

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

FAITH-BASED OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES OCTOBER 6, 2021

Committee Members Present: Gwendolyn A. Howard, LSW, MSSA, Committee Chair, Patricia James-Stewart, M.Ed., LSW

Absent: Ashwani Bhardwaj, Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., Rev. Max M. Rodas, MA, Mary R. Warr, M.Ed., Rev. Brenda Ware-Abrams

Board Staff Present: Scott Osiecki, Chief Executive Officer, Carole Ballard, Christina Bohuslawsky-Brown, Danielle Clark, Tami Fischer, Anthony Henderson, Woo Jun, Linda Lamp, Nancy Mundy, Vicki Roemer, Clare Rosser, Tom Williams, Beth Zietlow-DeJesus

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Gwendolyn Howard, Faith-based Outreach Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. Ms. Patricia James-Stewart 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. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS** – None.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Due to the lack of quorum, the Faith-based Outreach Committee minutes of June 2, 2021 were tabled for approval at a later date.

4. **FAITH-BASED OUTREACH PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT**

Ms. Clare Rosser, Chief Public Affairs Officer, presented the Faith-based Initiative 2021 Quarter 2 Report and provided accolades to Ms. Starlette Sizemore-Rice, Director of Special Projects, for her efforts with putting this information together and guiding the entire program. She reported that this report contains an in-depth analysis of information that was submitted by each of the provider agencies. The full report is available on the ADAMHS Board’s website.

Ms. Rosser emphasized the mission for the faith-based initiative as follows:

- Recognize and advocate spirituality in the recovery process;
- Connect the spiritual perspective with other interventions and best practices; and
- Promote the concept that treatment works and people recover.

Ms. Rosser stated that this report included cumulative data trends and provider program highlights spanning Quarter 1 and Quarter 2. She noted a program change. The contract for Brenda Glass Multi-Purpose Trauma Center ended April 2021. Ms. Rosser reported that individuals are reviewing the 2nd 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, Ms. Rosser revealed combined results from all providers using the same measurement tool.

Ms. Rosser 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.

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. Ms. Rosser highlighted that the chart provided reflected that 83% to 86% of individuals showed improvement in resilience for each of the subscales; and overall, 91% 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. However, the percentage of individuals passing the MHFA Quiz from the six Far West clients and the eight National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Greater Cleveland clients in the Second Quarter was 100%.

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 Far West Bridges Program, NAMI Greater Cleveland and the Galilean Theological Center (GTC).

Ms. Rosser reported on a variety of current highlights from each the 9 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.

Ms. Rosser highlighted that a parent volunteer, who is herself in recovery, received her master’s degree in Social Work from Ohio State University in May. She began with 99Treasures Arts & Culture as a youth and later became a client as an adult. 99Treasures Arts & Culture were also featured on “Kickin’ It With Kenny” Fox8 and on WEWS Channel 5 as part of their “A Better Land” series. They also scheduled an Art Sale Fundraiser for October 29-30, 2021, at 13815 Kinsman, Cleveland.

- **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 working with parents/court officials to get youth needed mental health/addiction services and vocational skills. Staff are taking services to people in neighborhood and communities. The Community Partnership had 25 individuals in attendance at their first meeting.

- **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.

The Bridge Program has conducted a fully booked on-site MHFA course, participated in a prayer breakfast with clergy that provided an opportunity to network with additional community congregations and continues to maintain contact via various formats whether it be live, phone, email or zoom. Congregations and a spiritually based 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.

Three Substance Abuse Treatment Centers have reached out to participants regarding an internship and possible permanent employment upon successful completion of program. 35 participants have completed the total required 54 training hours – Component I and II. 12 of the 35 participants met requirements for CDCA (Chemical Dependency Counselor Assistant-Preliminary Level Certification) and the required paperwork was submitted.

- **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.

The S.T.O.P. Program has been conducting marketing and outreach to several municipal courts, middle/high schools and youth/adult serving organizations. The DARS surveys with a graph of their individual DARS 1 and DARS 2 scores were shared with participants and they made the program flexible for participants who had work conflicts.

- **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.

Marathon participants completed their final marathon and accomplished their goal of finishing six while maintaining their sobriety together. Naaleh Cleveland, family and peers celebrated as one of the program participants completed one full year of sobriety. A participant who previously could not hold a job for more than two days just completed a full two months at his job and is thriving.

- **NAMI Greater Cleveland**

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 resumed in-person support groups at three area churches – vaccinated/mask required. Staff have hosted "LIGHTen the Load" - Interfaith Conversation on Mental Health/panel discussion that included representatives from the Jewish, Buddhist and Christian faiths and held a Mental Health Education and Awareness event in collaboration with Cleveland Ibn Sina Center that serves Cleveland's Muslim Community.

- **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.

OhioGuidestone is developing spiritual reflection content to be offered on a private YouTube channel in order to increase client engagement and just recently launched another cohort group of new clients. They have continued to provide spiritual care and mental health services in a hybrid online/in-person format. Ten received MH/Spiritual Services - 58 of the 68 received Spiritual Services – four Expanded Chaplain Engagements.

- **Trinity Outreach Ministries**

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

The FAITH Program Inner City Youth and Families Cultural Arts Performance was successful in continuing the Facebook Streaming Story Time for families on Wednesdays at Family First and Sunday mornings with hundreds of viewers. They launched their Summer FEST of Events - fun, fitness, encouragement, and art appreciation; witnessed 5000+ views on their Virtual Programming; continue services primarily through virtual and tele prevention services and facilitated priority linkage to and/ or transportation to COVID-19 vaccination sites.

5. PROGRAM PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS

- Galilean Theological Center Substance Use Disorders Educational & Training Program for Latinx Clergy & Church Leaders

Rev. Felix Muniz, Executive Director of the Galilean Theological Center, presented on the Substance Use Disorders Educational & Training Program for Latinx Clergy & Church Leaders. He reported that the 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.

Since the inception of the program in 2007, GTC has reached Pastors, Church Leaders and students in Northeast Ohio. Rev. Muniz brought several individuals who have benefited from this program; including a Pastor that earned his CDCA credentials.

- The FAITH Program Inner City Youth and Families Cultural Arts Performance

Dr. Deborah Watson-Daniels, Program Director of Trinity Outreach Ministries, presented on the FAITH Program Inner City Youth and Families Cultural Arts performance. She stated that The FAITH Program is an afterschool and weekend prevention program that provides a holistic culturally sensitive faith-based approach to early intervention. This program strengthens resiliency with inner city youth from utilizing drugs and/or alcohol by using a variety of performing arts, cultural arts appreciation, community outreach and leadership skill-building activities to demonstrate, per the DESSA outcomes, that youth significantly improved in their social emotional learning skills; which sets the stage for academic improvement and overall success.

Dr. Watson-Daniels shared a video highlighting various artists' activities such as student animation projects. (The PowerPoint presentation is attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit.)

Committee Member Input:

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

6. NEW BUSINESS – None.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Ms. Howard stated that she is appreciative of all in attendance, thanked all for their steadfastness and requested everyone to continue their commitment to assist anyone in need.

8. UPCOMING OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER BOARD MEETINGS:

- Committee of the Whole Meeting: October 20, 2021
- General Meeting: October 27, 2021
- Community Relations & Advocacy Committee Meeting: November 3, 2021
- Committee of the Whole Meeting: November 10, 2021
- General Meeting: November 17, 2021

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Submitted by: Linda Lamp, Executive Assistant

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