

## ADAMHS BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY

### FAITH-BASED OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES SEPTEMBER 5, 2012

**Committee Members/Community Representatives Present:** Mary R. Warr, M.Ed., Angela Williams, Terri Miller, Karell T. McDaniel, LICDC

**Absent:** Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., Eugenia Cash, MSSA, LSW, Rev. Iris Lynn Bailey

**Board Staff Present:** William M. Denihan, CEO, Valeria A. Harper, Carol Krajewski, Scott Osiecki

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

On behalf of Committee Chair, Rev. Gohlstin, whose presence was anticipated, Ms. Warr called the meeting of the Faith-Based Outreach Committee to order at 3:00 p.m.

#### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Faith-Based Outreach Committee minutes from July 2, 2012, were approved as submitted.

#### 3. FAITH-BASED OUTREACH SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

Karell T. McDaniel, Subcommittee Chair, thanked committee members for their faith in him and for the opportunity to lead the sub-committee in its charge to provide community input and to foster the goals of the newly formed ADAMHS Board Faith-Based Outreach Committee.

Mr. McDaniel reported that the sub-committee met three times on July 24<sup>th</sup>, August 21<sup>st</sup> and August 28<sup>th</sup>. As result of the feedback received, four major issues/goals were identified. Committee members reviewed the proposed goals; minor language revisions were made and are shown in italics & underscored.

- Increase awareness and understanding of mental health/addiction in the faith community and *to address societal stigma surrounding the illness.*
- Incorporate spirituality as a component of treatment.
- Educate the faith community about mental health/addiction in order to help the congregation and the overall community.
- Develop language and boundaries to clarify scope of practice for *faith-based leaders/professionals* within the treatment community and treatment professionals within the faith community.

Discussion followed. Ms. Harper credited Mr. McDaniel for stressing the importance of examining language and boundaries having to do with licensure, rules & regulations, certifications, etc. for faith-based leaders and professionals. She noted that, not long ago, the Ohio Social Work Licensure Board acknowledged the importance of spirituality in treatment and recovery; therefore, many counselors and therapists have gone back to take the two spirituality courses that are now required. Ms. Harper and Mr. McDaniel agreed that the consumer and/or client needs to "open the door" for the spiritual component to be considered as an integral part of their recovery process and stems from the assessment and treatment plan. Mr. McDaniel shared a statistic from 2008 that of 6,530 assessments completed, 93% of respondents indicated that they had a faith in God yet only 6% were actively involved with the faith community.

Mr. McDaniel noted that Community Assessment & Treatment Services (CATS) has allowed Mr. McDaniel to start a Spiritual Awareness and Wellness Initiative there on Sundays from 5-6 PM. Attendance has been between 13-14 participants who have expressed an interest in learning how the Bible relates to the 12 Step Program. The program is non-denominational is using the Life Recovery Bible in the study. Ms. Harper noted that CATS should stand out as an example of how some providers have viewed spirituality as a part of the recovery process.

**SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT** *(Continued)***ACTIONS:**

- 1) Committee members accepted the report and agreed that the proposed Faith-Based Outreach Committee goals should be referred to the full Board at the Committee of the Whole Meeting scheduled for 9/19/12.
- 2) Per Ms. Warr's request, a sub-committee participant roster will be shared with Faith-Based Outreach Committee members.

Once the goals have been approved by the full Board, the sub-committee will develop four teams to work on the issues. Mr. McDaniel noted that efforts will be made to include representation from both the mental health and alcohol and drug addiction perspective on each team. Ms. Harper asked whether sub-committee membership is still open. Mr. McDaniel's view is that the process should remain open to any interested individual.

**4. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

- Minutes follow-up: The meeting with members of the Greater Cleveland Congregations was held on 7/23/12 and was very well received. Mr. Denihan and Mr. Osiecki led the information session at the request of this organization. Mr. Denihan emphasized the importance of advocating for both Mental Health and AOD consumers/clients. Representatives of the organization agreed to this concept and noted that they would be meeting with the Governor of Ohio to advocate for more money for the mental health and AOD clients and system.
- Ms. Warr addressed the composition of voting members on the Faith-Based Outreach Committee. As all members are people of color, she noted her concern with the lack of diversity. It was noted that the former Board Chairperson appointed those who volunteered to serve on the committee. As the new Board Chair may be considering new committee appointments, Ms. Warr will bring this issue to his attention.
- Meeting Schedule:
  - Subcommittee Meeting – Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.
  - Faith-Based Outreach Committee Meeting - Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

*There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.*

***Submitted by: Carol Krajewski, Executive Specialist***

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