

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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 10, 2021

PRESENT: Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., Board Chair, Bishara W. Addison, Ashwani Bhardwaj, Reginald C. Blue, Ph.D., J. Robert Fowler, Ph.D., Patricia James-Stewart, M.Ed., LSW, Steve Killpack, MS, Rev. Max M. Rodas, MA, Harvey A. Snider, Esq.

ABSENT: Gregory X. Boehm, M.D., Erskine Cade, MBA, Elsie Caraballo, Gwendolyn A. Howard, LSW, MSSA, Katie Kern-Pilch, ATR-BC, LPC-S, Sharon Rosenbaum, MBA

BOARD STAFF PRESENT: Scott Osiecki, Chief Executive Officer, Olivia Abdlrasul, Joseph Arnett, Carole Ballard, Danielle Clark, Erin DiVincenzo, Tami Fischer, Cheryl Fratalone, Madison Greenspan, Felicia Harrison, Esther Hazlett, Bill Hebble, Anthony Henderson, Myra Henderson, June Hudson, Woo Jun, Linda Lamp, Samantha Maloy, Nancy Mundy, Tawanna Pryor, Vicki Roemer, Clare Rosser, Jessica Saker, Allison Schaefer, Larry Smith, Jr., Maggie Tolbert, Leshia Yarbrough-Franklin, Beth Zietlow-DeJesus

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chair, Rev. Benjamin Gohlstin, Sr., called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS** – None.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the Community Relations & Advocacy Committee of September 1, 2021 and the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 20, 2021 were approved as submitted.

[Bishara W. Addison arrived.]

4. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mr. Scott Osiecki, Chief Executive Officer, and Ms. Clare Rosser, Chief Public Affairs Officer, highlighted several legislative bills, which are as follows:

Legislation regarding virtual meetings for Boards and other public entities

Mr. Osiecki reported that an attempt was made to move language through the legislature that would allow for virtual public meetings in an amendment once proposed through House Bill (H.B.) 122 regarding telehealth to include this wording. However, the bill currently has several amendments, thus this amendment was removed due to concerns the bill would become one of the Christmas Tree bills. He noted that the amendment has a lot of supporters, but the Senate President does not concur and instructed Senator Blessing to research the issue. In the interim, the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) continues to introduce virtual meetings as a stand-alone piece of legislation that only means further delay.

H.B. 328

Mr. Osiecki reported that H.B. 328 was introduced to the legislature on May 25, 2021 to establish the Governor's Office of Drug Policy. This bill proposes to establish the Office of Drug Policy within the Governor's office to do all of the following:

1. Coordinate drug-related efforts from across state agencies and local governments;
2. Share with state agencies and local governments information about measures adopted by other agencies or governments to prevent and reduce the incidence of drug misuse, addiction, and overdose death; and
3. Formulate policies designed to facilitate mutual aid across communities in their attempts to prevent and reduce drug misuse, addiction and overdose deaths.

More information regarding this bill will be forthcoming from the RecoveryOhio Team that has been working on this matter.

H.B. 428

Ms. Rosser reported that H.B. 428 was introduced to the legislature on September 20, 2021, to establish a commission to study Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). On October 18, 2021, Ms. Rosser met with the State Policy Representative from the Mental Health & Addiction Advocacy Coalition (MHAC) and others to discuss proposed legislation to create a commission studying and reporting on Adverse Childhood Experiences. Overall, this meeting was to prepare MHAC representatives to provide testimony to the House Behavioral Health and Recovery Supports Committee. Meeting discussion was centered largely around the proposed membership of the Commission. As a result, MHAC took the questions and discussion back to the bill's sponsor, Representative Gail Pavliga, a Republican from Portage County, for further discussion. This testimony has not yet been presented to the Committee.

H.B. 439

Ms. Rosser reported that H.B. 439 was introduced to the legislature on September 29, 2021 to amend sections 5122.01 and 5122.10 of the Revised Code (ORC) to make changes to the law regarding involuntary treatment for mentally ill persons subject to a court order. Ms. Rosser noted that members of OACHBA continue to discuss the possible implications of these language changes.

H.B. 327 and H.B. 322

Ms. Rosser reported that two bills that are related to prohibiting education on divisive concepts include H.B. 327 and H.B. 322. She highlighted that these bills have been getting attention mostly for schools regarding Critical Race Theory but calling it Divisive Concepts. H.B. 322 only addresses these requirements as they relate to schools. However, H.B. 327 would impact all political subdivisions (cities, states, ADAMHS Boards, libraries, etc.). The definition of "Divisive Concepts" includes prohibiting education related to bias and/or implicit bias and calls for any training related to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) to be reviewed by a state committee for approval. This would have a major impact on Eliminating Structural Racism, the Board's DEI consultant and the Board's Training Institute. Ms. Rosser reported that The Center for Community Solutions has provided written testimony opposing the legislation.

988 Planning

Ms. Rosser provided an update on 988 planning and reported that federal legislation passed in 2020 regarding a National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's 988 dialing code, effective July 2022, which will become the national three-digit dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. She noted that the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) has released a 988 implementation plan in preparation of the July 2022 effective date.

5. LARGE EVENTS DISCUSSION

• Client Holiday Celebration

Ms. Tami Fischer, Chief Administrative Officer, reported that a Client Holiday Celebration has traditionally been scheduled at a community venue during December. She indicated that last year a virtual art show was held; however, it was suggested that an event transpire at Windows on the River for a luncheon, in addition to admission to the Greater Cleveland Aquarium. As a result, staff have reached out to representatives of Windows on the River and received confirmation of availability for Tuesday, December 14, 2021, 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., with a smaller group of individuals to include social distancing, with admission in half hour increments to the Greater Cleveland Aquarium. Ms. Fischer also reported that staff have reached out to a provider agency for assistance with transportation to and from the ADAMHS Board for individuals wishing to attend this event.

Ms. Fischer stated that the approximate cost for 120 individuals to attend this event is \$4,983 - inclusive of lunch and admission to the Greater Cleveland Aquarium - and is \$500 less than what was spent on a similar lunch event at a hotel in 2019. Existing gift cards will be provided as prizes during the festivities.

Given no further discussion regarding the Client Holiday Celebration, Board member consensus was to hold this event at Windows on the River on Tuesday, December 14, 2021, 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., with a smaller group of individuals to include social distancing, with admission in half hour increments to the Greater Cleveland Aquarium for a cost of \$4,983.

• Roads to Recovery Conference

Ms. Carole Ballard, Director of Education and Training, reported that the ADAMHS Board has hosted the Roads to Recovery Conference every two years. This conference was canceled for 2021 due to the Diversion Center contract and the extensiveness of all the training that the staff of the Education and Training department has been involved in. However, Ms. Ballard reported that

the rationale for bringing this request forth is whether to host this conference in person, via a virtual platform or via a hybrid model for proper planning, with arrangements in place. In 2019, the Board hosted the one day Roads to Recovery Conference at a hotel with 400 individuals in attendance. However, during the pandemic, discussion transpired as to how to manage conferences. She reported that the Education and Training department has continued to provide virtual trainings, with the exception of law enforcement trainings. As a result, this conference would be the ADAMHS Board's first in-person event. While looking into 2022, many organizations are electing to have virtual events and/or a hybrid model, while some are planning face-to-face, while limiting the audience.

Mr. Osiecki reported that the Roads to Recovery Conference was also not held in 2021 due to COVID-19.

Ms. Ballard reported that conference attendees include behavioral health professionals, family members, clients and the community at large. Ms. Addison stated that whether a virtual platform and/or hybrid model is utilized, the barriers for participants/attendees need to be considered. Ms. Ballard reported that typically, participants are largely behavioral health professionals that request Continuing Education Units (CEU's) for social work or counseling.

Mr. Osiecki noted that if a hybrid model is utilized, the cost of the conference will increase due to the cost of technology and internet access. Hence, after a brief discussion, the recommendation was to hold the Roads to Recovery Conference in 2022 as an in-person event with less participants at a venue to allow for social distancing. Also, guidelines, including but not limited to, mask wearing, contactless (no handouts), be utilized for the safety of all.

Motion to recommend approval for the Roads to Recovery Conference to be held in-person in Calendar Year (CY) 2022 with a reduced number of participants at a venue to allow for social distancing with guidelines for the safety of all. MOTION: H. Snider / SECOND: P. James-Stewart / AYES: B. Addison, A. Bhardwaj, R. Blue, R. Fowler, P. James-Stewart, S. Killpack, M. Rodas, H. Snider / NAYS: None / Abstain: None / **Motion passed.**

- **Annual Meeting**

Ms. Beth Zietlow-DeJesus, Director of External Affairs, updated Board members regarding the Board's Annual Meeting. She stated that the venue was booked by staff prior to COVID-19. Representatives of the hotel were gracious enough to allow the Board to initially move the event and during the second request to move the date, a Governor's Order was in place stating that they could not hold in-person events, thus allowing the Board to move the date again. However, in the absence of additional contract language, the Board is not able to move the date of this event; and the venue is already booked for May 16, 2022. As a result, Ms. Zietlow-DeJesus inquired with Board members as to whether the Annual Meeting be held in-person with a limited number of individuals in attendance to ensure social distancing or have a hybrid model for some individuals to attend virtually, which would raise the cost of this event. However, this additional cost may be offset by the lower food cost.

Rev. Gohlstein recommended that the Board move forward with the Annual Meeting with the same type of guidelines as the Roads to Recovery Conference with the additional cost for technology. He also noted that the number of participants are to be determined by Board staff.

Motion to recommend approval for the Annual Meeting to be held in-person in CY2022 with a reduced number of participants at a venue to allow for social distancing, with guidelines for the safety of all; and the inclusion of technology. MOTION: P. James-Stewart / SECOND: R. Blue / AYES: B. Addison, A. Bhardwaj, R. Blue, R. Fowler, P. James-Stewart, S. Killpack, M. Rodas, H. Snider / NAYS: None / Abstain: None / **Motion passed.**

- **Annual Staff Holiday Training**

Ms. Fischer highlighted that the Board has previously approved funding for an annual staff holiday training, however, the opportunity was not available last year due to COVID-19. Therefore, it was suggested that the designated funds for an annual staff holiday training from CY2020 and CY2021 be combined to have a catered lunch for the annual staff holiday training.

Given no further discussion regarding the Board's annual staff holiday training, Board member consensus was to combine designated funds for an annual staff holiday training from CY2020 and CY2021 to have a catered lunch for the annual staff holiday training at the Board administrative offices.

6. COPING WITH THE HOLIDAYS BROCHURE

Ms. Zietlow-DeJesus reported that the ADAMHS Board partners with the Suicide Prevention Coalition to release an annual *Coping with the Holidays* booklet to help clients, families and the general public get tips for having less stress and more self-care during the holidays. Last year, the group updated the booklet called *Coping with the Holidays and a Pandemic* and expanded the resources to include information on stressors related to COVID-19, how to stay physically safe, how to host safe holiday gatherings and special tips for children and older adults as well as many other topics.

This year, the group updated the booklet called *Coping with the Holidays as the Pandemic Continues*. The ADAMHS Board would like to distribute this year's booklet via mail to the Board's Adult Care Facilities (ACFs), children's and prevention service providers, and Recovery Homes. As in years past, organizations can request free copies as well as share with their stakeholders. Board staff will also be sending out the usual email blast and press release and will purchase digital maps including social media and streaming sites to promote the booklet in high incidence suicide zip codes in Cuyahoga County. Ms. Zietlow-DeJesus reported that advertisements promoting the ADAMHS Board's crisis hotline and this booklet in the Call & Post and on Cleveland.com will be had in the month of December. Board members were requested to review the draft booklet and provide Ms. Zietlow-DeJesus with any feedback.

7. NALOXBOX INITIATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Zietlow-DeJesus reported that although a lot of focus has been placed on the pandemic, we are still living within the opioid epidemic and we continue efforts to save as many lives as possible. Most overdose deaths are related to fentanyl in multiple substances including cocaine, methamphetamine, pressed pills that imitate prescription medication such as Percocet, Oxycodone and Xanax. Harm reduction efforts such as fentanyl test strip distribution and increasing access to Naloxone are two ways we hope to reduce the number of fatal overdoses. Installing NaloxBoxes in public areas and/or areas where a high number of overdoses are reported, may be one way to reduce these numbers going forward. In CY2020, the COVID-19 pandemic created added limitations for distribution of Naloxone and increased stress in the community, which meant people who needed life-saving Naloxone had trouble accessing it while overdoses were on the rise. The NaloxBox program is proven to be an effective way to reduce overdose deaths and stigma around opioid use in Rhode Island by placing boxes that hold Naloxone in them in public spaces. The opportunity to have these in our public spaces, local businesses, and education systems potentially holds great benefit to Cuyahoga County.

Presently, 45 of the 100 NaloxBoxes have been installed in high incidence overdose areas in Cuyahoga County. The NaloxBoxes are installed at Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) clinics, behavioral health providers, detoxification providers, recovery houses, gas stations, laundromats and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Due to COVID-19, shipments of the NaloxBoxes were delayed and the program started much later than expected. As a result, the Board's agreement with MetroHealth will need to continue through March 2022 for the installation the NaloxBoxes. Presently, the Cuyahoga County NaloxBox Initiative is for the term of January 28, 2021 through December 31, 2021; hence an amendment will be brought forth for Board approval in January 2022.

To date, there has been one overdose reversal as a result of the NaloxBox Initiative. Also, one of the convenient stores in the Clark-Fulton area, whereby ADAMHS Board staff trained employees to revive anyone in need, have requested a NaloxBox as well. Board staff has also been working with Channel 5 for media coverage on the installation of the NaloxBox and the interview with the resident bystander who did the rescue to generate additional public interest with the NaloxBox Initiative.

Ms. Zietlow-DeJesus reported that the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA), whom the ADAMHS Board has engaged in conversation about installing NaloxBoxes in rapid stations, requested the Board revisit this conversation in 2022 due to leadership changes. They also wanted to ensure the correct representatives will be involved in future conversations. Ms. Zietlow-DeJesus also stated that the Cleveland Metroparks are extremely interested but require temperature controlled NaloxBoxes for outdoor installation. As a result, Board staff will look for funding for temperature controlled NaloxBoxes to bring forth for Board approval in early 2022. The City of Cleveland's Recreation Centers have also reached out to Board staff again to engage conversation with new leadership. Also, early next year, Board staff will reach out to Mayor elect, Justin Bibb, and the new Cleveland City Council President, Blaine Griffin, to address the initiative again.

Ms. Zietlow-DeJesus reported that the MetroHealth representative for the NaloxBox Initiative, works closely with the quick response team in Parma, Ohio, where some resistance has been identified with installing NaloxBoxes in some of the high incidence areas.

As a result, the MetroHealth representative will be going with an officer that has had close contact with employees of various businesses, to encourage NaloxBox installation.

Rev. Gohlstin emphasized the importance of the NaloxBox Initiative and the fentanyl test strip distribution; and shared his hope that additional businesses will be encouraged to have NaloxBoxes installed.

8. MEDIA TRACKING REPORT

For the timeframe of September 1, 2021 to November 9, 2021, the ADAMHS Board has had 120 media mentions: 100 were positive, 19 neutral and 1 negative. Ms. Zietlow-DeJesus reported that for the year, the ADAMHS Board had a total of 376 media mentions; 296 were positive, 79 neutral and 1 negative. She highlighted the Diversion Center stories on the expanded referral process, one of which received national news, and a feature story about Mr. Harvey Snider in the Cleveland Jewish News.

Mr. Osiecki reported that out of all the ADAMHS Boards in Ohio, Cuyahoga County is commended for the amount of media coverage received. Rev. Gohlstin reported that Mr. Osiecki and he participated in a radio interview with Jeffrey Jemison; and noted that Board staff will be participating in additional radio interviews on 95.9 FM WOJU Radio in December 2021 and January 2022.

9. SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE TRACKING REPORTS

Social Media Report

- Ms. Madison Greenspan, External Affairs Officer, provided committee members with an overview of the social media statistics. She reported that for the timeframe September 1, 2021 to November 9, 2021, the Board had 117,264 impressions – which is down from the last reporting period. She reported that the last few times impressions were up due to paid promotions on social media, however, impressions are back down due to the closure of paid ad campaigns. Ms. Greenspan also reported that there were 2,734 engagements, gained 89 new followers and 443 post link clicks. Board staff posted 323 times and received 257 messages. The Board had 1,317 video views on our social media accounts. The top posts on Twitter were fentanyl awareness messaging and some photos from NAMIWalks. The top posts on Facebook were promotion of the new youth wellness website and a staff photo from the Edna House Recovery Race; and the top posts on Instagram were from the StigmaFreeCLE campaign and some photos from First Responder Appreciation Week.

Website Report

- Ms. Greenspan reported that 14,691 people have visited the Board's website since September 1, 2021, for a total of 19,930 times as of November 9, 2021. There were 55,302 page views and 56.5% of users came to the site from google searches, 25.6% came to the site directly meaning they typed it in and the remainder (17.9%) from social media/referral from another page or email.

10. FINANCE REPORTS

Ms. Felicia Harrison, Chief Financial Officer, reported that the Finance Reports were not completed due to monthly county fiscal closure, however, the Finance Reports will be presented for approval at the General Meeting on November 17, 2021.

11. CY2022 AGREEMENTS WITH CLASS 2 RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES (ADULT CARE FACILITIES/ACF)

Mr. Larry Smith, Jr., Director of Programs, reported that the Residential Assistance Program (RAP) is intended to provide financial rental assistance to indigent/low-income adult clients (18 and over) receiving Community Psychiatric Supportive Treatment (CPST) services from a contract agency of the ADAMHS Board so that the client can live in a Class 2 Residential Facility in the community. RAP is targeted for indigent/low-income adult clients that are discharge ready from an institutional environment such as a hospital, nursing home, jail, Class 1 Residential Facility (RCF), or Crisis Stabilization Unit. Once the RAP recipient starts receiving SSI/SSDI, they are required to apply for the OhioMHAS Residential State Supplement (RSS) program, which requires the client to have Social Security and Medicaid. Once approved, the client transitions off of the RAP program, and onto the OhioMHAS funded RSS program.

The ADAMHS Board has developed a list of Class 2 Residential Facilities (Adult Care Facilities/Group Homes) to provide safe, decent and affordable housing for individuals living with mental illness. The Board utilizes its RAP funds to provide up to \$1,100 per month per client to the operators of Class 2 Residential Facilities and provides \$200 per RAP client (not receiving SSI/SSDI) for

personal living expenses. Board staff recommended approval to enter into agreements with the 70 Class 2 Residential Facilities for CY2022 to provide temporary assistance to over 200 clients living with mental illness.

Motion to recommend approval to enter into agreements with the 70 Class 2 Residential Facilities listed on Attachment A of the Agenda Process Sheet for CY2022 to the full Board. MOTION: R. Blue / SECOND: S. Killpack / AYES: B. Addison, A. Bhardwaj, R. Blue, R. Fowler, P. James-Stewart, S. Killpack, M. Rodas, H. Snider / NAYS: None / Abstain: None / **Motion passed.**

12. CONTRACTS

Ms. Harrison highlighted agenda process sheets for agreements listed below, answered questions and provided clarification for committee members.

a. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) 2022 Awareness Video Series – \$3,000

Ms. Harrison reported that the ADAMHS Board teamed up with A Vision of Change and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health to launch a video series titled My Story, My Healing as part of an ACEs grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2021. This series aimed to raise awareness that healing is possible through sharing the stories of real people in the community that have overcome traumas and found healing. Racism, domestic violence, mental health and addiction are a few of the topics that were explored throughout the series. The videos have garnered over 4,000 views and have reached over 30,000 people on social media due in part to funds spent on paid advertising through Facebook and Google ads. Individuals who participated in the video series expressed the healing nature of participating in the discussions. Because of the success of this series, the group would like to continue the series in 2022.

b. Security Services Contract

- Willo Security - \$21.89 Hourly Rate – Annual Estimate for CY2022 - \$159,623

Ms. Harrison reported that the ADAMHS Board currently contracts with Willo Security for armed security guard services through December 31, 2021. Willo Security is paid for services provided on an hourly basis at \$20.65 per hour for regular hours and \$30.98 per hour on designated holidays. In September 2019, the ADAMHS Board of Directors authorized Board staff to release a Request for Proposal (RFP) to secure bids for security services in accordance with the Purchasing policy. The ADAMHS Board received two responses to the RFP by the October 2019 deadline. The proposals were reviewed and discussed by the RFP Review Committee which was appointed by the ADAMHS Board's Chief Executive Officer. The RFP Review Committee recommended that Willo Security be awarded a one-year security contract for the ADAMHS Board's Administrative Office and Seasons of Hope building for CY2020, subject to a one-year renewal for CY2021.

Willo Security was selected due to their 24-hour, 7-day a week Dispatch office which monitors officer timekeeping and coverage, hourly rate and references. After approval of a contract extension for CY2021 from the Board of Directors, the ADAMHS Board and Willo Security entered into a one-year contract for security services on December 19, 2020 for CY2021, subject to a possible one-year renewal. Willo Security has continued to render services in a satisfactory manner, and it is recommended by ADAMHS Board staff that the contract be extended for another year in CY2022, with the option for a one-year renewal at a new negotiated rate. Willo Security will be paid for services provided on an hourly basis for armed security guard officers at \$21.89 per hour for regular hours, and \$32.84 per hour on designated holidays. Several guards will be staffed to cover the shifts to eliminate the need for overtime.

c. Children's Residential Staffing Crisis

- OhioGuidestone - \$250,000

Pay for Children's Residential Treatment provider staff is extremely low compared to the responsibilities and difficulties of the position, and low pay is one of the deterrents in attracting and retaining staff. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ADAMHS Board contracted children's residential and crisis stabilization providers reported an increase in staffing shortages due to resignations and the inability to attract qualified workers. The current staffing shortages are causing programs to close cottages on their campuses, decline admissions for youth with safety needs which require additional supervision and/or place all admissions on hold until staffing levels could be replenished. OhioGuidestone

has 93 full time staff positions in the residential program and currently has 35 vacancies. Residential Treatment programs require enough staff to maintain a staff to client ratio 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to effectively supervise the safety of clients. Entry level residential staff require a significant amount of training and supervision to learn how to interact therapeutically with clients, monitor and supervise adherence to individualized safety plans and the appropriate use of physical restraints.

OhioGuidestone is an ADAMHS Board contracted agency that provides Children's Residential Treatment and Crisis Stabilization Beds. It is experiencing unprecedented numbers of staff vacancies and resignations. OhioGuidestone is licensed to provide residential treatment for a total of 47 clients in four cottages. The funding will be used as an immediate action step to assist with the remediation of the current significant staffing crisis at OhioGuidestone. Funding will be used to increase pay rates for staff, increase retention, and enhance recruitment and training efforts. The Children's Residential Treatment providers and ADAMHS Board staff realize that this is a one-time measure to address the current staffing situation and that there needs to be larger discussions in partnership with all Cuyahoga County Children's Service Systems to address this systemic issue. Ms. Donna Keegan, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of OhioGuidestone, was present to answer any questions Board members had.

Motion to recommend approval of Contracts (as listed above) to the full Board. MOTION: R. Blue / SECOND: H. Snider / AYES: B. Addison, A. Bhardwaj, R. Blue, R. Fowler, P. James-Stewart, S. Killpack, M. Rodas, H. Snider / NAYS: None / Abstain: None / **Motion passed.**

13. CONTRACT AMENDMENT

- a. Amendment to Resolution No. 21-05-03, Children's Residential Staffing Crisis – No-cost Term Extension
 - Applewood Centers
 - Bellefaire JCB

Applewood Centers and Bellefaire JCB are ADAMHS Board contract agencies that provide Children's Residential Treatment and Crisis Stabilization Beds. Both agencies are experiencing unprecedented numbers of staff vacancies and resignations. Applewood Centers is licensed to provide residential treatment for a total of thirty 30 clients in two cottages. The ADAMHS Board contracts for six of their residential beds for crisis stabilization. Bellefaire JCB is licensed to provide residential treatment for a total of 95 clients in eight cottages. The ADAMHS Board contracts for six of their residential beds for crisis stabilization. The funding will be used as an immediate action step to assist with the remediation of the current significant staffing crisis at Applewood Centers and Bellefaire JCB, which are part of the Wingspan Care Group. Funding will be used to increase pay rates for staff, increase retention, and enhance recruitment and training efforts. The Children's Residential Treatment providers and ADAMHS Board staff realize that this is a one-time measure to address the current staffing situation and that there needs to be larger discussions in partnership with all Cuyahoga County Children's Service Systems to address this systemic issue.

The funding period began May 1, 2021 and was scheduled to end on December 31, 2021, but the providers will receive a No-cost term extension until June 30, 2022 to utilize all funding. Pay for Children's Residential Treatment provider staff is extremely low compared to the responsibilities and difficulties of the position, and low pay is one of the deterrents in attracting and retaining staff. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ADAMHS Board contract children's residential and crisis stabilization providers have reported an increase in staffing shortages due to resignations and the inability to attract qualified workers. The current staffing shortages are causing programs to close cottages on their campuses, decline admissions for youth with safety needs which require additional supervision and/or place all admissions on hold until staffing levels could be replenished. Applewood Centers has 73 staff positions in the residential program and currently has 27 vacancies as of September 30, 2021. Bellefaire JCB has 180.3 staff positions in the residential program, some of which are union members, and currently has 64 vacancies as of September 30, 2021. Residential Treatment programs require enough staff to maintain a staff to client ratio 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to effectively supervise the safety of clients. Entry level residential staff require a significant amount of training and supervision to learn how to interact therapeutically with clients, monitor and supervise adherence to individualized safety plans and the appropriate use of physical restraints.

Motion to recommend approval of Contract Amendment (as listed above) to the full Board. MOTION: M. Rodas / SECOND: S. Killpack / AYES: B. Addison, A. Bhardwaj, R. Blue, R. Fowler, P. James-Stewart, S. Killpack, M. Rodas, H. Snider / NAYS: None / Abstain: None / **Motion passed.**

14. IDENTIFY CONSENT AGENDA

Rev. Gohlstin identified the following elements to include into the Consent Agenda: Acceptance of the CY2022 Agreements with Class 2 Residential Facilities (Adult Care Facilities/ACF), Contracts and Contract Amendment.

15. REVIEW OF CY2022 ADAMHS BOARD BUDGET

Mr. Osiecki distributed revised pages to the CY2022 Budget Book and explained the rationale for the proposed revisions and realignment of the budget with respect to the change in Prevention in the amount of \$5.5 million, which is inclusionary of the Early Childhood Mental Health Program as well as a new Prevention program titled Serendipity Health & Wellness Agency. (A cover page noting the revised pages/sections is attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit.)

Ms. Harrison reported that clarification was also provided for the faith-based organizations to identify what type of service is being provided.

16. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Ballard reported that as part of the Countywide Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training, officers will spend the week of training at the Tri C Public Safety Center for their CIT Training. ADAMHS Board will contract with Traumatic Players of Cleveland who will provide "actors" to assist by performing various scenarios of people in crisis. Scenario based training will occur on Fridays with the support of the resources at the Public Safety Center and Traumatic Players of Cleveland. Officers will be paired and engage these "actors" during their scenarios, demonstrating active listening skills, tactical communication and non-lethal engagement. The ADAMHS Board will contract with Cuyahoga Community College Public Safety Training Center for the use of the Simulated Scenario Village. Scenario Village is a newly developed training facility located on the campus of Cuyahoga Community College in Parma. Scenario Village is made up of a series of mobile props such as a "house"; "emergency room"; "fast food restaurant"; "apartment building"; and "group home". These props will be used to conduct the scenario based activities between "actors" and the "officers". As part of the Scenario Village, officers will also utilize the Virtra Simulator which displays computerized scenarios in which officers will demonstrate de-escalation skills in order to reduce the use of force.

The purpose of these contracts is to enhance the Countywide CIT 40 Hour Training by contracting for supplemental resources like actors for scenario based activities and use of the Cuyahoga Community College Public Safety Training Scenario Village. These contracts will serve up to 500 or more officers for the second year of training.

Motion to recommend approval of the contracts to enhance the Countywide CIT Training in the amount of \$63,350 (Traumatic Players of Cleveland, Inc., in the amount \$19,800 and Cuyahoga Community College in the amount of \$43,550) to the full Board. MOTION: P. James-Stewart / SECOND: H. Snider / AYES: B. Addison, A. Bhardwaj, R. Blue, R. Fowler, P. James-Stewart, S. Killpack, M. Rodas, H. Snider / NAYS: None / Abstain: None / **Motion passed.**

17. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – None.

18. UPCOMING NOVEMBER 2021 AND JANUARY 2022 BOARD MEETINGS:

- General Meeting: November 17, 2021
- Community Relations & Advocacy Committee Meeting: January 5, 2022
- Planning & Oversight Committee Meeting: January 12, 2022
- Finance & Operations Committee Meeting: January 19, 2022
- General Meeting: January 26, 2022

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Submitted by: *Linda Lamp, Executive Assistant*

Approved by: *Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., Chairperson, ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County*