

**ADAMHS BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY
FAITH-BASED OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES
JULY 2, 2012**

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

Community Representatives: Rev. Iris Lynn Bailey, Pipeline to God Communications, Terri Miller, NAMI Greater Cleveland, Karell T. McDaniel, LICDC, Life Recovery Ministries

Board Staff Present: William M. Denihan, CEO, Scott Osiecki, Carol Krajewski

1. CALL TO ORDER

Rev. Gohlstin welcomed all and called the committee meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Faith-Based Outreach Committee minutes from 6/6/12 were approved as submitted.

3. POTENTIAL MEMBERSHIP PROFILES

To date, 30 profiles were received from members of the community. Input was sought from those present regarding the preferred size of the committee. Given the discussion, a consensus was reached to establish a subcommittee comprised of the 30 interested individuals. It was further noted that this subcommittee could provide a way to obtain full participation/input from a broader group and that the Chair would bring forth its recommendations to the Faith-Based Outreach Committee.

Upon learning that Rev. McDaniel was receptive to serving as subcommittee chair, Rev. Gohlstin appointed him to the position. Invitations would be sent to community members who had submitted a profile to attend the initial subcommittee meeting; date yet to be determined.

4. GREATER CLEVELAND CONGREGATIONS

CEO Denihan reported that Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC) consists of approximately 47 churches and/or organizations in our community. This entity is interested in taking up the issue of mental health as its primary focus this year. In the past, the GCC has advocated for our Board's budget concerns and is engaged in the Greater Cleveland community.

The GCC has asked the ADAMHS Board's CEO to meet with 20 of their leaders to provide information about mental health key issues, needs, advocacy efforts, etc. The meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 23, 2012 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Ohio Conference Room. Mr. Denihan invited those present to attend the meeting. Rev. Bailey noted that this may be an opportune time to ask the participants what the needs are within the faith-based community to determine potential areas of work for the Faith-Based Outreach Committee.

The GCC's intent is to take this information and formulate an advocacy policy for the Greater Cleveland Congregation community and all of its members. Mr. Denihan noted that he has asked the group to change the concept to behavioral health in an effort to integrate both mental health and alcohol and drug addiction issues in all discussions.

5. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- Rev. Gohlstin asked if there was any follow-up on the suicide intervention workshop concept. Mr. Osiecki noted that the Suicide Prevention Education Alliance has not met yet to revisit this topic.

- Mr. Denihan received several e-mails from the faith-based community regarding the recent heat wave and storms that have affected power lines and the loss of electricity. The faith-based community brought forth the possibility of churches opening up their facilities to those without power especially to the elderly. Rev. Gohlstin noted that he would follow-up with Mr. Denihan regarding this concern. It was noted that the newly formed subcommittee could be charged to collect a data base for sending out such notices to the faith-based community. Those in attendance were encouraged to informally network with churches to look out for seniors who might be suffering in extreme heat conditions.

- Rev. Gohlstin addressed his concern that the new casino in Cleveland may increase the potential for suicide if people are experiencing devastating financial losses. Mr. Denihan noted that currently there is no department for problem gambling at the state level; however, he would like to have time to talk with his other counterparts around the state around this issue. Rev. Bailey suggested contacting counterparts in Detroit, Michigan where gambling has been in existence for some time.
- Rev. Gohlstin proposed that those present be considered the “core group” of the Faith-Based Outreach Committee. Rev. Gohlstin explained that advisory members could make recommendations and provide input on committee matters; however, Board members would be responsible for official voting on recommendations to the full Board.

Faith-Based Outreach Committee Members:

Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., Committee Chair
Eugenia Cash, MSSA, LSW
Mary R. Warr, M. Ed.
Anngela Williams

Advisory members

Rev. Iris Lynn Bailey
Rev. Karell T. McDaniel, LICDC
Terri Miller

- Ms. Miller shared that NAMI has available very effective literature that may prove helpful; NAMI National also has a Web site of multi-faith mental health resources. Rev. Gohlstin advocated for training sessions and the ability to communicate electronically once the data base is available.
- Rev. McDaniel agreed with the significance of increasing awareness of hospital and prison outreach efforts to include those individuals with mental illness and alcohol and drug addictions.

5. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- Rev. Gohlstin asked participants to re-visit the committee mission statement. Those in attendance provided input into revising the mission statement; discussion followed. Based upon the input received, the committee concurred on the revised committee mission statement below; changes are shown in bold print.

Committee Mission Statement:

To recognize and advocate spirituality in the recovery process; to collaborate the spiritual perspective with other interventions and best practices; and to promote the concept that treatment works and people recover.

- Committee members agreed on proposed Faith-based Outreach Committee Schedule:
 - Wednesday, September 5th at 3:00 p.m.
 - Wednesday, October 3rd at 4:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Submitted by: Carol Krajewski, Executive Specialist

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