

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

FAITH-BASED OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES FEBRUARY 3, 2021

Committee Members Present: Gwendolyn A. Howard, LSW, MSSA, Committee Chair, Ashwani Bhardwaj, Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., Patricia James-Stewart, M.Ed., LSW, Rev. Max M. Rodas, MA / Other Board members: Gregory X. Boehm, M.D., Katie Kern-Pilch, ATR-BC, LPC-S

Absent: Rev. Brenda Ware-Abrams, Mary R. Warr, M.Ed.

Board Staff Present: Scott Osiecki, Chief Executive Officer, Carole Ballard, Christina Bohuslawsky-Brown, Danielle Clark, Curtis Couch, Tami Fischer, Cheryl Fratalone, Madison Greenspan, Felicia Harrison, Bill Hebble, Charde' Hollins, Linda Lamp, Vicki Roemer, Allison Schaefer, Starlette Sizemore-Rice, Larry Smith, Jr., Maggie Tolbert, Thomas Williams

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Gwendolyn Howard, Faith-based Outreach Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. Dr. Deborah Watson-Daniels, Program Operations Director/Manager at Trinity Outreach Ministries - Another Chance of Ohio, 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. BOARD 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 October 7, 2020 were approved as submitted.

4. PROVIDER PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS:

Faith Community Supportive Services (FCSS)/2nd Chance Program

Mr. Charles Britton, Program Manager of FCSS, provided historical information regarding the 2nd Chance Program. He reported that this program is a spinoff from a program previously called Clergy United for Juvenile Justice from years prior; whereby the churches deal with the court regarding youth in the Juvenile Justice system. FCSS is a continuation of this program and through the 2nd Chance Program, they are able to carry on with the original program with Juvenile Court. Mr. Britton introduced Ms. Minnie Scruggs, Executive Director, who reported that the basis of the 2nd Chance Program is the three R's – Rules, Respect and Responsibility.

Ms. Scruggs stated that FCSS is located inside the Hough Community Multipurpose Building and has been providing a variety of services/support to the Hough Community for many years; serving many neighborhoods, races, religions and all levels of income. The 2nd Chance Program's major goals are to (1) provide alternative support services to youth involved in the Juvenile Justice System, (2) demonstrate how faith-based outreach initiatives can reduce delinquency and (3) reduce youth recidivism, to improve the lives of the youth they serve.

The 2nd Chance Program provides after-school services/support to high-risk youth (10-17) and their families as an alternative to incarceration in the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court's Juvenile Detention Center. The program also provides services that prevent at risk youth (10-17) from entering the Juvenile Court System. Participants include: 1) individuals involved in drug violations such as the selling of drugs and/or use of illegal drugs, 2) court referred high risk youth that have been identified as serious felony offenders and 3) individuals expelled from school for repeated violations and behavioral problems.

The 2nd Chance Program provides services/support that include prevention/intervention services, outreach/awareness activities, substance use education and referrals to support services. Specifically, this program provides training and mentoring/tutoring support, personal development, leadership development, outreach support, community service projects, concept art, teen/adult parenting training/support and employment assistance. Additionally, this program provides supportive services and skill development for grandparents that are caring for their grandchildren and utilize referrals for specialized services and support.

Referral sources for the 2nd Chance Program include the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court, parents, churches, schools, community organizations and other sources with services taking place at the FCSS Center, in the community, schools, home and over the phone. Community resource partners include schools, parents, social service agencies, community-based organizations, political officials, business leaders and volunteers.

Brenda Glass Multipurpose Trauma Center

Ms. Brenda Glass, MSSA, LISW-S, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Brenda Glass Multipurpose Center, reported that victims of violent crimes often experience trauma – the mind’s response to a deeply distressing or disturbing event that overwhelms an individual’s ability to cope, causes feelings of helplessness, diminishes sense of self and ability to feel the full range of emotions and experiences. The Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) recently decreased or eliminated funding to a variety of programs designed to assist the victims of violent crimes – including eliminating all the \$1.2 million provided to The Centers Trauma Center. Ms. Glass, who assists people of color that are less likely to seek help during the recovery process after violence, presented her program to the Department of Justice in 2007. The Department of Justice liked the program but wanted to fund a larger provider and The Centers was selected to receive the grant. The Centers hired Ms. Glass to run the program, which is based out of Allen Chapel Missionary Baptist Church – the location of the Brenda Glass Multipurpose Trauma Center – 501(c)(3).

Ms. Glass’ ministry began in 2003 with a goal of providing healing to a group of young adults who had experienced multiple episodes of violence. The services were originally offered through a faith-based initiative. While receiving referrals from various organizations, such as MetroHealth, University Hospitals, The Cuyahoga County Prosecutors Office, Probation Department and Child Protection Services, the on-call 24/7 Brenda Glass Multipurpose Trauma Center strives to meet each client where they are, physically and emotionally by providing support that addresses practical needs such as safe housing, financial entitlements, basic needs, legal advocacy, individualized therapy and spiritual counseling. The types of trauma treated include domestic violence, sexual assaults and other physical assaults, criminal motor vehicle accidents, gang-related violence, and people who have lost a loved one to homicide.

Ms. Glass approached the ADAMHS Board about funding the program. Board staff had several discussions with both The Centers and Ms. Glass, which resulted in the Centers deciding to no longer pursue the program. Staff believed the program should be funded under the Board’s Faith-based Initiatives since it is based on providing spiritual support in addition to traditional mental health services. On October 21, 2020, Board members approved to contract with Brenda Glass Multipurpose Trauma Center for the period of November 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021 to provide the following services:

- Bedside Stabilization and Intervention
- Spiritual Counseling Individual/Spiritual Counseling Group
- Trauma Case Coordination/Housing Procurement
- Mental Health Skills Building
- Peer Trauma Support
- 16-week Group Sessions and Individual Sessions

The Brenda Glass Multipurpose Trauma Center is expected to serve 60-90 individuals based on the contract period. Presently, 49 individuals have been served; and 8 individuals, in addition to 7 families, have obtained safe shelter upon victimization. As this is short term shelter, the Brenda Glass Multipurpose Trauma Center is currently working with Jewish Family Service - liaison for Emerald Development and Economic Network, Inc. (EDEN, Inc.) to help secure permanent affordable housing for the individuals who have experienced domestic violence. Jewish Family Service assigns a case worker to help complete the EDEN, Inc. application and coordinate the approval and complete the process for obtaining a

Rapid Rehousing voucher. Jewish Family Service also provides advocacy with landlords to encourage them to accept the client and explain the process.

Mr. Glass also reported that in addition to the 49 individuals served, the Brenda Glass Multipurpose Trauma Center has provided 265 mental health skill building sessions, 265 spiritual counseling sessions, 280 care coordination services, 280 peer spiritual support services and 13 trauma groups; whereby a light meal and/or transportation is provided. Additionally, four individuals were given assistance with obtaining employment upon job loss.

Ms. Glass answered questions from committee members and indicated that brochures are available from the referral sources provided. Dr. Watson-Daniels reported that free resources, such as clothing, shoes and household items, are available if needed.

Committee Member Input:

- Ms. Howard commended FCSS and Brenda Glass Multipurpose Trauma Center for their endeavors in the community.

5. GALILEAN THEOLOGICAL CENTER (GTC) SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS EDUCATIONAL & TRAINING PROGRAM FOR LATINX CLERGY & CHURCH LEADERS

Ms. Starlette Sizemore-Rice, Director of Special Projects, reported that the Galilean Theological Center (GTC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission statement is to provide introductory theological education, training, and job-readiness skills for ministry, leadership, and employment in the Hispanic-Latino churches throughout Northeast Ohio. The main goals of GTC Substance Use Disorders Educational & Training Program are to address disparities and build equity for the Latinx community of Northeast Ohio as it relates to Substance Use Disorders and Mental Health challenges. The focus is to train a cohort group of Latinx Clergy and Church Leaders in the area of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment, while creating access to clinical credentials: Licensure (LCDC I, II, III) and Certification (CDCA). The trainings will consist of two components, Spiritual Caregiving to Help Addicted Persons and Families and Chemical Dependency Counselor Assistant (CDCA) Credentialing and Certification.

Component I, Spiritual Caregiving to Help Addicted Persons and Families - trains Clergy, Pastors, and Church Leaders in four areas: 1) Recognizing Addiction; 2) Pastoral/Care of addicted Persons and Families; 3) Self-Understanding/Understanding Prevention Strategies; and 4) The Role of the Community in Recovery from Addiction. Ms. Sizemore-Rice reported that the required 21 classroom hours (virtually) will be taught by Dr. Felix Muniz, who has a Doctoral of Ministry in Theology, has a CDCA with the Ohio Chemical Dependency Professional Board, is a candidate for the LCDCIII Licensure and has over 20 years of experience in the chemical dependency field. Dr. Muniz will also receive assistance from other trainers that hold the credentials and certification to teach in the areas mentioned above. This component will provide Latinx faith leaders with basic knowledge about addiction, strategies to help families and children, and information about community resources and mutual support groups along with helping them become comfortable in supporting their congregation and helping the faith community begin the road to recovery.

Component II, CDCA Credentialing and Certification - Latinx Clergy and Church Leaders that completed the first component will be trained and will meet requirements to be certified as CDCA with Ohio Chemical Dependency Professional Board; that require trainings in the following six areas for a total of 40 hours: 1) Theories of Addiction (5 hours); 2) Counseling Procedures & Strategies with Addicted Populations (14 hours); 3) Group Process & Techniques Working with addicted populations (5 hours); 4) Assessment & Diagnosis of Addiction (3 hours); 5) Treatment Planning (7 hours) and 6) Ethics (6 hours). Classes will be co-facilitated in Spanish and English and will take place 1 or 2 times a week depending on the hours required by each topic between the months of April through December 2021. These trainings will be coordinated and planned by Dr. Muniz. The trainings and classes will be provided by their consultant Dr. Haner Hernandez, Ph.D., CPS, CADCI and LADC1, Program Director for the Latino Addiction Counselor Education (LACE) Program in Boston, Massachusetts, and his team. The training will be delivered utilizing the theoretical frameworks of Social Justice, Latino Critical Race Theory, and Culturally Responsible Pedagogies. In addition, capacity building services will be provided by National Hispanic and Latino ATTC Network (Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network). The mission of the National Hispanic and Latino Addiction Technology Transfer Center is to provide high-quality training and technical assistance to improve the capacity of the workforce serving Hispanic and Latino communities in behavioral health prevention, treatment,

and recovery. GTC's goal is to provide ministerial training and sound theological education to Hispanic/Latino Church Leaders who generally do not have access to traditional theological institutions due to language barriers, socio-economic status and/or formal education. GTC has a partnership with Ashland Theological Seminary with the purpose to train men and women for bachelor exempt status for application to the Master's program.

GTC has been training students who hold a High School diploma or equivalent GED in classical and discipline specific theological education capable of matriculating in graduate study at Ashland Theological Seminary. The GTC ministerial training program has been offering (8) courses of 21 contact hours per course - (4) courses in classical disciplines of Hermeneutics, Bible, Theology and Church History and (4) courses in Hispanic Church Studies. Three (3) seminars in preparation for the call to ministry and research & writing for theological study are also offered. Upon successful completion of 8 courses and 3 seminars, students receive a Diploma of Theology in Hispanic Religious Church Studies from Ashland Theological Seminary and are eligible to continue graduate studies at Ashland Theological Seminary.

Since the inception of the program in 2007, GTC has reached over 90 Pastors and over 600 Church Leaders and students in Northeast Ohio. Over a dozen students have continued their graduate work at Ashland Theological Seminary. In addition to this curriculum, GTC is in the process of adding a component on Pastoral Counseling that deals with Substance Use Disorders and Mental Health Disorders. For this reason, the GTC Substance Use Disorders Educational Training Program for Latinx Clergy and Church Leaders would be a good fit.

Rev. Benjamin Gohlstin, Sr., shared that he has had the privilege of knowing Dr. Muniz for several years and that he does excellent work in the community, has a good reputation for being a thorough professional and is a spiritual man that is deeply committed to the community. Rev Max Rodas also shared that the Latinx community has a tremendous need for the marriage between spirituality and clinical work, of which Dr. Muniz has both components.

Motion to recommend that the Board of Directors allocate funds to the Galilean Theological Center in the amount of \$60,000 for the Substance Use Disorders Educational & Training Program for Latinx Clergy & Church Leaders for the Term of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 to the Program & Oversight Committee. MOTION: B. Gohlstin / SECOND: P. James-Stewart / AYES: A. Bhardwaj, B. Gohlstin, P. James-Stewart, M. Rodas / NAYS: None / **Motion passed.**

6. DOCTORAL STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECT

Ms. Sizemore-Rice reported on a research collaboration with Ms. Lu Higgenbottom, who is a licensed Clinical Counselor that currently works as Clinical Supervisor. Ms. Higgenbottom is a Doctoral student at Cappella University pursuing a Doctorate in Human Services.

Mr. Curtis Couch, Chief Technology & Data Analytics Officer, stated that one of the requirements for Ms. Higgenbottom's degree is the completion of a research project during her capstone year. Ms. Higgenbottom is particularly interested in working with Faith-based providers and given the Board's funding of a variety of Faith-based programs, she approached the Board to inquire as to whether the Board would be interested in partnering with her on her research and serve as her advisor on the project. Mr. Couch reported that Ms. Higgenbottom will be volunteering her time on this project with no direct cost to the Board; however, the Board will be facilitating introductions to the Faith-based providers, per Ms. Sizemore-Rice's purview and identify providers that would be willing to work her.

Ms. Higgenbottom's research is focused on the impact of data utilization on the success rate for at-risk youth and addressing and mitigating risk factors. In particular, Ms. Higgenbottom is interested in the effect that data collection, management and analysis by providers will have on successful service programming and positive outcomes for the participants. This project is slated to take approximately one year and is to end on December 31, 2021. Ms. Higgenbottom will be providing quarterly reports/updates to board staff serving as her advisor and to obtain direction in terms of facilitating anything that arises from this project. Ms. Higgenbottom will also be providing a presentation of her findings to the Board of Directors at the conclusion of this project. Ms. Higgenbottom participated in the Zoom meeting to answer any questions committee members had.

Committee Member Input:

- Ms. Howard congratulated Ms. Higgenbottom for her doctoral efforts relative to this faith-based endeavor.

7. FAITH-BASED OUTREACH PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Tom Williams, Evaluation & Research Officer, highlighted accomplishments of each of the Faith-based Outreach Providers illustrated in the written Faith-based Programs Performance Outcomes 2020 Quarters 1-3 Report. (The report is attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit.)

Mr. Williams referenced a table reflecting the Board's Faith-based providers, along with the actual number of clients served in the first three quarters of 2020 and the projected/expected client counts for 2020. He noted that several providers have already surpassed their expected client counts. Some of the program participants have been involved with their program for multiple quarters and are counted once in the first quarter of their program participation. Some counts for the fourth quarter were shown but were not included in the total counts.

Mr. Williams stated that due to program differences and ages of program participants, several measurement instruments are used. The faith-based programming for children K-12th grade is measured through the Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA) instrument. The DESSA web-based system is designed to help school and after-school program staff promote the healthy social-emotional development of all children. 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. Both the DESSA and the DARS require an assessment at the beginning of the program as well as at the end of the program so that a measure of improvement can be shown. The Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) and the Awareness & Education Programs use quizzes to confirm that program participants have substantial knowledge about the program areas.

Mr. Williams also reported that the Brenda Glass Multipurpose Trauma Center and the FCSS programs, the two most recently ADAMHS Board funded programs, are still developing outcome measures. For these two programs, counts of the provision of the various types of services are reported. In 2021, the Brenda Glass Multipurpose Trauma Center will begin the collection of the Ohio Scales for Adults, which can show improvements in client quality of life and reductions in symptom distress.

Ms. Sizemore-Rice highlighted accomplishments of each of the Faith-based Outreach Providers illustrated in the written Faith-Based Program Progress Report dated February 3, 2021 and responded to questions from committee members. Overall, Mr. Williams and Ms. Sizemore-Rice noted that the faith-based outreach initiatives are making a difference in the lives of those individuals being served and show movement and growth. (The report is attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit.)

Mr. Scott Osiecki, Chief Executive Officer, reported that the Board endorsed the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Greater Cleveland's use of funding for their faith-based campaign aimed at inclusivity for African-American faith-based communities through the utilization of billboards near prominent African-American churches that they intend to target with a mental health awareness marketing campaign to promote NAMI Greater Cleveland's programs and services and develop and begin new partnerships. This campaign will include four billboards near these churches and will occur during the timeframe of December 2020 through April 2021 to enable individuals to join NAMI Greater Cleveland's virtual programs specifically targeted for their congregations. NAMI Greater Cleveland will also be doing a billboard for the timeframe of one month; with location yet to be determined.

Rev. Gohlstin emphasized that this is a non-sectarian initiative; and as the Board continues to move forward to include other faiths, Ms. Sizemore-Rice, Mr. Ashwani Bhardwaj and himself should meet to discuss future plans around drawing additional faiths into the Board's initiative.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Khalid Samad, Chief Executive Officer/Co-Founder of 99Treasures Arts & Culture, reported that 99Treasures Arts & Culture's parent organization, Coalition for a Better Life dba Peace In The Hood, reported that they will be participating in

the City of Cleveland's 47th Annual Black History Month Flag Raising ceremony on Saturday, February 6, 2021, 11:30 A.M. All were invited all to attend.

Rev. Gohlstin requested provider agency participation in the Board's workgroup titled "Eliminating Structural Racism in Behavioral Health Care Workgroup" and requested Mr. Osiecki and/or Ms. Carole Ballard, Director of Education and Training, provide an update on this initiative. Ms. Ballard reported that this workgroup meets the first Monday of each month at 1:00 P.M. to 2:30 P.M. She stated this group broke into small subcommittees based on the key focus areas that the group originally decided to focus on and included the following: 1) Workforce, 2) Health equity in behavioral health care, 3) Research and data, 4) Policy and advocacy, and 5) Community collaboration, education and stigma. During subcommittee discussion, workgroup members were requested to author a statement of purpose and provide three suggested objectives and/or goals. These are the subcommittees moving forward; and will be chaired by an ADAMHS staff member and co-chaired by a member of the community.

Starting in March, a series of educational components within these areas; including a number of invited speakers, will be utilized to educate, promote and inspire participants toward developing short term and long term solutions to issues related to behavioral healthcare in the community. Ms. Ballard reported that Mr. Kevin Fischer, Executive Director at NAMI Michigan, is scheduled as the first speaker in this series. Committee members were requested to contact Ms. Beth Zietlow-DeJesus, Director of External Affairs, or Ms. Ballard with any questions regarding this initiative.

Ms. Katie Kern-Pilch inquired with Rev. Gohlstin as to the utilization of churches as vaccination sites. Rev. Gohlstin shared that discussion has transpired and logistics are being worked out; and that a concerted group of individuals of African American and Hispanic descent came together during early January to receive their first vaccination. These individuals received vaccinations as role models to encourage individuals to receive their vaccinations. Rev. Rodas reported that clergy have credibility with communities, specifically communities of color; whereby they can send a positive message of prevention.

9. UPCOMING FEBRUARY AND MARCH BOARD MEETINGS:

- Planning & Oversight Committee Meeting: February 10, 2021
- Finance & Operations Committee Meeting: February 17, 2021
- General Meeting: February 24, 2021
- Community Relations & Advocacy Committee Meeting: March 3, 2021
- Planning & Oversight Committee Meeting: March 10, 2021
- Finance & Operations Committee Meeting: March 17, 2021
- General Meeting: March 24, 2021

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Submitted by: Linda Lamp, Executive Assistant

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