

Cuyahoga County Diversion Center Announced, ADAMHS Board to Manage Center, Partnering with Oriana House and FrontLine Service!

On Friday, November 20, Cuyahoga County Executive **Armond Budish** announced he is submitting a request to County Council for funds not to exceed \$9.2 million to enter into contract with the ADAMHS Board to operate a Diversion Center in Cuyahoga County, transforming the justice system. This Diversion Center would be the first-of-its-kind in Ohio to work in conjunction with the justice system to allow those committing low-level offenses to receive the help, care and resources they need in a medical environment rather than within the County jail. The Diversion Center will be located at the **Oriana House** on E 55th Street in Cleveland and is slated to open in 2021. Local law enforcement will complete Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training, which will give officers the tools needed to identify someone with mental health and/or substance abuse issues and provide them with communication tools to appropriately handle the situation. Officers will also be able to call a 24-hour hotline staffed by **FrontLine Service** to help make the determination if an individual is a good candidate for the Diversion Center. The ADAMHS Board extends its gratitude to the many partners who have been working towards this goal and ensuring that individuals with mental health and substance issues get the help they need rather than go to jail. We are excited to partner with the County on this endeavor.

Coping with the Holidays and a Pandemic Brochure Released

The ADAMHS Board, in partnership with the **Cuyahoga County Suicide Prevention Coalition**, updated its annual booklet and renamed it ***Coping with the Holidays and a Pandemic***. This booklet offers tips on reducing extra stresses of the holiday season as well as the prolonged stress we have all felt because of the pandemic. This holiday season will be different from years past. The pandemic is forcing us to be flexible and find new ways we can celebrate safely. New additions to this year's brochure include, tips for helping children cope; how to celebrate with older family and friends safely; creative ways to celebrate virtually; and safety precautions to consider. There is even a coloring page and word search for kids (or adults) in this year's brochure!



The ADAMHS Board will be mailing out copies to residents who live in zip codes impacted by the digital divide. If you would like print copies to share in your organization, please email Beth Zietlow-DeJesus to dejesus@adamhsc.org. You can access the brochure on our website [here](#). Follow us on social media @ADAMHSBoardCC for tips throughout the holiday season.

Wishing you happy and healthy holidays!

We Launched Our New Website!



On November 4, the ADAMHS Board's new website went live. It is mobile friendly, ADA compliant and has a fresh new look that is user friendly. The web address is still the same: www.adamhsc.org, but the ADAMHS Board's new website has great features like an interactive service finder. Anyone who comes to the site can search for mental health and/or addiction services by provider name, the age of person who needs services, type of service needed, or by location with a map feature.

"The ADAMHS Board is here to help people connect with the care they need. This new web platform is interactive, easy to use and helps the public, clients and providers find helpful information about behavioral health care services, events and trainings in

Cuyahoga County, said **Scott S. Osiecki**, Chief Executive Officer. "Our Board and staff are excited for this new tool available to help Cuyahoga County residents."

Some of the other new features include an [art gallery](#) to display artwork from the monthly art display program, a behavioral health [system job board](#), and a [calendar](#) of upcoming meetings, trainings and events. You can access a tutorial video on how to navigate the new website by [clicking here](#).

Congratulations to County Council President, Dan Brady!



We join all of our partners in celebrating **Dan Brady**, Cuyahoga County Council President, for his long time public service and dedication to health and human services. Mr. Brady will retire around the end of the year, capping off a decades-long career in Ohio politics and six-year term as County Council President. We are grateful for his service and invite everyone to join us in wishing him a wonderful retirement.

Caregivers Summit Kicked Off National Caregivers Month

November is National Family Caregivers Month, and the ADAMHS Board partnered with **Courage to Caregivers** to hold a free two-day virtual event November 6-7 for professional and family caregivers of individuals living with mental illness. More than 50 caregivers attended the summit, which featured interactive workshops by professional facilitators focusing on connectedness, empowerment, and self-care. Caregivers – family and professional – need support too. If you are a caregiver and need additional help working through the stress or a referral to services, please call 216-623-6888.

Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Collaborative Community Awareness Campaign Underway in Cuyahoga County

The ADAMHS Board is partnering with **NAMI Greater Cleveland** and the **Mental Health and Addiction Advocacy Coalition** to develop a Cuyahoga County Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Collaborative Community Awareness Campaign. The project is funded with a grant from the Cleveland Foundation. Many agencies work to educate the community about mental health and substance use needs, services, and the negative consequences of stigma, but convening stakeholder organizations to develop a coordinated awareness campaign and pooling resources will have a greater impact. The next meeting is December 3. If you are interested in participating, please email [Joe Wilbert](mailto:Joe.Wilbert@nami.org) at NAMI Greater Cleveland.

Congratulations to Long Time ADAMHS Board Advocate for Receiving the Social Justice Advocate of the Year Award!

The Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH) gave Loh the Social Justice Advocate of the Year award during their annual meeting on October 10. Loh is a long-time mental health advocate and has been involved with the ADAMHS Board's **Action Committee Advocating Change (ACAC)** for years. Congratulations Loh on the much deserved award!



Loh and Scott S. Osiecki, CEO, at last year's holiday party.

The ACAC is a dedicated group of advocates, comprised entirely of behavioral health clients, whose goal is to advocate for positive changes and advancements in the behavioral health system. Past advocacy efforts have included postcard and letter writing campaigns, planning community events, and speaking directly with state representatives. Learn more about the ACAC [here](#).

Next Meeting on Eliminating Structural Racism in Behavioral Health is December 7 at 1 PM

The ADAMHS Board will be holding its third Work Group Meeting on Eliminating Structural Racism in Behavioral Health on December 7 at 1:00 p.m. Participants will further refine five focus areas determined in the last two work group meetings. Please email [Beth Zietlow-DeJesus](mailto:Beth.Zietlow-DeJesus@adamhs.org) or [Carole Ballard](mailto:Carole.Ballard@adamhs.org) if you are interested in participating or becoming a committee co-chair.

Cuyahoga County Proposes \$4.1 Million Increase to ADAMHS Board Base Health and Human Services Levy Allocation

In November, the ADAMHS Board was notified that the County proposed an increase to its base allocation from the Health and Human Services levy by \$4.1 million annually. The County asked the Board to focus the use of this money on mental health and addiction crisis services, suicide prevention and residential/housing initiatives.

On November 16, **Scott S. Osiecki**, CEO, presented the Board's programming ideas in the designated areas. The discussion included increasing the number of co-responder teams in Cuyahoga County as well as expanding Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training and the Crisis Services System with new crisis beds for children and trauma services for victims of crime.

The proposed funding increase will be voted on by County Council in December. If approved, the ADAMHS Board will expand its harm reduction efforts including the grassroots fentanyl test strip program, implementing a **NaloxBox** plan and launching suicide prevention public awareness campaigns. The money will allow the ADAMHS Board to increase its residential services for special populations such as pregnant women, women/men with children, youth and transitional aged-youth.

"The ADAMHS Board of Directors and staff extends its sincere gratitude to the residents of Cuyahoga County for overwhelmingly passing the Levy earlier this year," said Scott S. Osiecki. "The County Executive and County Council have shown their support by ensuring this much-needed funding is in place to help address critical issues in our community for people living with mental illness and substance use disorders."

December Client Information Meeting - Holiday Edition!

The ADAMHS Board's next virtual client information meeting is Thursday, December 17 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. At this meeting, Clients Rights Officers **Bill Hebble** and **Christina Bohuslawsky Brown** will share tips for coping with the holidays and a pandemic. We will also be sharing some inspirational works created by clients as part of our "Mail in the Joy" Holiday Event. Be prepared to listen to some holiday music and share festive stories! [Click here to view the meeting flyer.](#)

ADAMHS Board of Directors Accepts Five-Year Strategic Plan and CY2021 Budget

At the November 18 General Board meeting, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the **Five-Year Strategic Plan**. The plan, which will be implemented from 2021-2025, includes six main strategic goals: Strengthening Service Delivery, Measuring Impact, Maximizing Available Funding, Maintaining a High-Performing Organization, Strengthening Behavioral Health Workforce, and Sharing Information.

The Board also accepted the **CY2021 Budget** and Service Provider Contracts for next year. We are grateful for the leadership of our talented and dedicated Board of Directors. These documents are viewable on our [website](#).

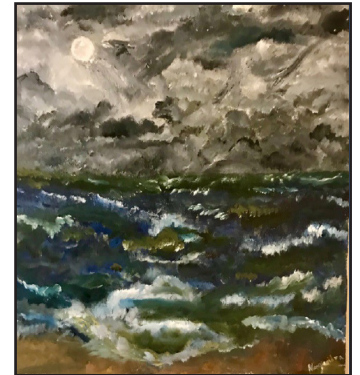
ADAMHS Board's Director of External Affairs Serves as Mentor in Cleveland State University Mentoring Program

The **Center for Public and Nonprofit Management's** Mentoring Program, in collaboration with the **Ohio Center for the Advancement of Women in Public Service**, pairs undergraduate junior and senior students and graduate students with community professionals in leadership positions within the public or nonprofit sectors. Mentors provide guidance and career advice as students examine career choices during the academic year. Students and mentors exchange interests and plan career goals and objectives. The Mentoring Program helps facilitate voluntary relationships between mentors and students for one academic year. This year, **Beth Zietlow-DeJesus**, Director of External Affairs and graduate of the **Cleveland State University (CSU) Leadership Academy Class 28**, is paired with **Rachelle Miller**, a senior at CSU who is majoring in Organizational Leadership and minoring in Marketing. Ms. Miller also serves as the president of the American Marketing Association's CSU Chapter.

New Virtual Client Art Gallery

Our new website features an art gallery to display artwork from the monthly art display program. This month's art display is from participants of **Far West Center's Art Helps and Heals (AHH!) Art Therapy Program**. Thank you for sharing your artwork and talent with us!

Here is a sneak peek of some of the wonderful art you can find in our new gallery [here](#).



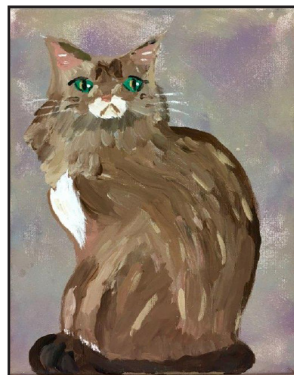
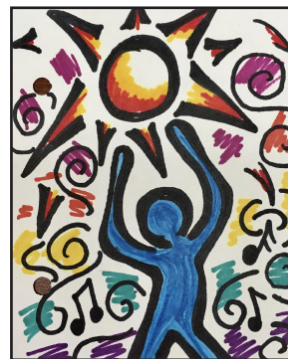
Media Partners Highlight Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Services, Important Programs and Messages of Hope

Scott S. Osiecki, CEO, was featured in **Channel 19's Damon Maloney's** story which focused on ensuring the Black community is aware of the opioid epidemic, the dangers of fentanyl in cocaine and the harm reduction resources available like Narcan and fentanyl test strips, as well as treatment and recovery support services. [View his story here.](#)

Partners at **Cleveland.com** worked with the ADAMHS Board on stories about suicide and the opioid epidemic during the pandemic. Both stories will include interviews with people who have lived through suicidal ideation and substance use disorders, reminding the public that recovery is possible and there is hope! The stories will be released in the coming month.

Carole Ballard, MSSA, LISW, Director of Education and Training, was interviewed for an **Ideastream** story about police response for people who are in a mental health crisis called [When 911 Is The Only Option For A Mental Health Care Crisis](#).

WKYC's Hollie Strano did a story on Seasonal Affective Disorder, and **Leslie M. Koblentz, MD**, Chief Clinical Officer Consultant, provided tips on recognizing and managing the changes the seasons may have on mental health. We also worked with various media partners to share our *Coping with the Holidays and a Pandemic* booklet. [View her story here.](#)



Board of Directors

Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., Chair
J. Robert Fowler, Ph.D., Vice Chair
Katie Kern-Pilch, MA, ATR-BC, LPC-S,
HLM (BATA), Second Vice Chair

Ashwani Bhardwaj
Reginald C. Blue, Ph.D.
Gregory X. Boehm, M.D.
Crystal L. Bryant, Esq., MS, LSW
Erskine Cade, MBA
Elsie Caraballo
Gwendolyn A. Howard, LSW, MSSA
Patricia James Stewart, M.ED., LSW
Steve Killpack, MS
Jena Olsen
Max M. Rodas, MA
Sharon Rosenbaum, MBA
Harvey A. Snider, Esq.

Scott S. Osiecki,
Chief Executive Officer

"There will be people who say to you, 'You are out of your lane.' They are burdened by only having the capacity to see what has always been instead of what can be. But don't you let that burden you."

– Kamala Harris, Vice President Elect, 1964 - present