

# ALCOHOL, DRUG ADDICTION & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY

## FAITH-BASED OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES JUNE 3, 2020

**Committee Members Present:** Gwendolyn A. Howard, LSW, MSSA, Committee Vice Chair, Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., Patricia James-Stewart, M.Ed., LSW, Mary R. Warr, M.Ed.

**Absent:** Rev. Max M. Rodas, MA, Crystal L. Bryant, Esq., MS, LSW, Rev. Brenda Ware-Abrams

**Board Staff Present:** Scott Osiecki, Chief Executive Officer, Carole Ballard, Madison Greenspan, Linda Lamp, Kelli Perk, Allison Schaefer, Starlette Sizemore-Rice, Larry Smith, Jr., Thomas Williams

### 1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Gwendolyn Howard, Faith-based Outreach Committee Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Ms. Howard read into the record 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. **COMMITTEE MEMBER ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL**

Due to the current public health orders surrounding COVID-19, and the Board's commitment to ensuring the health and safety of our Board members, staff, partners, and stakeholders, the Faith-based Outreach Committee was held via a Zoom meeting. To assure a quorum, Ms. Linda Lamp, Executive Assistant, completed the committee member attendance roll call.

### 3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Faith-based Outreach Committee minutes of April 1, 2020 were approved as submitted.

### 4. **PROVIDER PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS: COVID-19 IMPACT ON SERVICES**

#### **99Treasures Arts & Culture (formerly known as Coalition for a Better Life)**

Mr. Khalid Samad, Chief Executive Officer/Co-Founder of 99Treasures Arts & Culture, reported that 99Treasures Arts & Culture has re-invented their programming to assure their youth have the necessary resources to face this monumental challenge. He noted that they have conducted a needs assessment on their youth and ensured through email and social media that their clients had access to information specific to their needs. Also, through their lessons, they have stressed using this time to reconnect with family, develop new skills and have positive supports. However, he reported that they encountered a minor setback during a recent trip to a rally, which turned into a riot. They returned safely and were able to utilize this experience as a learning mechanism to discuss current events. He stated that their youth have been writing and working on paintings about this historic experience and stressed that everyone can learn from this experience and be stronger and more connected than ever.

Mr. Samad also reported that they have completed some research regarding African art. He indicated that a noted historian who passed away several years prior, had approximately fifty pieces of authentic African art; whereby he is hoping to use this art to teach the youth about their concept and understanding of art as a cultural component to faith-based healing.

Additional representatives from 99Treasures Arts & Culture reported that Summer camp will be commencing July 3, 2020 through August 2, 2020 and will be held in person and via Zoom. They were able to obtain personal protection equipment (PPE) for this endeavor and will be utilizing a large parking lot with tents and a hoop house to facilitate the safety of all involved. They have also hosted arts and crafts activities at the Mt. Pleasant and East 131<sup>st</sup> Street branches of the Cleveland Public Library and have welcomed new students and a clergy member from the Mt. Pleasant MyCom Collaborative. Despite the pandemic, 99Treasures Arts & Culture continues to deliver art supplies for the youth to continue working on their paintings; which will be part of the permanent display in the Mt. Pleasant and East 131<sup>st</sup> Street branches of the Cleveland Public Library. Also, students of 99Treasures Arts & Culture were selected to create 7 banners to be hung down East 131<sup>st</sup> Street through the East 131<sup>st</sup> Street Beautification Project.

99Treasures Arts & Culture also received a financial donation which will be used to redesign their website within the next few months. Through the use of this website, they are hoping to teach youth about entrepreneurship and financial literacy.

### **Naaleh Cleveland**

Rabbi Chaim Helman, Director of Naaleh Cleveland, reported that COVID-19 has impacted services provided by Naaleh Cleveland. He indicated that Naaleh Cleveland is a high-risk mentorship program that provides a healthy and dependable role model to struggling teenagers to assist them to find themselves during this pivotal and formative time of life. During March, April and May, Naaleh Cleveland was not able to facilitate programs with youth involvement; however, they were able to adapt by communicating with teens via Zoom video, phone calls and text messages. They have enabled peer-to-peer support and teens have reached out to other struggling teens they have met through Naaleh programming and continue to contact each other weekly.

Due to the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, Rabbi Helman indicated that Naaleh Cleveland commenced their Summer program early and needed to hire additional staff to assist with ensuring the safety of social distancing through the utilization of smaller groups of participants. He reported that their Summer program has been successful, and parents have provided accolades for keeping their children engaged. Also, with the assistance of a close friend of Naaleh Cleveland, they are able to utilize a three-acre farm for teaching youth how to grow vegetable gardens, haul wood chips and paint.

Rabbi Helman reported on an unfortunate situation whereby a sibling of one of the youth in this program overdosed. As a result, they have been working collaboratively with a Trauma Specialist to ensure that all youth involved are coping and healing from this situation.

### **5. 2020 FAITH-BASED OUTREACH PROGRAM UPDATE**

Ms. Starlette Sizemore-Rice, Director of Special Projects, highlighted accomplishments of each of the Faith-based Outreach Providers illustrated in the written Faith-Based Programs Performance Outcomes 2020 Quarter 1 Report. The report is attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit.

Ms. Sizemore-Rice stated that the faith-based programming for children K-12<sup>th</sup> grade is measured through the Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA) instrument by comparing a Pre-assessment with a Post-assessment. The DESSA web-based system is designed to help school and after-school program staff promote the healthy social-emotional development of all children. As there are differences between younger children and high school age children, two separate instruments have been developed for children in grades K-8 and the high school grades. The DESSA is a thorough assessment of the following social-emotional competencies: self-awareness; social-awareness; self-management; relationship skills; goal directed behavior; personal responsibility; decision making skills; and optimistic thinking, which translates to a score and categorized through a numerical value. 60 and above indicate social and emotional “Strengths” showing children doing well; 40-59 indicate “Typical” positive behaviors for children; and 40 and below indicate “Need for Instruction” to further develop social and emotional skills. The report identified the counts of children who completed both preliminary and post-assessments in a program for both the K-8 grades and high school grades. As some of the programs were in progress at the end of the first quarter of the year, many, if not all, the post-assessments had not been done. Hence, some of the post counts were small, if not zero.

The faith-based program for adults demonstrates resiliency measured as Always (A), Sometimes (S), or Not Yet (N) through the Devereux Adult Resilience Survey (DARS) instrument that promotes self-awareness regarding personal strengths to enhance creativity and the ability to set limits to cope with adversity and stress measured through the following areas: Will gain knowledge to develop healthy relationships; Will learn skills to increase self-worth to enhance internal beliefs and values; Will learn strategies to develop/enhance self-motivation to increase independence; and Will learn to self-regulate and control without the use of substance and negative influences. The report identified the four agencies that have submitted their DARS data to date; 99Treasures Arts & Culture, Inner Healing Ministries, OhioGuidestone and Trinity Outreach Ministries.

Ms. Sizemore-Rice reported that the Board has not received data submissions from Life Recovery Ministries. She indicated that the response from Life Recovery Ministries regarding this lack of DARS data included the following:

- Life Recovery Ministries has determined that space, time and opportunity are not available to provide or perform the DARS evaluation.
- Their programs welcome participants from the community who experience “hurts, hang-ups and habits” (mental health & substance use disorders).
- These participants are not their clients but rather participants who come seeking a structured support group experience. Performing the DARS was not agreed upon by these attendees. It would push them away. They only expressed a desire to learn to open their hearts after being faced with painful situations and circumstances.
- Those who attend Recovery Church are similar although recognizing the support for Recovery, the religious worship environment is also not an appropriate environment.
- For these programs, they currently measure outcome by their ongoing involuntary participation and involvement.

Mental Health First Aid is designed to teach individuals how to spot the signs and symptoms of mental illness and provide help on a first aid basis. Individuals who are participating in a Mental Health First Aid training provided by Far West Center, Life Recovery Ministries and National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Greater Cleveland are expected to successfully complete the course evaluation/quiz and score at least 60% based on the following topics: Helpful Things to Say; Myths and Facts-Suicide and Self-Injury; Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors; Panic Attacks; Traumatic Events; Auditory Hallucinations; Psychosis; and Substance Use Disorders. However, neither program provided classes in the first quarter of 2020.

Ms. Sizemore-Rice reported on a variety of first quarter highlights from each the faith-based programs and responded to questions from committee members.

#### **6. NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Warr was impressed with the name change of 99Treasures Arts & Culture and requested background information regarding this name change. Ms. Sizemore-Rice stated that she would forward this information to her attention.

Ms. Warr indicated that she has not received a flyer regarding the Intensive 2020 Mental Health and Ministry Conference.

#### **7. NEXT MEETING DATE – October 7, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.**

***There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.***

***Submitted by: Linda Lamp, Executive Assistant***

***Approved by: Gwendolyn A. Howard, LSW, MSSA, Faith-Based Outreach Committee Vice Chair***