

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

FAITH-BASED OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES JUNE 2, 2021

Committee Members Present: Gwendolyn A. Howard, LSW, MSSA, Committee Chair, Patricia James-Stewart, M.Ed., LSW, Ashwani Bhardwaj, Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., Rev. Max M. Rodas, MA

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

Board Staff Present: Scott Osiecki, Chief Executive Officer, Christina Bohuslawsky-Brown, Danielle Clark, Tami Fischer, Cheryl Fratalonie, Felicia Harrison, Bill Hebble, Anthony Henderson, Woo Jun, Linda Lamp, Vicki Roemer, Starlette Sizemore-Rice, Larry Smith, Jr., Tom Williams, Beth Zietlow-DeJesus

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Gwendolyn Howard, Faith-based Outreach Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. Ms. Christina Bohuslawsky-Brown, Client Rights Officer II, 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 April 7, 2021 were approved as submitted.

4. PERSONAL SUCCESS STORY

Ms. Howard introduced Ms. LaPhenie Cloyd, LICDC, and stated that Ms. Cloyd is a wife, a mother and a minister. Ms. Cloyd is proudly employed at the Genesis Center Faith-based Recovery Center in Elyria, Ohio. Ms. Howard reported that Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., Board Chair, had the opportunity to hear Ms. Cloyd speak at WOJU 95.9 FM, a community radio station serving the Greater Cleveland community. Rev. Gohlstin was so inspired and impressed with her words that he thought the Faith-based Outreach Committee should hear her as well. Ms. Cloyd thanked the Board for the opportunity to share her personal success story and emphasized that she feels honored to share her story. Through this personal success story, Ms. Cloyd referenced personal experiences for all to gain an understanding of how her addiction led to her destiny; and reported that she is also known as destiny driven.

Ms. Cloyd highlighted her past growing up in Cleveland, Ohio and acting in the Summer Concept Young Scholars Program (CYSP) plays under the direction of an individual who would become the founder of the School of Arts, whereby plays, singing and dancing became her life. During this time, she won the best new performers award for the 1984/1985 season at Karamu House and went on to travel with different groups, choirs and bands; as well as record with various local artists. During this same timeframe she became a licensed cosmetologist. In 1995, she scored the highest in her travel and tourism class in Atlanta, Georgia and it was during this timeframe that her life went downhill. Through the initial assistance of Harbor Lights Detox on February 9, 1999; Ms. Cloyd gained hope and comfort as she was invited in for a chance to recover everything that she had lost as her journey into recovery began. In all, Ms. Cloyd shared the importance of developing self-understanding through times of difficulty and transition, to improve one’s health and wellness to live a self-directed life.

Rev. Gohlstin thanked Ms. Cloyd for her powerful presentation. Ms. Howard reported that Ms. Cloyd’s personal success story is a testament of the services provided; and affirmed the Faith-based Outreach Committee’s mission statement.

[Mr. Ashwani Bhardwaj entered the Zoom meeting.]

5. FAITH-BASED OUTREACH PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

Ms. Starlette Sizemore-Rice, Director of Special Projects, reported on the 1st Quarter Data Report, which is available on the Board's website and consists of 11 pages of in-depth analysis, measurements for all ten providers individually, plus combined data, and observations about 1st Quarter outcomes. Ms. Sizemore-Rice emphasized the mission statement for the faith-based initiative and introduced Mr. Tom Williams, Evaluation & Research Officer.

Mr. Williams reported that individuals are reviewing the 1st Quarter of data for 2021 and part of what is being done in the faith-based initiative is to look at a number of different programs. Due to the differences and ages of program participants, several measurement instruments are utilized. Through various charts, Mr. Thomas revealed combined results from all providers using the same measurement tool.

Mr. Williams highlighted that there are various means for measuring the effectiveness of these programs through three measurement instruments: Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA) Outcomes, Devereux Adult Resilience Survey (DARS) Outcomes and Quizzes/Evaluation, which includes Mental health First Aid (MHFA) and Awareness & Education.

The faith-based programming for children in grades K-12th is measured through the DESSA instrument by comparing a Pre assessment with a Post assessment. The DESSA web-based system is designed to help school and after-school program staff promote the healthy social-emotional development of all children. As there are differences between younger children and high school age children, two separate instruments have been developed for children in grades K-8 and the high school grades. The DESSA is a thorough assessment of the following social-emotional competencies: Self-awareness; Social-awareness; Self-management; Relationship Skills; Goal Directed Behavior; Personal Responsibility; Decision Making Skills; and Optimistic Thinking, which translates to a score and categorized through a numerical value. 60 and above indicate social and emotional "Strengths" showing children doing well; 40-59 indicate "Typical" positive behaviors for children; and 40 and below indicate "Need for Instruction" to further develop social and emotional skills.

Presently, the Board is receiving results of the DESSA MINI instrument that screens across the eight social-emotional competencies to identify generally whether children are in need for further social-emotional instruction. The expectation is that the programs provided by the three faith-based service providers using the instrument will show growth in social-emotional maturity, which may be attributed to their programs. A chart was referenced within the PowerPoint presentation that shows the number of clients completing the initial DESSA in Quarter 1 of 2021.

The faith-based program for adults demonstrates resiliency measured as Always (A), Sometimes (S), or Not Yet (N) through the 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. Mr. Williams highlighted that the chart provided reflected that 70% to 79% of individuals showed improvement in resilience for each of the subscales; and overall, 86% showed improvement in resilience in one or more the subscales.

MHFA is designed to teach individuals how to spot the signs and symptoms of mental illness and provide help on a first aid basis. Individuals who are participating in a MHFA training provided by a faith-based program provider are expected to successfully complete the course evaluation/quiz and score at least 60% based on the following topics: Helpful Things to Say; Myths and Facts-Suicide and Self-Injury; Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors; Panic Attacks; Traumatic Events; Auditory Hallucinations; Psychosis; and Substance Use Disorders. Participants demonstrated on a quiz a passing level of competence of 100%. No one participated in a MHFA program during the first Quarter of 2021.

The Awareness & Education programs are designed to present a variety of mental health and substance use knowledge to raise their level of education and awareness. These programs are being done by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Greater Cleveland and the Galilean Theological Center (GTC).

Ms. Sizemore-Rice reported on a variety of current highlights from each the 10 faith-based providers, which included the following:

- **99Treasures Arts & Culture**

Project Community Empowerment Holistic Solutions for Holistic Problems – Grassroots Saturday/Summer Program – Youth and high-risk youth that have had contact with the Juvenile Justice System. This program takes a human centered and spiritual approach in recovery, healing and providing program services.

99Treasures Arts & Culture has scheduled Summer Camp for June 21, 2021 with two days on site and two days virtual instruction. Paintings created by three youth were made into banners, which now hang from light poles on East 131st Street between Union and Miles. Youth/staff provided drumming and information at the Harvard Community Service Center in-person; and they have a grant funding opportunity through their collaborating partner, God Before Guns.

- **Brenda Glass Multipurpose Trauma Center**

The Brenda Glass Multipurpose Trauma Center offers spiritual counseling, peer spiritual support, care coordination, temporary safe shelter and mental health skill building to individuals and families who experience a violent crime.

Ms. Sizemore-Rice reported the final report, which indicates that they engaged 87 clients. The referring sources include: MetroHealth, University Hospitals, St. John West Shore, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office, FrontLine Service and May Dugan. Brenda Glass Multipurpose Trauma Center provided 450 sessions of individual mental health counseling and 460 individual spiritual counseling sessions. They provided a total of 565 engagements. The program assisted 28 families with safe shelter.

- **Faith Community Supportive Services**

The 2nd Chance Youth Program provides after-school services/support to high-risk youth and their families as an alternative to incarceration in the Juvenile Court – Juvenile Detention Center, plus services that prevent youth from entering the Juvenile Court system.

Faith Community Supportive Services is planning to offer a six week summer camp and is working to establish a Faith Community/Neighborhood Group Outreach Digital Network where churches/groups can share information and refer members to the ADAMHS Board treatment network.

- **Far West Center**

Far West Center's Bridge Program – Building bridges between the faith community and behavioral health providers – Establishing an ongoing "Bridge" relationship with congregations and their ministers.

This month has marked the beginning to plan for reopening as more individuals are immunized and the weather allows for more outdoor options. Four congregations and a residential community have continued interest in promoting the mental health of their people.

- **Galilean Theological Center**

The Galilean Theological Center has a Substance Use Disorders Educational & Training Program for Latinx Clergy & Church Leaders that addresses disparities and develops equity for the Latinx community of Northeast Ohio as it relates to substance use disorders and mental health challenges.

Component I *Spiritual Caregiving to Help Addicted Persons and Families* is complete. Out of 41 participants in the program (13 pastors, 28 church leaders and social service providers), 38 completed the first component successfully. 38 participants are eligible to participate in Component II, *CDCA Credentialing and Certification*. The goals and objectives were met for Component I and participants are eager to begin Component II.

- **Inner Healing Ministries**

Inner Healing Ministries' Student Training Outreach Prevention (S.T.O.P.) Program is designed to decrease risk factors and increase both internal and external protective factors in youth, young adults, adults and their families that are involved in the Criminal Justice System.

Most participants are in the online program, and one participates in the in-person program. Referrals are increasing as Probation Officers and participants become more comfortable with the S.T.O.P. virtual program. The program has increased the participants' understanding and participation in faith/spirituality.

- **Naaleh Cleveland**

Naaleh's High Risk Teen Mentorship Program provides a healthy and dependable role model to a struggling teenager to help them to find themselves during this pivotal and formative time of life.

One participant shared that ever since he started the program months ago, he has not had a depressive episode. His psychologist could not believe the participant's progress; and in his years of experience, had never witnessed so much progress in such a short amount of time. In the new Teen Initiative/Marathon Training, the youth are showing integrity and growth.

- **NAMI Greater Cleveland**

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Greater Cleveland's mission is to increase awareness of how mental health conditions affect everyday life and provide mental health education and support within faith-based communities for individuals with mental illness and their families.

NAMI Greater Cleveland had a Mental Health Awareness Campaign to reach underserved African American communities via billboards, posters, radio spots and social media ads that ended in April. They also had a webinar/panel discussion for faith leaders – Blessed Assurance; Leaning on Faith & Mental Health in the Black Church; and a MHFA training for the faith-based community was held at the Church of God in Christ.

- **OhioGuidestone**

OhioGuidestone incorporates a spiritual care component directly into their Workforce 360 Program as well as offering on-site individualized spiritual care services for participants to access as needed.

As of March 2021, they had 16 new clients enrolled. All participants completed the outcome tool. 23 of the total enrolled (26) received spiritual services. Three individuals received mental health and spiritual services.

- **Trinity Outreach Ministries**

Trinity Outreach Ministries' FAITH Program Inner City Youth and Families Cultural Arts Performance is an after school and weekend prevention program.

Their special chess and art class has resumed face-to-face. They have a new service – Friday Night at the Movies, which highlights positive family programming and includes performances or participation by some of their FAITH Program families. The number of views has grown to 500+. They remain thankful and appreciative for the opportunity to make an impact in 2021.

Ms. Sizemore-Rice thanked them for their collaborative efforts to partner with the Board. She also responded to questions from committee members. (The PowerPoint presentation and progress report are attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit and on the Board's website.)

Committee Member Input:

- Ms. Howard shared her appreciation for the reports provided by Mr. Williams and Ms. Sizemore-Rice and commended the partnering faith-based organizations for their creativity with providing services.

6. ELIMINATING STRUCTURAL RACISM BRAINSTORMING SESSION UPDATE

Ms. Sizemore-Rice reported that the faith community/organizations play an important role in their communities - counselors, advisors, etc.; and with that said, Board staff used this opportunity to get committee members input regarding Eliminating Structural Racism in Behavioral Health Care. To accomplish this, three random breakout groups were utilized during the Faith-based Outreach Committee meeting of Wednesday, April 7 2021, to discuss the following two questions:

1. Faith-based organizations have a unique position in their community. They often serve as “counselors, listeners and supporters” for people in crisis. In your experience, what have you heard, experienced, and learned about the impact of racism in Behavioral Health care?
2. As members of the faith-based community, what are your specific recommendations to address the racism and implicit bias within the delivery of Behavioral Health care?

Once the time allowance transpired, committee members were placed back into the Zoom meeting to discuss the results of the three breakout groups. Ms. Sizemore-Rice reported at that time that next steps would include a written report of these findings for committee member review at the next scheduled Faith-based Outreach Committee meeting as well as the Eliminating Structural Racism Work Group.

Ms. Sizemore-Rice shared a chart highlighting the Eliminating Structural Racism (ESR) in Behavioral Health Care Brainstorming session, which identified ideas/recommendations that were raised to be brought forth for further discussion and solutions; and responded to questions from committee members. (The chart is attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit.)

Committee Member Input:

- Ms. Howard commended Board staff for being proactive with moving forward with this endeavor; and reported that she was honored to attend the Cuyahoga County Diversion Center’s Ribbon Cutting ceremony.
- Rev. Gohlstin shared that he is not a proponent of the Juneteenth Celebration and highlighted that this day is a day in infamy in our history and should not be celebrated. He also noted that he agreed with the Board’s Juneteenth holiday due to Cuyahoga County Council’s recent passage of a similar Resolution. Ms. Howard responded that Rev. Gohlstin’s opinion is noteworthy and that individuals can have differing opinions as long as everyone is in the same book.
- Rev. Max Rodas reported that the Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center is commemorating, not celebrating, Juneteenth.

7. NEW BUSINESS - None

8. UPCOMING JUNE AND JULY BOARD MEETINGS:

- Planning & Oversight Committee Meeting: June 9, 2021
- Finance & Operations Committee Meeting: June 16, 2021
- General Meeting: June 23, 2021
- Community Relations & Advocacy Committee Meeting: July 7, 2021
- Planning & Oversight Committee Meeting: July 14, 2021
- Finance & Operations Committee Meeting: July 21, 2021
- General Meeting: July 28, 2021

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Submitted by: Linda Lamp, Executive Assistant

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