

ADAMHS BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY

**FAITH-BASED OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES
NOVEMBER 2, 2016**

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

Absent: Charlotte Rerko, MSN, RN, BC

Board Staff Present: Frank Brickner, Valeria Harper, Carol Krajewski, Starlette Sizemore-Rice, Tom Williams

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.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair, Mary Warr, called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. and thanked Ms. Williams for her recommendation of the new committee starting time to allow more time for important discussions.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the September 7, 2016 Faith-Based Outreach Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

3. INTRODUCTION OF NEWLY APPOINTED NON-BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ms. Warr introduced the two committee members appointed by Board Chair, Eugenia Cash, to serve on the Faith-based Outreach Committee: Ms. Gwendolyn Howard and Rev. Brenda Ware-Abrams. It was noted that each appointment term is effective November 1, 2016 through October 2020. Both appointees were asked to introduce themselves and share their interest in this committee.

Ms. Howard noted that she is honored to be a part of the Faith-based Outreach Committee. She is a licensed school Social Worker with a passion for working with students and families; she also is a part-time instructor at Cleveland State University. Ms. Howard believes in a holistic approach to healing and feels that this committee's mission provides a great opportunity to bring the church and system together to face the challenges of many people/families with respect to drug and alcohol addiction. She looks forward to contributing to the mission of this committee.

Rev. Ware-Abrams noted that she is honored to work with the Board once again. Her career has spanned over 30 years in the field of alcohol and drug addiction services; many of those years were spent at the Community Action Against Addiction (CAAA) where she served as the agency CEO. Rev. Abrams has felt for some time that spirituality is an important part of treatment that is often missing. She appreciates the committee's mission and hopes to be a vital part of this committee in order to help others.

Ms. Warr acknowledged the expertise of these women and their potential contributions to the committee's mission. She added that 95% of success is based upon relationships and encouraged all to spread the word about this committee and the faith-based initiatives currently working in our communities.

4. 2017 RECOMMENDED FAITH-BASED OUTREACH PROGRAMS

For the benefit of newly appointed committee members, Ms. Starlette Sizemore-Rice, Public Benefits Administrator, provided background information regarding the Faith-based Outreach Committee and the progression toward the concept of identifying contract providers and/or faith-based organizations to develop partnerships and strategies through a Request for Information (RFI) process. Of the 16 proposals received, 6 providers were selected as a result of the RFI review and participated in a 14-month pilot period. An overall budget for the pilot was \$250,000.00 divided among the six agencies.

2017 RECOMMENDED FAITH-BASED OUTREACH PROGRAMS (Continued)

Ms. Sizemore-Rice noted that the pilot program is consistent with our Board's vision to develop a Recovery Oriented System of Care for Cuyahoga County and reported that as of August 2016, the overall pilot has served 1778 individuals and exceeded the original projection of serving 1400 people during the pilot period.

Due to the upcoming implementation of the Behavioral Health Redesign in 2017 and subsequent impending changes, Hispanic UMADAOP has opted not to participate in the 2017 Faith-based Programs and to focus its attention on these system changes; the agency does wish to thank the ADAMHS Board for its support of the 2016 Faith-based Program.

Ms. Sizemore-Rice highlighted the 7-page Agenda Process Sheet (attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit) that includes evaluation/outcome data for the goals and objectives for each agency or program participating in the pilot initiative. Representatives from the various agencies/programs provided additional information and answered questions of committee members.

Committee Members Input:

- Committee Chair suggested sending a letter to Hispanic UMADAOP's Executive Director thanking him for his agency's participation in the 2016 Faith-based Pilot Initiative; Ms. Sizemore-Rice asked to follow-up.
- After reviewing the Faith-based APS and hearing reports from various program leaders, Ms. Warr and other committee members expressed enthusiasm for spreading the word to the overall community about the strides made by the committee, faith-based organizations & providers through the faith-based initiatives and the need to reach out to other faith communities.
- Ideas brought forth:
 - a. Include an article in CEO Headliners; consider issuing a press release.
 - b. Rev. Brenda Ware-Abrams noted that she has both a television and radio program and encouraged the concept of inviting a speaker to share information about faith-based initiatives through either option.
 - c. When considering the 2017 allocations to faith-based providers/organizations, the remaining balance of unallocated funds (\$28,000.00) from the Faith-based initiative was discussed. Several committee members expressed their interest in using the remaining funds.
 - Consider issuing a RFP specifically targeted toward other faith communities.
 - Consider issuing funds among existing programs (or) for other new programs.

Ms. Warr asked Ms. Harper and Ms. Sizemore-Rice to communicate these ideas/suggestions to CEO Denihan.

Motion to enter into agreements with the following providers and faith-based organizations in the amounts listed below to continue to incorporate spirituality into prevention, treatment and recovery support services for the period January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 to the Committee of the Whole:

- Inner Healing Ministries - \$45,000.00
- Life Recovery Ministries - \$54,000.00
- NAMI Greater Cleveland - \$19,000.00
- OhioGuidestone - \$50,000.00
- Trinity Outreach Ministries - Another Chance of Ohio - \$54,000.00

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

5. **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

- Life Recovery Ministries' Executive Director, Rev. Karell McDaniel, noted that both Ms. Cash and Ms. Williams were honored with awards at a recent LRM event. As the award for Ms. Williams was not available at the time, Rev. McDaniel requested the opportunity to present it to her during this meeting. Subsequently, an "*Inspiration Award 2016 was presented to Anngela Williams for inspiring growth & continual support of Life Recovery Ministries.*"
6. **NEXT MEETING DATE** - Wednesday, January 4, 2017 at 2:30 p.m.

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

Submitted by: Carol Krajewski, Executive Specialist

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