

ADAMHS BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY

FAITH-BASED OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES OCTOBER 7, 2015

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

Board Staff Present: William M. Denihan, C.E.O., Frank Brickner, Valeria Harper, Carol Krajewski, Scott Osiecki, Starlette Sizemore-Rice

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair, Mary Warr, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Charlotte Rerko, Committee Vice Chair, 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 July 1, 2015 Faith-Based Outreach Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FAITH-BASED INITIATIVES

Committee Chair, Mary Warr, welcomed everyone in attendance and noted that this meeting marks the culmination of the committee's efforts to educate the community about the importance of faith and spirituality in the recovery process. Ms. Warr pointed out that the agenda process sheet distributed acknowledges that “this faith-based initiative is the vision of long-time Board member, Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., who advocates the integration of faith into our recovery system.” Committee members and audience members present were asked to introduce themselves.

Mr. Denihan reported that this committee, established approximately 2-1/2 years ago, is the only faith-based committee of an ADAMHS Board statewide. The journey to this point included the formation of a Faith-based Subcommittee chaired by Rev. Karell McDaniel who did an outstanding job of developing an Action Plan that was recommended and approved by the Faith-based Outreach Committee and ultimately the full Board. In order to implement the initiatives proposed, the decision was made to consider the issuance of a Request for Information since the ADAMHS Board does not provide direct services and recognizes the benefits of incorporating spirituality into prevention, treatment and recovery support services.

Ms. Starlette Sizemore-Rice, Public Benefits Administrator, provided additional background information and highlighted the RFI review process. She explained that the goal of the RFI was to identify contract providers and/or faith-based organizations who are interested in developing partnerships and strategies that would ensure that when a client acknowledges/gestures their spirituality beliefs through the assessment process, that it is integrated in the overall treatment and recovery process.

The ADAMHS Board received sixteen (16) responses. All responses were reviewed by a seven (7) member Review Team appointed by the Chief Executive Office. The team consisted of five (5) staff members, one (1) Faith-based Outreach Subcommittee member living with mental illness and one (1) Faith-based Outreach Subcommittee member. Based on the Review Team's recommendations and the dollars allotted, we are recommending a total of six (6) awardees, three (3) faith-based organizations, two (2) providers and one (1) faith-based provider.

The review team struggled with the training components of some responses but quickly realized that in order to properly incorporate spirituality into prevention, treatment and recovery support services and educate the faith-based community around mental health and substance use disorders, training components are essential to the success of this initiative.

The total combined individuals anticipated to be served among the six recommended awardees is 1,400 persons.

Ms. Sizemore-Rice summarized the six (6) recommended recipients of the Faith-based Initiatives listed below. Representatives from these organizations were available to address questions posed by committee members.

1) Hispanic UMADAOP - \$28,000 - Provider – Expanding Behavioral Health Services

Together for a Common Good

Increase the counseling capacity of Miguel Prieto Treatment Center (MPTC) and promote spirituality in the recovery process.

- Proposes to contract with Galilean Center of Theological Studies (Galilean Theological Center) to provide spirituality training/technical assistance to MPTC staff and to facilitate spirituality sessions to existing residents and outpatient clients.
- The agency and Galilean Theological Center will facilitate 12 weeks of spirituality sessions to existing resident and outpatient clients.
- Focus is on serving Hispanic and non-Hispanics males and females, ages 18 years and older.
- Services are also open to all in need.
- Proposed to serve 90 individuals.

2) Inner Healing Ministries - \$45,000 - Faith-based – New Program - Prevention Services

Church Assistance Program

To increase the protective factors of youth, young adults and their families.

- Educational forums/training for church leaders and peer leaders will be held on various issues specific to mental health and substance abuse and developing skills to enhance interviewing skills, effective listening, supportive counseling and making referrals.
- Prevention services will include referrals for MH/AOD treatment.
- Recreational activities will be sponsored for youth and young adults to discourage drinking, drugs and criminal activities. Activities to also include a youth co-moderated radio program at a religious owned radio station.
- Currently works with Kingdom Developers Consulting Inc., a behavioral health/preventions consulting firm located in South Euclid and has collaborative partnerships with South Euclid City Officials and the Police Department.
- Proposes to serve up to 300 youth and young adults and their families residing in South Euclid area.

3) Life Recovery Ministries, Inc. - \$54,000 - Faith-based – New Program – Prevention Services

Spiritual Recovery & Wellness Program

To increase commitment in the faith community.

- To educate and increase awareness/understanding of mental health/addiction in the faith-based community, incorporate spirituality into treatment and address societal stigma surrounding mental illness.
- Proposes two tracks: one training for Faith Based leaders and the other for adults diagnosed with a substance use disorder.
- Targeting youth and adults.
- Proposing three (3) services; Awareness Campaign that targets the faith community as a whole (300 participants), trainings for faith leaders/committed faith community members (80 participants) and an educational series for clients (45 participants).

4) NAMI Greater Cleveland - \$19,000 - Provider – Expanding Prevention Services

Working with community churches to increase support, education, and referral around mental health and substance abuse issues within the African American and Latino communities by connecting to individuals through their faith.

- Currently works with seventeen (17) community churches.
- Proposing to add three (3) additional faith-based organizations.
- Board funds the agency's Multicultural Outreach specialist that would lead the expanded initiative of public education and awareness.
- Specialized support groups will be expanded to address the culturally specific needs of the targeted ethnic groups.
- Proposes to reach 300 individuals within the grant period.

5) OhioGuidestone - \$50,000 - Provider/Faith-based – Expanding Behavioral Health

To expand efforts in providing spiritual care and support for participants in our existing Integrated Treatment Program.

- To add a dedicated experienced member of the Clergy for their Integrated Treatment Program.
- Proposes to provide 728 hours of Clergy direct services.
- Served 185 children/families in 2015/proposing an increase during the grant timeframe.
- Referrals from the child/adolescent system partners and the community at large.

6) Trinity Outreach Ministries Another Chance of Ohio - \$54,000 - Faith-based – New Program Prevention Services

The Inner City Life Fitness and F.A.I.T.H. Boot Camp

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.

Ms. Warr thanked everyone for their participation. Prior to taking a vote on this issue, Ms. Warr explained that since the faith-based initiatives represent new programs for the Board, the recommendation will go through the entire Board Committee cycle in October prior to being considered by the full Board. It is the committee's goal to concur on all expectations of faith-based initiatives as well as the monitoring process.

Motion to recommend approval of entering into agreements with the above mentioned contract providers and faith-based organizations in the amounts listed to incorporate spirituality into prevention, treatment and recovery support services in the amount not to exceed \$250,000.00 to the Planning & Oversight Committee and the Finance & Operations Committee. MOTION: R. Blue / SECOND: C. Rerko / AYES: R. Blue, E. Cash, C. Rerko, A. Williams / NAYS: None / ABSTAIN: None / Motion carried.

Mr. Denihan noted that Board staff will meet with recommended providers and faith-based organizations to iron out specific details. He noted that all contracts are contingent upon the County subsidy received and that the ADAMHS Board is hopeful that we will receive the same allocation as last year. Mr. Denihan noted that the Board may need the support of those present when the ADAMHS Board proposes its budget to County Council.

As Board Chair, Ms. Cash publicly thanked Ms. Sizemore-Rice and Mr. Denihan for increasing the total recommended amount for faith-based initiatives and added that this speaks to the quality of proposals recommended.

4. NEXT FAITH-BASED OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING - Wednesday, January 6, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Submitted by: Carol Krajewski, Executive Specialist

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