

ADAMHS BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY
FAITH-BASED OUTREACH COMMITTEE
PROVISIONAL MEETING MINUTES – MAY 2, 2012

Committee Members Present: Rev. Benjamin Gohlstin, Sr., Committee Chair, Eugenia Cash, MSSA, LSW, Rev. Charlotte Still Noble, Mary R. Warr, M.Ed., Anngela Williams

Community Representatives: Terri Miller, NAMI, Rev. Karell T. McDaniel, Life Recovery Ministries, Felix Muniz, Galilean Center, Rafie Sturgis, Galilean Center

Board Staff Present: William M. Denihan, C.E.O., Scott Osiecki, John Garrity, Ph.D., Carol Krajewski

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Warr called the provisional meeting of the Faith-Based Outreach Committee to order at 3:00 p.m. in the Ohio Room on behalf of Committee Chair, Rev. Gohlstin, who was unavoidably detained. Those present were invited to introduce themselves to the group and share their interest in attending the meeting. Ms. Cash read aloud the committee's mission statement: *"To emphasize and promote spirituality in the Recovery process in collaboration with other interventions and recognized best practices."*

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Faith-Based Outreach Committee provisional minutes from 4/2/12 were approved as submitted.

3. POTENTIAL MEMBERSHIP PROFILE

Ms. Warr noted that a Potential Membership Profile form was created as a result of the discussion at the last meeting. Regarding the process for appointing committee members, Board Chair, Rev. Noble, reviewed the Bylaws of the ADAMHS Board and found that, once this committee is formally established, the actual Board of Directors are responsible for appointing the membership to any new committees. She noted that this does not take away from the profile or application element. The committee can review profiles and make appointment recommendations to the full Board. Board members present concurred that the profile form draft was acceptable as distributed.

Mr. Osiecki noted that the original plan was to post the profile form on the Web site and distribute it via e-mail so that potential candidates could complete the form on-line. Rev. Noble added that a resolution is planned for the May General Meeting to formally establish the Faith-Based Outreach Committee. This will allow time for the committee to bring membership recommendations to the full Board, if ready, at the ADAMHS Board's June General Meeting.

4. FAITH-BASED BREAKFAST/TRAINING: HILTON GARDEN INN: MAY 22, 2012

Ms. Warr and Mr. Osiecki announced that a Faith-Based Breakfast/Training, sponsored by the Suicide Prevention Task Force and the ADAMHS Board, is specifically targeted for faith-based community leaders. The topic is Suicide Prevention; the event is scheduled for Tuesday, May 22, 2012 at Hilton Garden Inn, 1100 Carnegie Avenue, Downtown Cleveland. Event flyers were mailed to over 500 people.

Mr. Osiecki noted that, to date, 45 people have registered; there is room for up to 100 people. At the beginning of the event, Rev. Gohlstin will welcome all, introduce the speaker as well as the concept of the Faith-Based Outreach Committee.

5. STRATEGY DISCUSSION

Mr. Denihan noted that over the years Board staff learned that the faith-based community often is contacted early on by individuals/families experiencing difficult circumstances involving mental health or substance abuse issues. The initial thought is that an effort to develop relationships between behavioral health system and the faith-based community through education about programs and services available will benefit consumers/clients and also provide a resource for faith-based personnel who are on the front line.

5. STRATEGY DISCUSSION *(Continued)*

Mr. Denihan learned through his work with the Re-Entry Coalition that there is an extraordinary number of successful re-entry programs. He currently services as Chair of the Re-Entry Leadership Coalition that meets monthly on the third Friday of the month at 10:00 a.m. on the 6th Floor of the ADAMHS Board where faith-based community members can also be engaged with our organization and the services that it funds.

Feedback/Input received:

- Faith-based community partners are often the first place family members of behavioral health consumers/clients reach out to.
- Educational endeavors can provide the faith-based community with information about resources for treatment/services, etc.
- Collaboration between clinicians & the faith-based community will positively impact an individual's recovery.
- Training would be helpful for lay people in congregations with regard to alleviating stigma and to improving the treatment of behavioral health consumers/clients.
- Understanding cultural competency is also an important component to be addressed.
- Gathering Data - As of 2004, JCAHO has required that spirituality be incorporated into chemical dependency assessments; however, many of the assessments revealed only a simple question, do you believe in God? We need to gather data in order to make an impact. Data from ADAS indicated that 6,530 people had assessments in 2008. Of this number, 93% expressed a belief in God, 87% said they were raised in a church, less than 3% were still involved with a church.
- Treatment Centers seem to encourage participation in Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous and Cocaine Anonymous but don't include the faith-based component. In many faith-based organizations, there are no individuals trained in chemical dependency to bridge the gap.
- Training seminars for clergy on how to incorporate mental health into scripture is needed.
- Training is needed for clinicians and faith-based community on substance abuse issues.
- NAMI (National Alliance in Mental Illness) programs are housed in a lot of churches; however, the congregation is not coming to those programs. Perhaps in educating faith-based leaders, the congregation can be influenced by local religious leaders to participate in the NAMI training sessions provided.
- Stigma is often a big part of families, at times, pulling away from faith-based organizations.
- Due to economic issues, more people may be turning to faith-based organizations as a resource for help.
- Need to be aware of demographic changes. Hispanic congregations represent under-served populations and ministers have not received practical training in dealing with substance abuse and other mental health issues.

Rev. Gohlstin, Committee Chair, arrived and apologized for the delay. He noted that the intent of this committee is to be non-sectarian, inclusive and culturally sensitive. He stated that all religions have some mechanisms that can work toward recovery.

Rev. Gohlstin met with a person from an agency in Akron called EMERGE. Over the years, EMERGE has treated 15,994 clergymen and have 25 psychologists on their staff. Rev. Gohlstin will meet with him next week to see if it is possible to partner with them regarding training opportunities to help faith-based leaders learn how to identify some symptoms of people with addictions or who have mental health issues.

Rev. Noble reiterated the process explained earlier around the formal establishment of the committee and process for recommending the appointment of potential community members. The Board Chair noted that following Board members were appointed to the provisional Faith-Based Outreach Committee: Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., Eugenia Cash, Mary Warr, and Anngela Williams.

Once the committee has been formally established, Rev. Noble suggested that Rev. Gohlstin present the names of individuals recommended for committee membership to the full Board as early as the June General Meeting.

Motion made to recommend approval of formally establishing the Faith-Based Outreach Committee to the ADAMHS Board's Executive Committee. MOTION: C. Noble / SECOND: E. Cash / AYES: E. Cash, M. Warr, A. Williams / NAYS: None / ABSTAIN: None / **Motion passed.**

Motion made to accept the Potential Membership Profile as a document for the Faith-Based Outreach Committee to use for prospective candidates. MOTION: M. Warr / SECOND: E. Cash / AYES: E. Cash, M. Warr, A. Williams / NAYS: None / ABSTAIN: None / **Motion passed.**

6. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Rev. Gohlstin suggested that the committee may need to consider how it can tap into available faith-based dollars.
- 2) There are plans to establish a Faith-Based Office for Ohio. The committee needs to address how it can take an active part and assure that the statewide effort remains non-sectarian and inclusive.
- 3) Rev. Gohlstin noted his interest in working on an inclusive data base in order to reach as many faith-based organizations as possible.
- 4) The next Faith-Based Outreach Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 6, 2012 at 4:00 PM.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Carol Krajewski, Executive Specialist

***Approved by: Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., Committee Chair
Provisional Faith-Based Outreach Committee***