

**ADAMHS BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY
FAITH-BASED OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES
JULY 6, 2016**

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

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair, Mary Warr, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Charlotte Rerko 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 May 4, 2016 Faith-Based Outreach Committee meeting were approved as submitted. Ms. Sizemore-Rice, Public Benefits Administrator, provided follow-up information referenced in the May 4th minutes regarding pilot provider’s efforts to develop curriculum, hold meetings and establish relationships in the faith-based community. The handout entitled, Faith-based Prevention Activity Hours, provides a breakdown of work done by each pilot provider. The document is attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit.

The Chair requested that in the future follow-up information should be forwarded to committee members prior to the meeting; committee members were asked to review the information disseminated and address any concerns at the next meeting.

During the process of revising the Board Bylaws, Ms. Warr expressed her appreciation to Board staff for so quickly revising Section 8, Authority & Function of Committees, to address the composition of the Faith-based Outreach Committee to include both Board members and not more than two (2) residents of the service district (who are not members of the Board but are qualified to serve as members of the Board) on the Faith-based Outreach Committee.

3. FAITH-BASED OUTREACH INITIATIVE PILOT UPDATE

Ms. Sizemore-Rice reported that this update serves to explain how spirituality is evolving in the pilot programs. The bar graphs illustrate how the pilot programs are advancing through their combined efforts with respect to the three objectives listed below:

- Acknowledging the importance of faith/spirituality/the practice of religion in recovery.
- Connecting with the church or faith-based organization.
- Connecting with the faith community.

Tom Williams, Data Research Specialist, was credited for depicting the information presented; the document is attached to the original minutes.

4. PROGRESS REPORTS FROM FAITH-BASED OUTREACH INITIATIVES

- **HISPANIC UMADAOP: Together for a Common Cause – Nelson Ramirez, Executive Director**

The Hispanic UMADAOP’s program, Together for a Common Cause, has two components: Spirituality Training and Spirituality Sessions. From January through April 2016 the Spirituality Training component, in partnership with the Galilean Theology Center (GTC), conducted 11 Spirituality sessions. Twenty-two staff participated in the training. Of the 22 staff, 12 attended 6 or more training sessions. Collectively, staff received approximately 228 hours of training.

GTC administers a mid-point and end term evaluation. The mid-point evaluation addresses the following topics: barriers to recovery, elements of addiction process, principles of spiritual caregiving and therapeutic relationships.

Mr. Ramirez reported that staff developed greater insight toward integrating spirituality in their recovery counseling regime and in structuring counseling sessions into three stages: exploration, definition and application. Additionally, provider "staff had to come to terms with their own assumptions, biases and/or attitudes about spirituality and religion and to carefully avoid imposing them on the individual/group." The handout distributed included photos taken at the staff training sessions and the questions utilized in the evaluation exercises (attached to the original minutes). The next stage is Spirituality Sessions with clients and planning meetings are in process.

Committee member, Rev. Gohlstin, was pleased with the training piece that refers to "no place for personal biases." He emphasized the importance of sharing this with other faith initiatives.

• **LIFE RECOVERY MINISTRIES: Rev. Karell McDaniel, LICDC-CS, Executive Director**

Rev. McDaniel noted that Life Recovery Ministries is a non-profit, 501C-3 organization established in 2006. Its mission is "to build bridges between the faith community and behavioral health providers, to better assist people living with mental health and substance abuse disorders."

Accomplishments:

- Provided 8-hour Mental Health First Aid Trainings to 40 faith leaders
- Provided 8 week trainings to 45 treatment clients
- Provided public education to 300 congregants with the goal of balancing the information provided to:
 - 4 Christian, 4 Jewish and 4 Muslim.
- Provided trainings on Chemical Dependency to 40 faith leaders.

Rev. McDaniel noted that the first two component goals have been achieved; however, other two components are somewhat behind; challenges are listed below.

Challenges:

- Interest in trainings reflects predominantly Christian participation; LFM is falling short of reaching other faith communities.
- Many clients with addictions are not yet in treatment and need to be connected; this has made the goal of developing a heart for change quite challenging.
- Participants that have been coming to class are enjoying it; however, they are not interested in treatment at this time. Efforts have been made to reach out to NORA for clients who are actively in treatment.

An outreach component, Let's Talk, is "under construction". Given the difficulty in the receptivity of congregations for this meet & greet concept, Rev. McDaniel is considering an experimental idea to help reduce stigma with the faith community by mirroring the Mental Health First Aid curriculum. Presently, four trainings are scheduled on Tuesdays at the Mt. Olivet Institutional Baptist Church to address the subjects – Week 1: Anxiety; Week 2 – Depression; Week 3: Psychosis and Week 4: Substance Abuse Disorders.

Ms. Warr asked if the six faith-based pilot providers collectively looked into the possibility of having a role at the upcoming Republican National Convention (RNC). Rev. McDaniel noted that a group called "Hope over Heroin" has formed a splinter group called "Hope is Here".

- Hope is Here is going to have an event to reach out to the RNC at the Agora Theatre on 7/22 and 7/23.
- Rev. Gohlstin noted that a Prayer Meeting is planned at the Wolstein Center.
- Ms. Harper noted that Mr. Denihan and Mr. Osiecki have been participating in RNC planning meetings.
- Rev. Gohlstin noted that the Diabetes Association and the YMCA is making a direct presentation to the RNC and he shared the contact information for C.J. Jordan, Deputy Director of RNC Convention.

5. UPDATE ON INTERVIEW PROCESS FOR POTENTIAL NON-BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATES

Ms. Warr reported that 6 individuals (non-Board members) have expressed an interest in joining the Faith-based Outreach Committee and Board members are in the process of interviewing potential candidates.

6. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Committee member, Anngela Williams, shared that she had the opportunity of attending a NAMI training session on 6/11/16 and learned that Life Recovery Ministries was holding its training on the very same date. She advocated for working to coordinate events in order not to compete with each other on the same date.

7. **NEXT MEETING** - Wednesday, September 7, 2016 at 3:00 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