

## County Council Welcomes New Leadership

Congratulations to incoming Cuyahoga County Council President **Pernel Jones, Jr.** and Vice-President **Cheryl Stephens** on their appointments.

**Dan Brady** the former Council President retired in December of 2020. His district three seat has been filled by **Martin J. Sweeney**. The ADAMHS Board looks forward to its continued partnership with all of County Council.



Pernel Jones, Jr.



Cheryl Stephens

## Members of ADAMHS Board of Directors Among Group of Faith Leaders that Received COVID-19 Vaccine

To help alleviate concerns about the COVID-19 vaccine, Reverends **Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr.**, Board Chair, and **Max M. Rodas**, Board Member, were among a group of faith leaders that recently received the COVID-19 vaccine at MetroHealth.

They also shared the reasons they chose to get vaccinated and **MetroHealth** captured the experience in [this video](#) to encourage others to get vaccinated when the opportunity arises.



Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., Board Chair, receiving his first dose of the vaccine.

## Cuyahoga County Diversion Center Set to Open on April 1, 2021

The ADAMHS Board was awarded a two-year contract for the development of the Cuyahoga County Diversion Center from Cuyahoga County government. The purpose of the Diversion Center is to divert individuals with mental health and/or substance use issues, who interact with police in low level offenses, to treatment and support services rather than jail. The ADAMHS Board contracted with **FrontLine Service** to operate the Police Help Line and **Oriana House** to operate the Diversion Center. The ADAMHS Board will be increasing its training to all Cuyahoga County law enforcement and offering monthly CIT Refresher Courses and CIT Dispatch Courses, in addition to twice monthly 40-hour CIT Trainings. Police Departments will receive stipends to offset personnel costs for completing the trainings. The Diversion Center is scheduled to open on April 1, 2021.

### Job Opportunities Related to the Diversion Center

**Oriana House** is also working to hire additional staff for the Diversion Center. These job opportunities can be found on the [Systems Job page](#) on the ADAMHS Board website. **The ADAMHS Board is hiring two CIT Training Officers** to increase capacity to provide this important training to law enforcement. More information is available on the [Job Opportunities page](#) on the ADAMHS Board website.

We look forward to our continued partnerships that will help divert individuals living with mental health and/or substance use issue from jail and connect them to treatment.

## ADAMHS Board of Directors Welcomes Bishara W. Addison



Bishara W. Addison

Cuyahoga County appointed **Bishara W. Addison** to serve as an ADAMHS Board member. She was sworn in at the January 27 General Board Meeting. Ms. Addison is the Senior Manager of Policy and Strategic Initiatives at **Towards Employment**, a nonprofit that helps individuals navigate careers and works to remove barriers to employment opportunities. In her role, Ms. Addison helps build a network of workforce and social service providers to enhance service delivery, promote effective practices and systems and enact policy change to ensure career pathways and inclusive economic growth. Previously, Ms. Addison held positions with the **Cleveland Metropolitan School District**.



Scott S. Osiecki

## Scott S. Osiecki, ADAMHS Board CEO, Steps Into New Leadership Role with OACBHA

In December, **Scott S. Osiecki**, CEO, became a voting member of the **Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities' (OACBHA)** Executive Council. He is also chair of OACBHA's Governance Committee.

## Partnership with OOD to Assist Job Seekers

The ADAMHS Board has a partnership with **Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD)** to assist individuals with a mental health and/or substance use diagnosis to prepare for and locate full- or part-time work. Services provided include:

- Career Exploration/Vocational Evaluations
- Vocational Training
- Work Experiences
- Assistance in how to prepare for a job search
- Assistance in completing a job search
- Retention Services to assist in keeping employment

More information is available [here](#).

## Now Accepting Applications for the 2021 Virtual Client Artwork Display Program

The ADAMHS Board is now accepting applications for the 2021 Virtual Client Artwork Display Program. This program showcases client artwork, highlights our provider agencies, recognizes the benefits of art therapy and celebrates the recovery community.

Cuyahoga County residents receiving mental health and/or addiction recovery support services and agencies in Cuyahoga County providing art therapy services may have a virtual art display in our [website art gallery](#) for one month. Artwork will also be shared in the ADAMHS Board newsletter and on social media pages. All art displays will be archived on the ADAMHS Board website so they can be enjoyed even after the display month is over.

Many forms of art are accepted, including paintings, drawings, collages and photography. Client artists can receive \$100 for participating. Visit the [Art Program page](#) on the ADAMHS Board website for more information and to fill out a participation form. Participation forms will be accepted until all of the spots are filled. Contact [Madison Greenspan](#), External Affairs Officer, with questions.



Painting by Theresa B. on display December, 2020.



Drawing by Shira J. from JFSA on display this month.



Painting by Mike K. from JFSA.

## 2020 Outreach Efforts

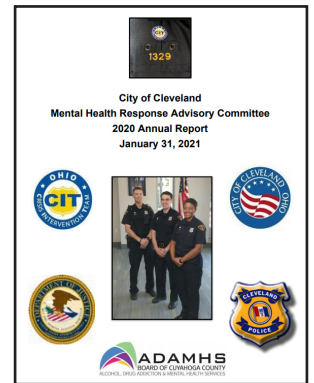
The Board was busy in 2020 raising awareness throughout the community. Fentanyl awareness radio campaigns and targeted digital ads to reach affected communities, a Strive for Five campaign, and Healing Community anti-stigma campaigns were shared with the community. The Board worked with teens in a the SAY program to create a Crisis Text promotional video that was run on social media. The Board also mailed out nearly 48,000 *Coping with the Holidays and a Pandemic* booklets to homes affected by the digital divide. The Board had 313 media mentions for the year, and ADAMHS Board Twitter, Facebook and Instagram accounts generated over 874,000 impressions. If you don't already, please follow us [@ADAMHSBoardCC](#).

## 2021 Advocacy Action Agenda Accepted at January General Board Meeting

The ADAMHS Board of Directors unanimously approved the 2021 Advocacy Action Agenda at the January 27, General Board Meeting. The 2021 Advocacy Action Agenda was developed with the overarching goal of promoting recovery of individuals living with mental illness and addictions by adopting and acting on the six 2021-2025 [Strategic Plan](#) goals, which align with the [Recovery Oriented System of Care principles](#). The 2021 Advocacy Action Agenda can be found on the [Advocacy and Legislation page](#) on the ADAMHS Board website.

## Mental Health Response Advisory Committee Released 2020 Annual Report

As required by the Memorandum of Understanding between the **City of Cleveland** and the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County, the **Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC)** officially submitted the MHRAC 2020 Annual Report to the City of Cleveland and the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County on January 31, 2021.



The report can be found on the [MHRAC Annual Reports page](#) on the ADAMHS Board website.

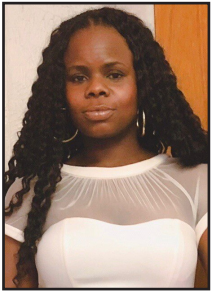
## Virtual Peer Recovery Supporter Trainings

Training to become a certified Peer Recovery Supporter, through the **Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS)**, is now completely online. A step-by-step guide to certification is available on the [OhioMHAS Peer Recovery Supporter Training page](#) on the ADAMHS Board website.



# Staff News

## Welcome, Danielle and Richanda!



Danielle Clark

**Danielle Clark** joined the ADAMHS Board staff on December 14 as the Director of Finance. She earned her Bachelor of Economics from **Spelman College** and Master of Business Administration from **Ursuline College**. Danielle is also completing her Ohio Certified Public Manager credential this spring. The last five years, she has worked for Cuyahoga County in the Office of Budget and Management.

When asked why she wanted to work for the ADAMHS Board, Danielle said, "I knew coming to the ADAMHS Board would allow me to have a closer role in working with one of our most vulnerable populations. While I may not work face-to-face with our clients, I know that the work I do helps fund the programs needed more than ever in our community."

Danielle shared that her favorite pre-COVID activity was monthly movie outings with her daughter. In pandemic times, Danielle and her daughter have taken to watching Marvel movies on Netflix. If you have finance questions or need movie recommendations, Danielle can be reached by email at [clark@adamhscc.org](mailto:clark@adamhscc.org).



Richanda Jackson-Birks

**Richanda Jackson-Birks**, joined the ADAMHS Board staff on January 19 as a CIT Training Officer. Richanda worked for the Cleveland Division of Police for 22 years as a Public Safety Telecommunicator and as a part-time instructor for public safety communications at **Tri-C**. After retiring from her position in dispatch communications, she began advocating for trauma survivors. She also developed a workshop to help people recover from addictions and behaviors that have resulted because of past traumas. She also volunteers with **Women's Recovery Center** and delivers this workshop to clients as part of the recovery process.

Richanda wanted to work for the ADAMHS board because she is interested in understanding more about mental health and addictions as they relate to trauma. She is an advocate for learning, teaching and training, especially in areas that directly affect the community and help people heal mentally, physically and spiritually. She is most excited about being involved in the early stages of the Diversion Center program, which she believes will have a very positive impact on the community.

When not working, Richanda is a praise dancer at her church and loves jigsaw puzzles and spending time with her family and two dogs, Bones and Taffy. When the pandemic is over, she can't wait to be back to another favorite hobby - traveling! Richanda can be reached by email at [birks@adamhscc.org](mailto:birks@adamhscc.org).

In January we also bid farewell to **Kelli Perk**, Director of Risk Management. We wish Kelli the best of luck as she returns to the County **Prosecutor's Office**.

## Congratulations, Vicki and Chardé!

A big congratulations to **Vicki Roemer**, Administrative Specialist, for earning her Paralegal Certification from the **National Paralegal College** and for her new title, Administrative Specialist. Also, congratulations to **Chardé Hollins**, on passing her independent licensure exam for social work and earning her LISW credential.



Vicki Roemer



Chardé Hollins, MSW, LISW



Carole Ballard, MSSA, LISW

## Carole Ballard Presented at National Mental Health America Meeting

**Carole Ballard, MSSA, LISW**, Director of Education and Training, presented at **Mental Health America's** December Regional Policy Council meeting. Her presentation was *Best Intentions with Unanticipated Consequences*, which explored how existing diversion programs and services continue to rely upon police interventions and recommendations to alter that process. Congratulations to Carole on her continued work at the local and national level!

## ADAMHS Board Represented on Cuyahoga County Division of Senior and Adult Services (DSAS) Advisory Board

On January 15, the **Cuyahoga County Division of Senior and Adult Services (DSAS)** Advisory Board held its virtual Annual Board Meeting. The Advisory Board is made up of a variety of professionals that have direct expertise in working with older adults and adults with disabilities. **Bill Hebble**, ADAMHS Board Clients Rights Officer, was appointed as Vice-chair of the Advisory Committee last summer. He was recommended for reappointment by the County Executive and County Council for a term ending on December 31, 2023. He has served on the Advisory Board since January 2018 and is also Chair of the Advocacy Committee and member of the Governance Committee.



Bill Hebble, MSW

# Community News

## Proceeds from the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Suicide Prevention Concert Aid Suicide Prevention Efforts

For the last 11 years, **Rita Jermann** has planned a suicide prevention concert in memory of a loved one who died by suicide. This year, planning the concert had more challenges than ever with COVID-19 restrictions and safety protocols. Rita found a way to safely hold the concert and raised nearly \$2,000 to support suicide prevention efforts in Cuyahoga County. This year's donations were made in memory of **Sgt. Riley C. Brandt**. Thank you, Rita, and all involved for your continued efforts to promote suicide prevention.

## NAMI Greater Cleveland Community Awareness Campaign

**NAMI Greater Cleveland** recently launched a multi-media campaign to raise awareness of mental health services and increase the reality of recovery in Cuyahoga County's underserved communities. The campaign consists of billboards, social media, radio spots, and posters. Each component encourages people affected by mental illness to seek help by showing the positive aspects of services and showcasing NAMI's helpline number as a resource to obtain information, referrals and support.



Billboard featuring Archie G. is located at Carnegie Avenue and E 79<sup>th</sup> Street in Cleveland.

## Thrive Behavioral Health and Relink Outreach Tour Reached Over 3,000 Individuals in 2020

In just five months, **Thrive Behavioral Health** and **Relink** were able to safely serve over 3,300 individuals at outreach events. They provided over 500 Naloxone kits and nearly 120,000 pounds of free groceries to communities across Cuyahoga, Summit, Stark, Ashtabula, Allen and Trumbull Counties. The ADAMHS Board supplied fentanyl test strips distributed at the Cuyahoga County events. At the final event in December, the ADAMHS Board's *Coping with the Holidays and a Pandemic* booklet was also distributed.



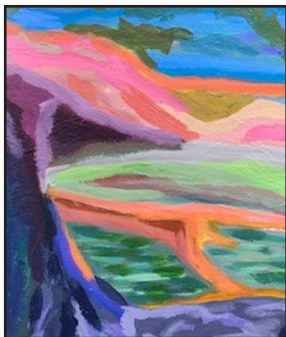
Thank you to everyone who helped get important resources to the community through the outreach tour!

## Naaleh Cleveland Named New Director of Behavioral Health Services

**Daniel Solganik, MSSA, LISW-S** is **Naaleh Cleveland's** new Director of Behavioral Health Services. In his new role, Daniel will be supervising the ADAMHS Board funded teen mentorship program, expanding community programs and answering the referral hotline. He has vast experience working with youth and adults as a school-based therapist, private practice therapist, childcare worker in residential treatment and as a supervisor for outpatient behavioral health services. Congratulations to Daniel on his new role!



Daniel Solganik



"The Valley" by John C.

"We will not march back to what was, but move to what shall be: a country that is bruised but whole, benevolent but bold, fierce and free.

We will not be turned around or interrupted by intimidation because we know our inaction and inertia will be the inheritance of the next generation, become the future.

Our blunders become their burdens."

– Amanda Gorman, National Youth Poet Laureate, poet & activist, 1998 - present

### Board of Directors

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