

**ADAMHS BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY
FAITH-BASED OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES
MAY 4, 2016**

Committee Members: Mary R. Warr, M.Ed., Committee Chair, Eugenia Cash, MSSA, LSW, CDCA, Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., Anngela Williams / **Absent:** Charlotte Rerko, MSN, RN, BC

Board Staff Present: William M. Denihan, CEO, Katie Boland, Valeria Harper, Carol Krajewski, Tom Williams

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair, Mary Warr, called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. Rev. Gohlstin read aloud 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 6, 2016 Faith-Based Outreach Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

The agenda order was revised to permit CEO Denihan to address the proposed ADAMHS Board Bylaws Amendment under consideration. One specific revision authorizes the concept of recruiting and appointing two (2) Non-Board members to serve on the Faith-based Outreach Committee. The second reading, of the proposed Bylaws Amendments, is scheduled for the May General Meeting.

Section 8, Authority and Function of Committees, (h) - (page 11 of 14):

“The Faith-based Outreach Committee may consist of both board members and not more than two (2) residents of the service district who are not members of the Board but are qualified, pursuant to ORC §340.02 to serve as members of the Board. These two Non-Board members shall be appointed by the Board to four-year terms of office as committee members and may be reappointed to not more than one subsequent term of office. These two Non-Board members have a right to vote on matters presented to the Faith-Based Outreach Committee; however, they do not have a right to vote at any general meetings of the full Board.”

Committee members agreed to collect names of individuals interested in serving as Non-Board members in order to start the interview process once the Bylaws Amendment is approved. The committee's goal is to use the July meeting date as a target for recommending the Non-Board member candidates selected for appointment to the Faith-based Outreach Committee.

3. OVERVIEW OF FAITH-BASED OUTREACH INITIATIVE PILOT

Valeria Harper, Vice President of Operations, introduced Tom Williams, Data Research Specialist, who along with Starlette Sizemore-Rice are responsible for compiling the Monitoring and Evaluation for the Faith-based Outreach Initiatives Pilot Program. Ms. Harper noted that the power point reflects data submitted from all 6 of the pilot contract providers for the pilot period that runs through 12/31/16; the anticipated service target total of 1400 individuals and/or families comes directly from the Faith-based provider proposals. Mr. Williams highlighted the data and charts presented through 12/31/15 in the power point presentation (attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit).

Report Observations:

- All six providers have begun serving their target communities.
- Some providers were able to begin their programs in November, while others needed more time to prepare.
- The group of six providers are on target to meet their goal of providing services to 1400 people.
- Most people served identify themselves as Christian.
- Most people served identify themselves as Black or African American.
- Some programs have shown objectives met while we have to wait for measures of longer term objectives.

Ms. Harper suggested that Board staff provide background information around provider's efforts to develop curriculum, hold meetings and establish relationships in the faith-based community. The overview will further explain each of the pilot agency's time use. Ms. Harper asked Ms. Marsha Blanks, Program Director of NAMI Greater Cleveland, to share a specific challenge faced by NAMI with a particular congregation. Ms. Blanks reported that after spending hours of work and several planning meetings to prepare for a Psycho Education Program around Depression and Women, a statement made by the Pastor in his sermon caused those who had registered to withdraw from the training. NAMI Greater Cleveland has enlisted another church for a day-long mental health day. Rev. Gohlstin asked to be included and informed of the date.

Rev. Gohlstin noted his concern that the pilot does not address the committee's goal to be non-sectarian. After the pilot period in the next funding cycle, he suggested that the committee reach out to other groups. Ms. Blanks assured Rev. Gohlstin that when developing curriculum for NAMI Greater Cleveland training sessions for Pastors non-sectarian information is included.

4. PROGRESS REPORTS FROM FAITH-BASED OUTREACH INITIATIVES

• OHIO GUIDESTONE - Rev. Jared Littleton, Chaplain

Rev. Littleton noted that Ohio Guidestone is excited about its faith-based outreach to clients. Currently, there are 20 clients being served in their homes reflecting 14 different zip codes. The majority of the clients are between 25 and 44 years of age who are reaching a point in life when they are struggling with mental illness or addiction issues.

When a client comes in to Ohio Guidestone, they are assessed and asked questions whether or not spirituality or faith is either currently or has ever been important to them as they deal with times of struggle. If they are willing to answer questions, a religious coping index is used (14 questions) to see how urgent the needs are to integrate a community-based Chaplain into the mental health team to help care for the needs of the client.

Listed below are some expressed needs of clients participating in the pilot program:

- They need to be back in church but have not been able to find their way back into a church community.
- They strongly desire companionship from God, self and others.
- Questions around grief and anger – why wasn't someone healed, why are relatives not supportive.
- Questions around anxiety, depression, guilt.

Another advantage of meeting clients in their homes is to be able to observe their interactions with their children. It is important to be present in those moments to represent the Divine in those circumstances and to see alternatives to giving up on mental health issues or depending on alcohol or other addictions.

Primarily, the core spiritual needs have been divided into three categories:

- 1) Meaning & Direction – individuals who float from church to church and don't seem to ground themselves.
- 2) Reconciliation – those persons who seem to blame everyone else for everything that happens. This opens up an opportunity to talk about their role in the process and the concept of confession and forgiveness.
- 3) Community – some clients attend to needs of everyone around them but do not have a community for themselves, or feel connected/supported by God.

Challenges:

- No shows or those who choose not to open their door to the visiting Chaplains.
- Adjusting to community-based setting; often the client wishes to meet away from the home.
- Backload of clients – new vs. established.

Ohio Guidestone has recently posted a second part-time Chaplain position to allow the agency to see more clients still within the funding allocation. Measurements of progress are done on a quarterly basis. Rev. Littleton was

pleased to share that Ohio Guidestone offices in other counties (Stark and Summit) have expressed an interest in learning more about Cuyahoga County's faith-based pilot initiatives.

- **TRINITY OUTREACH MINISTRIES: ANOTHER CHANCE OF OHIO**
Dr. Deborah Watson, Program Operations Manager

Dr. Watson expressed appreciation for the trust placed in Trinity for this pilot project and thanked Board staff for their assistance and partnership in getting started with respect to use of the monitoring tool as well as financial accountability.

Trinity Outreach Ministries' Goal: To provide a multi-faceted and holistic faith-based approach to early intervention and prevention services

- Family involved interactive afterschool and weekend program.
- To provide inspirational activities with the goal to strengthen the protective and resiliency factors in families pertinent to, delaying, preventing or arresting the use or abuse of illicit drugs and alcohol.
- Help families reach a quality level of fitness spiritually, mentally, academically, socially and physically by redirecting people back to their faith.
- Two semester-based schedules/90 day cohort w/curriculum and choices in 4 key areas.
- Summer events – Lunch Programs, field trips, fun w/fitness and community outreach.
- Proposed to serve 100 children and families.

Progress Highlights:

- Faith program has being well received by Little Scholars families & other families in the community.
- The first semester went well and participants were energetic and excitement was contagious.
- Certificates were awarded for the 1st semester.
- Of the return enrollees, 100% said they felt more encouraged to remain clean and sober, and felt more connected to their faith, their community and their friends.
- Trinity has surpassed its performance targets and looks to enroll more families and work with re-enrollees during the new semester, May 15 – August 15, 2016.

Lessons learned:

- Youth and adults are very enthused about basketball; may take more time to warm up to line dancing.
- Important to keep track of each transaction for fiscal accountability and program integrity.
- Some parents are more enthused about receiving services on-site rather than actual in-home visits.
- Need to order more hot cards to spread the word about the program.
- The pilot program is instilling hope.

Ms. Warr thanked everyone for their work and dedication; she encouraged all to share the work of this committee.

5. OLD/NEW BUSINESS - None

6. NEXT MEETING - Wednesday, July 6, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.; the agenda will feature an update from Hispanic UMADAOP and the Life Recovery Ministries.

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