

ADAMHS BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY

FAITH-BASED OUTREACH COMMITTEE SUMMARY  
MAY 3, 2017

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

**Board Staff Present:** William M. Denihan, Chief Executive Officer, Valeria Harper, Vice President of Operations, Starlette Sizemore-Rice, Michael Smith, Tom Williams

- **CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair, Mary Warr, called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. Rev. Ware-Abrams 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."*

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Faith-Based Outreach Committee minutes of March 1, 2017 were approved as written.

- **FEEDBACK – FAITH-BASED OUTREACH BROCHURES**

Starlette Sizemore-Rice, Public Benefits Administrator, provided revised brochure drafts that feature the five existing faith-based programs. Ms. Warr stated she felt the brochures were very thorough but that the committee needs to reach groups outside of Christian faiths. Ms. Warr wondered whether some of the language in the brochure caused non-Christians to feel excluded.

Provider Input:

- It was noted that, if the two half-circles were rearranged, they would represent an 'S' for Spirituality.
- The providers agreed that the brochures were well done and they were excited to distribute the final versions.
- Recommended using the language "all faiths or no faiths welcome" to be more inclusive.

**ACTION:** Ms. Warr recommended that the brochures include graphics and photos showing all religions (churches, temples, mosques, etc.). Ms. Howard stated that the font should be bold and the size increased.

- **UPDATES**

- **TV Taping – Brenda Friends/Round Table**

Rev. Ware-Abrams noted that the studio location is completed and next date set for the television program is tentatively set for Saturday, June 24 at 4:00 p.m. Meanwhile the radio program, Brenda & Friends, on WERE, 1490 AM live on Mondays from 8:00-10:00 p.m. Rev. Ware-Abrams indicated that are all welcome on her show. It was noted that Board staff should coordinate appearances on the T.V. and radio programs and communicate any appearances to the committee.

- Due to a schedule conflict, Mr. Denihan's report on Rev. Marcus Gould would be tabled until he arrived.

**ACTION:** Ms. Warr asked that Scott Osiecki, Chief of External Affairs, provide talking point to Rev. Brenda Ware-Abrams prior to the T.V. taping.

- **PROVIDERS PROGRESS REPORT**

Ms. Sizemore-Rice reviewed the Providers Progress Report from January to March, 2017. The total number of clients served during the three month period is 319. The majority of the clients were African-American, Christian, females, between 45-54 years of age. Beachwood was the zip code with the largest number of clients served. Ms. Sizemore-

Rice gave a brief overview of each provider, goals that they have reached and remaining grant money available. Ms. Warr asked if the ADAMHS Board advertises provider activities on its website. Valeria A. Harper, Vice President of Operations, stated that the ADAMHS Board relies on the providers to populate activities posted on the website by providing them to the board.

**Provider Input:**

- Rev. Benjamin Franklin, Inner Healing Ministries, reminded the committee that his radio broadcast is every Saturday from 3:00-4:00 p.m. His first guest was William Denihan, CEO, they discussed the various programs of the ADAMHS Board. Rev. Franklin also discussed a summer lunch program with the city of South Euclid and the Euclid School System, sponsored by the Cleveland Food Bank. The program will be open to middle and high school students daily during the week from 12:00-1:30 p.m. Prevention programming will take place during the lunch program. Ms. Warr asked how the lunch program will be advertised. Rev. Franklin responded that they will have fliers and permission slips delivered to the schools before the end of the school year. Ms. Warr suggested that they also use the electronic billboard at South Euclid City Hall.
- May is Mental Health Awareness Month.

- **107.3 THE WAVE/FAITH & WELLNESS EVENT: APRIL 22, 2017**

Ms. Sizemore-Rice stated that more than 400 people attended the event. The ADAMHS Board staffed an information table where pamphlets were available, including Faith-Based information. Many of the event attendees approached the ADAMHS Board table and expressed appreciation for the services provided through the agency.

Mr. Denihan arrived to provide a report on the consultant, Rev. Marcus Gould. Mr. Denihan stated that he awarded a contract for \$999.99 without board approval to Rev. Gould. Mr. Denihan reflected that, in hindsight, he would have taken additional time to flush out the details of the contract. Mr. Denihan stated that the Request for Information (RFI) process has a purpose but the ultimate mission was accomplished and the report he received from Rev. Gould answered the questions needed.

**ACTION:** Ms. Warr stated that she would like Mr. Denihan to share the report Rev. Gould submitted to him with the committee.

- **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Warr inquired that if a need is not met through the Request For Proposal (RFP) process, has the ADAMHS Board ever selected an entity and reached out directly to them (a church, rabbi, etc.), and asked

them to fulfill that need. Mr. Denihan responded that he thinks it is becoming a necessity and the ADAMHS Board needs to expand outreach. He believes the Faith-Based Committee will be the hallmark for that work. Ms. Warr responded that based on Mr. Denihan's comments, the committee should select other groups of faith, contacting them directly to expand outreach to populations not being served.

Provider Input:

- Contact religious groups that have not participated/responded to previous attempts from providers or the ADAMHS Board.

**ACTION:** Ms. Warr would like to develop a time table to work on the outreach. Mr. Denihan suggested that the providers should offer names of faith groups that they think would be open to outreach.

- **NEXT MEETING DATE** - Wednesday, July 12, 2017 at 2:30 p.m.

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

*Submitted by: Michaele A. Smith, Administrative Assistant*

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