

Welcome New Board Members

Six new members have been appointed to the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County. Five of the six were sworn-in during the September 27, General Meeting and one was sworn-in during the October 25 meeting. **Three of the new members were appointments from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addictions Services (OhioMHAS) and three were appointed by the Cuyahoga County Executive Armond Budish.** We are pleased to **welcome these six new members to the ADAMHS Board!** Here's a bit more about each:

Erskine Cade was appointed to the ADAMHS Board by the Cuyahoga County Executive and will be sworn in at an upcoming ADAMHS Board General Meeting. He comes to the Board with extensive experience in healthcare and government relations. He is currently a partner at Strategic Health Care and for eight years from 2002-2010, he oversaw Key Corp's efforts on legislative and regulatory matters at the federal, state and local levels. Mr. Cade has served on various boards including The Centers for Families and Children, the Ohio United Way, and National Black MBA Association. He formerly served as a member of Ohio Governor Ted Strickland's Transition Committee for the Ohio Department of Commerce; chairman of the American Association of Blacks in Energy and as a member of the Ohio Lottery Commission.



Katie Kern Pilch

Katie Kern-Pilch, MA, ATR-BC, LPC-S, HLM (BATA) was appointed by OhioMHAS and has served as a community representative on the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County's Planning and Oversight Committee for the past four years. Ms. Kern-Pilch had a 31-year career in Trauma Recovery and Community Relations at Metro Health Medical Center as a counselor and Art Therapist. In addition to her work on the ADAMHS Board, she runs an art therapy counseling program for vulnerable children. She has spent her career working as an advocate for the most vulnerable in our community.

Reverend Max Rodas was appointed to the ADAMHS Board by the Cuyahoga County Executive. He is the Chief Executive Officer of the Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center, a faith-based organization whose mission is to challenge and end the cycle of poverty among Latino and other underserved individuals in the Grater Cleveland area through holistic and compassionate outreach. He is also the founder and Executive Director of Proyecto Luz, and HIV/AIDS, faith-based initiative on the west side of Cleveland. He has served on many boards including as Trustee of Mount Vernon Nazarene University, Cleveland Commissioner for Governors Strickland and Kasich on the Commission on Latino Affairs, and is a member of the Greater Cleveland Hispanic Roundtable. Reverend Rodas' experience in addressing the root causes of systemic inequities will serve the ADAMHS Board well.



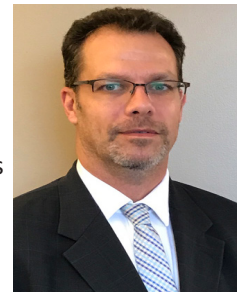
Rev. Max Rodas



Sharon Rosenbaum

Sharon Rosenbaum was appointed by OhioMHAS. Ms. Rosenbaum has served on multiple community boards including, Gross Schechter Day School, Orange Art Center, Magnolia Club House, Jewish Education Center Chaie Akira High School, Bellfare and Park Synagogue. She lives in recovery from mental illness and uses her experience to help others, advocate for improved policies and change the stigma surrounding mental illness. She has currently works as an artist after a long and successful career with General Electric.

Hugh Shannon was appointed to the ADAMHS Board by the Cuyahoga County Executive and has worked in various roles with the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office since 2011. The Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office plays a vital role in Cuyahoga County's opioid epidemic. Hugh's extensive public service history and understanding of this public health crisis from the medical examiner's office view will provide great insight to the Board and their decisions in combatting it.



Hugh Shannon



Mary Step

Mary Step, Ph.D. was appointed by OhioMHAS and has served on the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County's Planning and Oversight Committee since 2010. She lives in recovery from Alcoholism and has been strongly impacted by mental illness in a family member. She understands how important the ADAMHS Board is in designing effective community behavioral health policies and resources. In addition to her work with the ADAMHS Board, Dr. Step is an assistant professor of Social and Behavior Science at Kent State University.

ADAMHS Board Employee Highlight: John Coleman

John Coleman is the **Facilities Inspector** for the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County. He began working with the Mental Health Board and moved to the ADAMHS Board with the merger. He has been with these organizations in his role for the past 16 years. The ADAMHS Board is incredibly grateful to have such a dedicated and valuable employee.



John Coleman, Facilities Inspector

In this role, John completes **initial and annual health and safety inspections of any residential facility serving clients** in our system of care. He also performs **inspections for clients in our Housing Assistance Program (HAP)**. When asked what motivated him and what he like most about his work, his answer was, "Helping people." When asked what was most challenging he said, "Not being able to help everyone get everything they need, but I do the best I can."

John shared a few stories that have shaped his desire and taught him more about mental illness. At the center of all the stories he shared were people who needed help – one on hospice care and some with hoarding. He credits his peers with helping him truly understand the needs of our clients and how to best assist them.

John said, "instead of just looking for repairs or safety issues, I try to see the whole client." He often refers cases from inspection for other services – he truly goes above and beyond the scope in his job description. His supervisor, Michael K. Doud, says, "Having John on the team makes a huge difference, he is always willing to lend a hand. We appreciate his style of engagement with clients and some have shared with me that they look forward to his next visit. Staff enjoys his sense of humor and light mood that brightens everyone's day."

John lived through a personal tragedy in his family. Overcoming that challenge made him stronger and more compassionate. He talked about seeing things from the clients' perspectives, which furthered his genuine desire to make a difference for them. He credits his faith and his support system for helping him stay focused and getting through the rough times in life. When not at work, John loves spending time with his family and watching sports. He is grateful for the good things in his life and appreciates the challenges that made those things more clear.

"So often we think of leadership as someone at the top who is ordering other people around. Leadership is really about teaching people who thought they didn't have a voice to speak up about the things impacting their lives."

**- Barack Obama American Politician & 44th President
1961 - present**

Board Statement on Issue 2: The Ohio Drug Price Relief Act

On September 27, the ADAMHS Board passed **Resolution No. 17-09-01 confirming its statement on Issue 2: The Ohio Drug Price Relief Act** that will appear on the November 7 ballot. The purpose behind this ballot issue is to reduce the high prices of prescription drugs and save Ohio taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars. The Community Relations and Advocacy (CRA) Committee - after examining the pros and cons, proponents and opponents, as well as the position on Issue 2 that was adopted by the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) - determined that passage of Issue 2 would have a detrimental effect on the citizens of Ohio, especially for individuals relying on medication to obtain and maintain recovery from mental illness and/or addictions. Since Issue 2 does not contain clear implementation guidelines and passage could produce fiscal and legal challenges, including requiring the State to pay petitioners' reasonable attorney fees and other expenses, a consensus was reached that the ADAMHS Board should educate the community about Issue 2.

Here is the official statement from the ADAMHS Board on Issue 2: *The ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County supports ideas to decrease the cost of prescription medication for the citizens of Ohio, especially for individuals relying on medication to obtain and maintain recovery from mental illness and/or addictions. However, the Board believes that the proposed statute on state drug purchasing in Ohio is not a viable solution and if passed would not benefit the citizens of Ohio, but rather could produce fiscal and legal challenges. Since the statute does not include clear definitions or guidelines, implementation would be nearly impossible and potentially detrimental to clients trying to access critical, life-saving medications. This decision is consistent with the Board's efforts to educate the public, maintain costs and ensure treatment and recovery services for individuals living with mental illness and/or addictions.*

Cuyahoga County Council Budget Presentation

Valeria A. Harper, MA, CDCA, Chief Executive Officer, presented before the Cuyahoga County Council Committee of the Whole on October 19. She thanked the County Executive for not recommending a reduction in the Board's \$39 million allocation, but stressed that the Board's budget will be strained to maintain current programming. Ms. Harper also highlighted plans for the expansion of prevention and early intervention and talked about the increased number of uninsured citizens that would continue to be in need of treatment that would no longer be covered if Medicaid Expansion was altered or eliminated -- causing a shifting of Board dollars from needed recovery services to treatment services. She also stated that adequate funding is needed to provide mental health treatment and recovery support services – even in the midst of the heroin epidemic.

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Elsie Caraballo	Hugh Shannon
Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr.,	Harvey A. Snider, Esq.
Cassi Handler	Mary M. Step, Ph.D.
Katie Kern-Pilch, ATR-BC, LPC-S	Ericka L. Thoms
Steve Killpack, MS	

Valeria A. Harper, MA, CDCA, *Chief Executive Officer*

Over 360 Attended the ADAMHS Board Roads to Recovery '17 Conference

The ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County held its **Roads to Recovery Conference '17: Heading in the Right Direction to Attain Mental Health and Addiction Recovery on October 23**. The conference opened with an inspiring performance from the **Distinguished Gentlemen of Spoken Word**. The excerpt from the play, **"How to be a respectable Junkie,"** featured during the plenary session, was a gut-wrenching portrayal of living with a heroin addiction and provided a hopeful message of recovery. The more than 360 individuals in at the biannual conference that started in 2005 represented mental health and addiction treatment, recovery and prevention providers, social workers, counselors, nurses, psychologists, students and people in recovery and/or living with mental illness and/or addictions, as well as family members and friends.



Some of the Distinguished Gentlemen of Spoken Word - with Director Honey Bell Bey - who kicked-off the ADAMHS Board Roads to Recovery '17 Conference with an inspiring performance before a capacity-filled ballroom at the Marriott Cleveland Airport Hotel.

Actor Christopher Bohan portrays a young man addicted to heroin in the one-man play "How to be a Respectable Junkie" that left conference attendees full of hope - just like the character who was based on real-life events.



The ADAMHS Board On the Go:

- **Saturday, September 30, 2017 - Recovering Lives Matter Expo**

The ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County participated in the **Recovering Lives Matter Expo** was hosted by **Phase One Recovery For Women and Vet's Second Chance, Inc.** This event provided hope, resources and inspiration for individuals recovering and seeking a road to recovery from substance abuse and mental illness.

- **Sunday, October 1, 2017 - Epilepsy Association's eRace**

The **Epilepsy Association** hosted its **5th Annual eRace 5K & 1 Mile race** at Merwin's Wharf in the Flats. The event is part of the Association's Family Fun Day and featured games and food. The ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County was proud to sponsor this event that raises awareness of the special challenges of living with epilepsy and provides a venue for families to meet other families living with epilepsy, including families dealing with a mental health diagnosis.

- **Monday, October 2, 2017 - H.O.P.E.S Task Force Presentation**

Valeria A. Harper, MA, CDCA, Chief Executive Officer participated in Ohio's **Speaker of the House Cliff Rosenberger's (R- District 91) Task Force on H.O.P.E.S.** (Heroin, Opioids, Prevention, Education & Safety) Panel at MetroHealth Hospital. This panel included several State Representatives and local leaders in the fight against the opioid epidemic in Cuyahoga County. The event was hosted by **Representative David Greenspan (R - District 16)**.

- **Thursday, October 5, 2017 - Connections Annual Meeting**

Board Member **Harvey Snider** represented the ADAMHS Board at this event that was emceed by Monica Robins from WKYC, TV3 and featured a keynote from Kevin Hines, a suicide survivor, activist, storyteller and filmmaker.

- **Friday, October 6, 2017 - Mental Health & Addiction Advocacy Coalition**

The **Mental Health & Addiction Advocacy Coalition (MHAC)** annual **Public Officials Breakfast Reception** was held at Saucy Brew Works and celebrated the partnership of public servants with the providers of the Mental Health and Addiction fields. **Eugenia Kirkland**, Board Chair; Board Members **Sharon Rosenbaum** and **Elsie Caraballo**; **Valeria A. Harper, MA, CDCA, Chief Executive Officer** and **Scott Osiecki**, Chief of External Affairs represented the ADAMHS Board at this event.

Sen. Kenny Yuko (D) District 25 with Elsie Caraballo



Valeria A. Harper; Sharon Rosenbaum; Armond Budish, County Administrator; and Eugenia Kirkland



Rep. Nicholas Celebrezze (D) District 15; Valeria A. Harper; Rep. Marlene Anielski (R) District 6 and Nickie J. Antonio (D) District 13



County Councilman Dale Miller (D) District 2 with Maureen Dee, Executive Director, Catholic Charities Corporation



Sen. Sandra Williams (D) District 21; Sharon Rosenbaum and Valeria A. Harper

- **Tuesday, October 10, 2017 - The Centers Annual Luncheon**

The Centers hosted their annual luncheon that featured a powerful keynote by Ron Powers, author of *No One Cares About Crazy People: The Chaos & Heartbreak of Mental Health in America*. Mr. Powers discussed not only the changing landscape of mental health services and stigma but his own experience following his son's suicide. The ADAMHS Board was represented at this event by **Eugenia Kirkland**, Board Chair; **Sharon Rosenbaum**, Board Member; **Scott Osiecki**, Chief of External Affairs; **Beth Zietlow-DeJesus**, External Affairs Officer and **Linda Lamp**, Executive Assistant.

- **Wednesday, October 11, 2017 – Heroin, Fentanyl and Carfentanil: The Triple Threat on Our Doorstep**



The Triple Threat Panel

Valeria A. Harper, MA, CDCA, Chief Executive Officer participated in the **Heroin, Fentanyl and Carfentanil: The Triple Threat on Our Doorstep** panel discussion at Lutheran Hospital. In addition to the expert panel and community Q&A session, the event had a resource fair where the Board had a table. Other panel members included: **The Most Reverend Nelson J. Perez**, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland; The Honorable Joan Synenberg, Judge, Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, and **Justin Seabury Gould**, Assistant United States Attorney. The event was moderated by **Donald A. Malone Jr.**, MD. President, Cleveland Clinic Lutheran Hospital, Professor and Chair, Department of Psychiatry and Psychology.

- **Friday, October 13, 2017 - Caritas: Celebration of St. Vincent Charity in Cleveland**

Former Board CEO William M. Denihan was honored with the **St. Vincent de Paul Award at Caritas**. This fun-filled evening celebrated those who go above and beyond to help the most vulnerable in our community. Proceeds from this event will be dedicated to the expansion

of St. Vincent Charity's addiction treatment services at Rosary Hall. **Eugenia Kirkland**, Board Chair, **Katie Kern-Pilch**, Board Member and **Valeria A. Harper**, MA, CDCA, Chief Executive Officer represented the Board on this evening.

- **Sunday, October 22, 2017 - Nalleh (Rise Together) & Yesh Tikvah (There is Hope)**

This event provided an evening of mental health awareness and unity and empowered individuals to be a source of strength and support for people close to them living with mental and emotional challenges. The evening included keynote address of understanding, encouragement and inspiration from internationally acclaimed Rabbi Shapiro, and a presentation about the state of mental health - especially in the Jewish Community - and how Naaleh and Yesh Tikvah can help. **Katie Kern-Pilch**, Board Member; **Valeria A. Harper**, MA, CDCA, Chief Executive Officer; **Star Sizemore Rice**, Public Benefits Administrator and Faith-based Project Coordinator, **Robin DeFleice**, Receptionist and Advocate, and several of the Board's Faith-based providers attended this event.



This beautiful and meaningful mural depicting hope for people living with heroin addiction - commissioned by the ADAMHS Board - is on display at 1981 East 55th Street. Our Facebook Live video post of the unveiling reached more than 7,300 people.

"Treatment Works, People Recover" Mural Unveiled

The ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County unveiled its "Treatment Works, People Recover" mural at 1981 East 55th Street on September 29 to visually promote prevention and education about the dangers of heroin and other drugs, reduce the stigma of seeking treatment, start public discussion and celebrate recovery through public art.

As deaths from opioid, heroin and fentanyl overdose continue to plague our community, and stigma remains a barrier to accessing treatment, the Board is striving to ignite change through public art. This mural is the culmination of a prevention pilot program funded by the Board and led by **Rickey Lewis of Lewis Art** called "I Care About My Life and I Care About Your Life." Valeria A. Harper, MA, CDCA, Chief Executive Officer explains, "This beautiful mural is a visual tool to stimulate conversations and explore solutions to society-wide challenges, especially the current heroin crisis. It is our hope that

this mural will generate dialogue, build new relationships and empower individuals and communities to share stories of addiction and recovery; honor lives lost to opiate/heroin/fentanyl addiction; and, provide hope to those addicted by celebrating recovery."

Mr. Lewis added. "This mural reflects a beautiful transition from hope and treatment to freedom from addiction through recovery."

The woman in the mural illustrates turning towards freedom from addiction and the faces behind her depict that addiction does not discriminate. The location was chosen with the help of Midtown Cleveland and was selected based on the busy location.

A mural with a similar message has been completed on panels and the ADAMHS Board is hoping to identify a location to install the mural on the west side of Cleveland. If you are interested in having the mural on your west side building, contact Beth Zietlow-DeJesus, External Affairs Officer at the ADAMHS Board, at 216-479-3264.

As of October 25, Valeria A. Harper, MA, CDCA, has been the Chief Executive Officer of the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County for 86 Days!