

ADAMHS BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY

FAITH-BASED OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES JANUARY 7, 2015

Committee Members: Mary R. Warr, M.Ed., Committee Chair, Reginald C. Blue, Ph.D., Eugenia Cash, MSSA, LSW, CDCA, Anngela Williams / **Absent:** Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., Charlotte Rerko, MSN, RN, BC
Sub-Committee Members Present: Karell T. McDaniel, LICDC

Board Staff Present: Valeria A. Harper, Carol Krajewski

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair, Mary Warr, called the Faith-Based Outreach Committee meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Eugenia Cash 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.”*** Ms. Warr added that her vision for this committee is to see this mission statement become a reality within the behavioral health system.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the October 1, 2014 Faith-Based Outreach Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

3. HB 483: COMMUNITY CONNECTORS PROGRAM

Copies of a Plain Dealer article regarding House Bill 483, signed by the Governor Kasich in June, were distributed. The bill created Community Connectors, a student mentoring program that now has a requirement for religious partners. In order for the schools participating to obtain funding, they must have a faith-based component. Ms. Warr suggested that this might be something that we can begin to work on and partner with the schools.

Next Steps:

- Ms. Cash offered to investigate this issue at the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.
- Mr. Denihan will be asked to provide an update on progress made to: (1) introduce agencies to the concept of their becoming more inclusive with faith-based programming and/or organizations and (2) share the goals of the Faith-based Outreach Committee with provider agencies.
- Ms. Sizemore-Rice will be asked to: (1) address the concept of agency representation at the Faith-based Subcommittee level; (2) find out the names of the various clergy groups in our County and when they meet.

4. FAITH-BASED OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Karell T. McDaniel, Subcommittee Chair, reported that the Subcommittee met on October 16, 2014. Considerable time was spent in a brainstorming exercise to develop relevant material and scenarios relevant to the faith/spiritual community. The draft scenarios read by Rev. McDaniel were formulated as a tool to reach out to faith-based organizations about various issues that may exist within families in their congregations.

Possible scenarios for removing obstacles:

- 1) A pastoral care team visits the sick on a weekly basis. When doing so, they learn that a person has had a mental breakdown and is currently at St. Vincent's Psychiatric Emergency Room. The team is unsure of what to do or how to proceed.
- 2) A teenager is experiencing a legal problem as a first-time offender; the parents and/or caregivers are in denial and have no idea how to learn about their denial, healthy boundaries or effective strategies.
- 3) A congregant experiencing a mental health or substance abuse problem is too afraid to ask anyone for help. She looks for a visual beacon concerning resources for mental health/addiction help, a bulletin board posting or a notice in the church bulletin/program.
- 4) A parent with a substance abusing child sits in the worship service under stress because he/she doesn't know what to do or where to turn for help.
- 5) A faith leader meets with a congregant who is expressing a mental health or substance abuse issue. He wants to know "how to start the process of care?"
- 6) A faith leader learns of a member's state of depression and decides to "pray it out" or define it as "a demon".

Rev. McDaniel addressed a previous discussion about the Mental Health First Aid course for trainers. He noted that the new schedule for this year has been published; the sessions for 2015 are in San Antonio, TX in March and in Orlando Florida in April. The cost per person is \$2,000 or \$1,850 if a National Council member. Both Rev. McDaniel and Ms. Cash had expressed an interest in becoming certified trainers in an effort to provide Mental Health Training for the faith community on how to recognize mental illness and make the appropriate referrals.

Rev. Karell noted that Recovery Resources has a Mental Health First Program that costs \$150. The idea was to provide this service for the faith-based community at a lower rate; however, it would be necessary to have someone go through the Trainers program. Ms. Warr suggested that a formal recommendation would be needed from the Subcommittee for consideration.

5. OLD BUSINESS – FAITH BASED OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE ITEMS

- **Orientation for Board members and Subcommittee members** – Once an individual shows an interest in joining the Subcommittee, it was recommended that a small binder of information be provided to orient the person to the mission, vision, historical background and goals of the committee.
- **Attendance of Board members** - Ms. Warr suggested that Faith-based Outreach Committee members attend subcommittee meetings, on a rotating basis, as an opportunity to represent the standing committee and be more closely connected to the work of the Subcommittee.
- **Recruitment of members** – Ms. Warr learned of two individuals who are interested in joining the Subcommittee and shared those names with Rev. McDaniel; she asked that they be officially invited to attend the next subcommittee meeting. It was further suggested that addresses obtained from the 1 Prayer 4 Recovery event might be used to invite clergy to attend and participate at the subcommittee level.
- **Faith-based Literature** – Rev. McDaniel noted that the latest version of the Faith-based Outreach Committee brochure will be provided at the next meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- Rev. McDaniel suggested an idea for consideration for the Roads to Recovery Conference—recruit a Plenary Speaker to speak on the importance of recognizing and advocating for spirituality in the recovery process in order to reach the entire assembly. Ms. Harper noted that she would pass along the idea presented.
- Ms. Warr broached the concept of Mr. Denihan and Mr. Osiecki addressing spirituality in a possible print media piece and noted that she would follow-up with Mr. Denihan.

7. NEXT MEETING - Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Submitted by: Carol Krajewski, Executive Specialist

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