

ADAMHS BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY

FAITH-BASED OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES

JULY 12, 2017

Committee Members: Mary R. Warr, M.Ed., Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., Gwendolyn Howard, Rev. Brenda Ware-Abrams, Anngela Williams / **Absent:** Eugenia Kirkland, LSW, MSSA, CDCA

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

1. 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."*

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Faith-Based Outreach Committee minutes of May 3, 2017 were approved as written.

3. FAITH-BASED OUTREACH BROCHURES

Starlette Sizemore-Rice, Public Benefits Administrator, highlighted several changes made to the brochures including the current ADAMHS Board mission statement as a result of the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan. Additional input was received from committee members along a suggestion to produce 1,000 copies in-house of each brochure for distribution by committee members and Faith-based Outreach providers. It was further suggested that both brochures be posted on the Board's website.

Rev. Brenda Ware-Abrams advocated for distributing brochures to persons who are incarcerated. Rev. Franklin of Inner Healing Ministries offered to look into this suggestion.

Motion to approve brochure content, use and production of the Faith-based Outreach brochures as amended.

MOTION: B. Gohlstin / SECOND: A. Williams / AYES: B. Gohlstin, G. Howard, B. Ware-Abrams, A. Williams / NAYS: None / ABSTAIN: None / Motion passed.

4. UPDATES

a. Radio Interview – Healing the Hurt

Rev. Gohlstin reported on the radio interview program entitled, Healing the Hurt, held on Brenda & Friends, WERE, 1490 AM live Monday, 6/19/17. Both Rev. Gohlstin and Committee Chair, Mary Warr, shared information and conversation about the ADAMHS Board's Faith-based Outreach Committee and initiatives. Rev. Ware-Abrams added that the program was very well received and that the radio station is interested in featuring a second broadcast to include representatives from the various faith-based providers and programs.

b. TV Taping - The date set for the TV taping is Saturday, July 29th from 4:00-5:30 p.m. on the public access TV Channel 21. Individuals tentatively scheduled for the taping were identified.

c. Faiths in Cuyahoga County - Ms. Sizemore-Rice looked into this issue and discovered from the Pew Research Center that specific census information is not available by county. However, the 2014 Ohio Census indicates that 73% of Ohio residents identify themselves as Christian. She noted that the ADAMHS Board's faith-based programs/providers are currently serving 85% Christians; this percentage seems to validate our numbers.

- d. **Concept for reaching other faiths** – Ideas generated from committee members are listed below:
- Consider approaching Terry Pluto, journalist for the Cleveland Plain Dealer, to share stories and information about the importance of spirituality in the recovery process.
 - Consider reaching out to the U.S. President to advocate for additional funding for behavioral health in light of the disturbing fact that Ohio leads the nation in opioid deaths. Ms. Warr suggested meeting with Mr. Denihan to discuss this concept further before recommending it to the full Board.
- e. **Art Mural Program** – The update on this item was deferred.

5. OACBHA – OHIO'S 2017 OPIATE CONFERENCE

Ms. Sizemore-Rice noted that she and Rev. Karrell McDaniel presented a session at the Opiate Conference on June 12th entitled "Don't Lose Faith in the Recovery Process". Approximately 50-60 people attended the session and were pleased with the content shared. Rev. McDaniel thanked the ADAMHS Board for the opportunity to speak at the conference and shared a heartfelt comment received from an audience member about her excitement to learn and hear about a faith component connected to recovery.

6. SPIRITUALITY ASSESSMENTS OF ALL CONTRACT PROVIDERS

To follow up on questions raised regarding client assessment disclosure statements on religious affiliation, Ms. Harper looked into the issue further and found that currently there is no mechanism for the Board to have access to obtain accumulative information. She did inquire whether there might be a specific field to gain this information through the SHARES enrollment process. Mr. Tom Williams, Data Research Specialist, noted that there may be a possible option in SHARES to add a drop-down menu to list the various religions. Ms. Warr was pleased with this opportunity to provide information to providers so that they might be able to link clients and/or connect the spiritual perspective with other interventions.

7. PROVIDER PROGRESS REPORT

Ms. Sizemore-Rice highlighted the 2017 Provider Status Report as of May 2017 for the Faith-Based Outreach Initiative Program consisting of five faith-based providers/programs. To date, the Faith-Based Outreach Initiative:

- Has served 689 individuals; of this number, 72% are females.
- The largest age group is 45-64 years of age (32%)
- 77% of participants are African American
- 81% of participants are Christian
- 28% of participants reside in the 44122 Zip Code

The report identifies each program's goal, objective/s and number of persons served. Ms. Sizemore-Rice noted that each program and provider is very unique and has been working to include representation by other faiths. The 5-page summary report is attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit.

8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS - None

9. NEXT MEETING DATE - Wednesday, September 6, 2017 at 2:30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Carol Krajewski, Executive Specialist

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