

Legislators Discuss Local Priorities

In past years, ADAMHS Board staff traveled to Columbus to meet with legislators as part of the **Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA)** Legislative Day. Since that event could not take place this year, **Scott S. Osiecki**, CEO, **Beth Zietlow-DeJesus**, Director of External Affairs, **Madison Greenspan**, External Affairs Officer, and **Erskine Cade**, Board member, met with legislators virtually. Discussions included the new Cuyahoga County Diversion Center, funding and policy recommendations for the State Budget, and local mental health and substance use disorder trends. The meetings were with Senators **Sandra Williams**, **Nickie Antonio** and **Matt Dolan** and Representatives **Thomas Patton**, **Juanita Brent**, **Michael Skindell**, **Monique Smith** and **Jeffrey Crossman**. It was a great opportunity to advocate for mental health and addiction recovery issues, set the stage for budget requests, meet our legislators, foster relationships, and discuss local issues that impact the Board.



Sen. Sandra Williams (D)
District 21



Sen. Nickie Antonio (D)
District 23



Sen. Matt Dolan (R)
District 24



Rep. Thomas Patton (R)
District 7



Rep. Juanita Brent (D)
District 12



Rep. Michael Skindell (D)
District 13

ADAMHS Board Partners with Cleveland Department of Public Health to Coordinate Vaccinations for Adult Care Facilities and Recovery Housing Staff and Residents

Behavioral health treatment providers performing in-person work and staff and residents of congregate care settings were eligible for Phase 1a vaccination. With hundreds of adult care facilities, residential treatment facilities and recovery houses in the city of Cleveland alone, coordinating the vaccinations was a big task. The ADAMHS Board in partnership with **Governor DeWine's** office, **OhioMHAS**, the **Cleveland Department of Public Health**, **Cleveland Clinic** and **University Hospitals** coordinated four neighborhood vaccination sites. These vaccination sites were held February 24 to February 27.

The ADAMHS Board thanks **Stella Maris**, **Cleveland Assessment and Treatment Services (CATS)**, **Oriana House** and **The Lantern** for hosting the vaccination sites. These locations were selected based on areas with the highest concentration of congregate care settings to reduce transportation barriers and other issues that impact residents in congregate settings from getting to larger vaccination sites. Approximately 850 people were vaccinated at these four sites.



Rep. Monique Smith (D)
District 16



Rep. Jeffrey Crossman (D)
District 15



Garth and Tony P. from The Lantern with ADAMHS Board Staff, Allison Schaefer and Joe Arnett, at the February 24 vaccine site.

ADAMHS Board staff is meeting with the **Cuyahoga County Board of Health** to learn more about the plans for vaccinating congregate setting staff and residents that are located outside of Cleveland.

Coping Through COVID Series Explores Mental Health and Substance Use Challenges During the Pandemic

Cleveland.com launched a series called *Coping through COVID*, aimed at helping Northeast Ohio residents manage the stress of COVID-19 by examining the behavioral health aspects of the pandemic. The series tells individuals' stories and explores various challenges and strategies with experts, including the ADAMHS Board and several provider agencies. The series offers ideas and resources to cope during this difficult time. Stories are available by searching "Coping through COVID" on Cleveland.com, or at these links:

- [People in Recovery Rely on Fellowship](#)
- [A Day in the Life of a Mental Health Specialist During the Pandemic](#)
- [Pandemic Making it Harder to Mourn Loved Ones](#)
- [Fighting the Opioid Crisis During the Pandemic](#)

Staff News

Welcome, Clare and Jordan!



Clare Rosser

Clare Rosser joined the ADAMHS Board staff on February 16 as the Chief Public Affairs Officer, and is a familiar face to many staff and partners. She is an accomplished public relations professional for social service agencies in Northeast Ohio. Previously, she served on the External Affairs team of the former **Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board**, now the ADAMHS Board, and as a Program Officer IV with the **Family and Children First Council of Cuyahoga County**.

Her most recent role was as Communications and Community Relations Director with the **Mental Health, Addiction and Recovery Services (MHARS) Board of Lorain County**.

Clare says she is proud to rejoin the ADAMHS staff, 15 years after her original hire date. "It's a strong team with a great reputation. The Board is where I first fell in love with mental health communications work."

Clare can be reached by email at rosser@adamhsc.org.



Jordan Scharfeld

Jordan Scharfeld joined the ADAMHS Board staff on February 1 as the new Administrative Assistant II for the Education and Training team. She will be working specifically on supporting the expanded Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training for the new Cuyahoga County Diversion Center.

Jordan is excited to work for the ADAMHS Board because she wants to help individuals who are struggling with mental health and substance use disorders. Jordan shared that she is seven years sober from alcohol and drugs and would love her career to be in the realm of recovery services for those in need.

She also shared that she has a cat and Bernese Mountain dog, is a proud aunt to four nieces and a nephew, has a bachelor's degree in communication from Kent State University, and enjoys exercising, listening to music and painting.

Jordan can be reached by email at scharfeld@adamhsc.org.

Congratulations, Jess and Nick!

Two ADAMHS Board staff members have transitioned into new roles. **Jess Saker** is the new Director of IT and **Nick Weaver** is now the Data Analyst. Congratulations to them both on their new roles!

Community Presentations

Carole Ballard, MSSA, LISW, Director of Education and Training, spoke at a community forum on February 7, hosted by the **Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Cleveland (UUC)**. The forum was about community safety challenges, oversight and reforms, and addressed ways communities can defuse low-level misdemeanors, keep more people out of jail, and improve racial relations on local and national levels.

On February 24, **Beth Zietlow-DeJesus**, Director of External Affairs, spoke on a panel of state and local government professionals as part of a **Cleveland State University** mentorship program. Last month, she also gave a presentation about substance use disorders to a group of staff and students from **Valley College**.

Focus Groups for Collaborative Community Awareness Campaign

The ADAMHS Board is partnering with **NAMI Greater Cleveland** and the **Mental Health and Addiction Advocacy Coalition (MHAC)** on a collaborative community awareness campaign with the goal of involving 50 behavioral health care providers in Cuyahoga County.

In March, there will be several focus groups held to test the campaign images and messages. If you are interested in participating, please contact Beth Zietlow-DeJesus at dejesus@adamhsc.org.

Eliminating Structural Racism in Behavioral Health Care Work Group

The next Eliminating Structural Racism in Behavioral Health Care Work Group meeting is on March 1 at 1:00 p.m. **Ben Miladin**, Director of Health at **United Way**, will be presenting on the use of data to address inequities.

The large work group meetings are held monthly on the first Monday of the month and will include various speakers so the large group can continue learning together.

[Join the Zoom meeting at this link](#) or enter bit.ly/esrbhwcg into your browser.

Meeting ID: 863 0230 3039
Passcode: 915826

This is a recurring meeting and the Zoom link is the same for each meeting.

Learn About Black and African American Contributions to Mental Health

Black History Month is a time to recognize the central role Black and African American individuals have played throughout history and celebrate their achievements.

Mental Health America compiled a list of resources highlighting Black and African American contributions to mental health. [Access the list here.](#)

Community News

Best Wishes to Roxanne and Nelson

After 30 years of service as co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of **Community Assessment and Treatment Services (CATS)**, **Roxanne Wallace** has retired. "It has been exciting to watch CATS grow from a two-person operation on the near west side of Cleveland to over a 100-person agency helping many people," said Wallace. "I will always have an interest in CATS and will continue to watch how it is progressing. There are so many dedicated people here, and I know I am leaving it in good hands." One of those dedicated individuals is **John Scalish**, who was appointed to be the new Chief Executive Officer.



Roxanne Wallace and former CATS Board Chair Amos Mahsua at the 2016 CATS Gala.



Nelson Ramirez

Nelson Ramirez also retired from his position after many years as Executive Director of **Hispanic UMADAOP**. **Elizabeth Litz, MSW, LSW**, was appointed Interim Executive Director. Please join us in wishing Roxanne and Nelson wonderful and well deserved retirements!

Happy 50th Anniversary to Community Action Against Addiction!



Congratulations to **Community Action Against Addiction (CAAA)** for 50 years of service to the community! Founded in 1971 in response to the opiate epidemic of the time, CAAA was one of the first agencies in the Greater Cleveland area to use methadone as a treatment tool to move people away from opiate use and reduce the number of overdoses. Today, they serve clients affected by the current opioid epidemic and provide Medication Assisted Treatments including Methadone, Buprenorphine and Vivitrol to 500 people per day. Thank you to the staff at CAAA for their continued commitment to substance use disorder treatment.

NAMI Greater Cleveland Starts a Podcast Series and Welcomes a Staff Member



In February, **NAMI Greater Cleveland** launched a new monthly mental health podcast series called *Not Alone in the Land*. The podcast is hosted by NAMI Greater Cleveland Program Director, **Megan Rochford, PCC-S**, and mental health advocate, **Portia Booker**. It features interviews with people who have experienced mental health challenges, and with mental health experts and mental health advocates about the realities of surviving and thriving with a mental health condition.

The first episode is available now on a variety of podcast platforms. Tune in to listen to Megan and Portia introduce themselves to listeners and share about their passion for mental health advocacy.

NAMI also welcomed a new staff member in February. **Archie Green** brings much experience to his new role as Support and Education Coordinator. Archie is a mental health advocate with experience using hip-hop culture to break the stigma of mental health among the African American community. He partnered with NAMI Greater Cleveland last year for an online mental health and wellness event that had over 10,000 participants.

Board of Directors

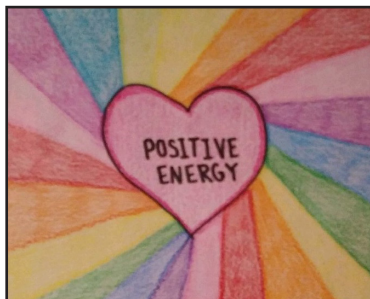
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Scott S. Osiecki, Chief Executive Officer

"The battles that count aren't the ones for gold medals. The struggles within yourself—the invisible, inevitable battles inside all of us—that's where it's at."

— Jesse Owens, American Track and Field Athlete, 1913 – 1980



Drawing featured in the February virtual art display by Samantha W.