's recommendations and address the additional objectives collaboratively created approximately a month ago.

4. REVIEW DRAFT MERGE SPIRITUALITY BROCHURE

Ms. Sizemore-Rice introduced a new brochure draft that features the five existing faith-based programs. The original MERGE Spirituality brochure created by the Faith-based Subcommittee was also distributed. Discussion followed; see feedback below:

- Both Rev. Gohlstin and Rev. McDaniel of Life Recovery Ministries advocated for refining and continuing to use the MERGE Spirituality brochure as an overview for the community in addition to utilizing the newly developed brochure; both brochures have a value and purpose.
- If the Faith-based Program brochure is to be utilized, Chaplain Littleton of Ohio Guidestone suggested giving providers an opportunity to review and update the description information currently listed.
- Regarding the Faith-based Program brochure, Rev. Gohlstin addressed the need to focus on about the diversity of programs available and to stress the importance of welcoming participation by all faith communities.

ACTION: Ms. Warr asked committee members to review both documents in order to bring forward feedback for potential improvements at the next committee meeting on May 3rd.

5. UPDATES

Due to a schedule conflict for Mr. Denihan, Ms. Harper was asked to provide update information.

1) Remaining Funds (\$27,000.00) - Regarding use of the remaining fund balance, the following background information was shared. During the formation of the Faith-based Pilot Initiative, the initial projected allocation was \$150,000.00. Based on the RFI responses and proposed budgets received, the Board of Directors approved an increase bringing the initial overall allocation to \$250,000.00.

- Mr. Denihan has relayed his opinion and judgment that using the remaining dollars in CY2017, as it is perceived as being exclusively earmarked for Faith-based initiatives, would be setting a precedent for other Board funding issues.
- Ms. Warr mentioned her hope that consultant, Rev. Gould, would be able to provide feedback from providers that would contribute to this discussion. Rev. Gohlstin noted that Rev. Gould is in the process of moving to Florida and would not be available on a continuous basis.
- Based upon the viewpoint of setting a precedent, Rev. Gohlstin yielded to the concept of releasing the remaining unused funds back to the ADAMHS Board Operating Budget. Ms. Warr respectfully disagreed.
- Rev. McDaniel addressed the additional expansion component he recently submitted to the Board around a Spiritual Assessment training for providers. Ms. Harper suggested, from her viewpoint, that any additional programmatic or other funding requests for faith-based expansion should be submitted for the CY2018-2019 budget cycle.

2) Consultant – Rev. Marcus Gould

- Dr. Watson reported that Rev. Gould met with providers and noted that he would be sending out a questionnaire via e-mail asking for specific information to produce an Op-Ed; however, no e-mail request was received by providers.

- Ms. Warr asked whether Rev. Gould was able to fulfil his contract responsibilities given his move out of state. Information was received from Rev. Gould by Ms. Sizemore-Rice who passed it on to CEO Denihan. Both Ms. Warr and Rev. Gohlstin noted their interest in receiving copies of the documents received.
- Dr. Deborah Watson of Trinity Outreach Ministries still noted her interest in providing information about the favorable outcomes of the faith-based programs.

3) TV Taping – Brenda Friends/Round Table

- Due to unforeseen circumstances, the television taping schedule was affected. Rev. Brenda Ware-Abrams noted that the next date set for the television program would probably be in May or June. Meanwhile the radio program, Brenda & Friends, on WERE, 1490 AM live on Mondays from 8:00-10:00 p.m. is still a possibility. It was noted that Board staff will help to coordinate the next date for the radio program's round-table discussion to include Mr. Denihan, committee members and pilot providers.

6. OACBHA'S OHIO 2017 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

Scott Osiecki, Chief of External Affairs, and Starlette Sizemore-Rice presented a workshop at the January 9-10, 2017 Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities Conference entitled "Don't Lose Faith in the Recovery Process." About 50-55 people attended the session and expressed their excitement in learning about the activities of our Faith-based Initiatives Pilot Program.

7. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Regarding the eventual distribution of brochures, Ms. Warr referenced the January minutes that suggested directing the consultant to address this concern/issue.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE - Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 2:30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Carol Krajewski, Executive Specialist

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