

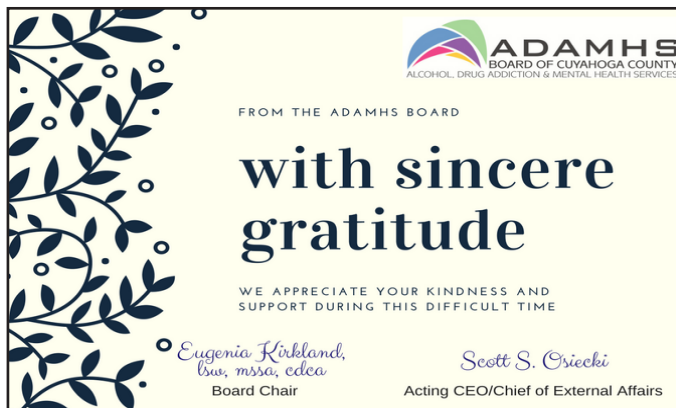
The Passing of Valeria A. Harper, MA, CDCA

It is with great sadness and broken hearts that the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County acknowledges the untimely passing of its Chief Executive Officer, **Valeria A. Harper, MA, CDCA**.

Ms. Harper was a staunch advocate for those living with mental illness and substance use disorders in Cuyahoga County for more than 35 years and had been serving as the Board's Chief Executive Officer since August 1, 2017. She was passionate about her work, but more precious to her than anything else in this world was her family. She was a devoted and loving mother, grandmother, family member, friend and sorority sister to so many. The loss of Ms. Harper is indescribable.

The ADAMHS Board is grateful to the community for its outpouring of support during this trying time. As Valeria recently said, "The community is our greatest asset in addressing the disparities in treatment for those living with mental illness and addiction and in lifting up all those in recovery. When we come together, we can make greatness happen." She was a wise and wonderful woman and the Board will carry her message forward in all of its work.

Per the By-Laws of the ADAMHS Board, the Executive Committee met and designated an Acting Chief Executive Officer. The Board has chosen Scott S. Osiecki, who has been with the Board for more than 20 years and also serves as its Chief of External Affairs.



The outpouring of support from the community has been overwhelming. We are eternally grateful for all the condolences, well-wishes and kind words.

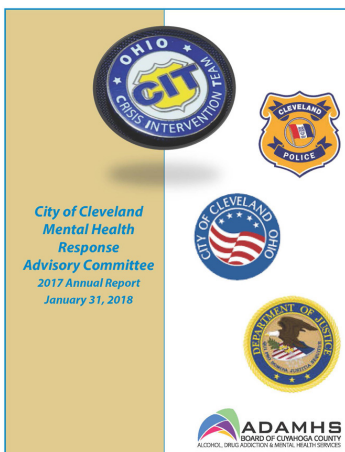
Sincerely,

The ADAMHS Board

Mental Health Response Advisory Committee 2017 Annual Report

As required by the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Cleveland and the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County, the Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC) has developed its 2017 Annual Report. This report was submitted to the ADAMHS Board and the City of Cleveland, as well as the community on January 31.

The report is posted on the home page of the ADAMHS Board website: www.adamhsc.org.



"All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence."

Martin Luther King, Jr.
Baptist Minister & Activist
(1929 – 1968)

Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)

The ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County received a SAMHSA grant to develop an AOT team in collaboration with the Cuyahoga Probate Court and Frontline Services that is open to Cuyahoga residents who are under commitment at any local hospital or in the community (formally, the ADAMHS Board had a small Outpatient Commitment program that was limited to our State hospital).

The main goal of AOT is to provide assistance in helping to improve the person's quality of life and adherence to a treatment plan. The treatment plan is based on the person's needs and includes services to be provided in an outpatient setting.

This service (AOT) will be delivered by utilizing an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team which is an evidence-based practice. Using an ACT team will allow the treatment providers to provide comprehensive services to persons with SMI (Severe Mental Illness) who are under a civil commitment to the Cuyahoga County ADAMHS Board and are living in the Community.

This is a team effort. It not only involves the Frontline AOT team and ADAMHS Board, but requires close collaboration and team work with Cuyahoga Probate Court, CMHAs, and our local hospitals. As of December 2017, Maggie Tolbert is representing the ADAMHS Board along with Melissa Longstreth (Frontline-AOT team), and John Spiccia (Cuyahoga Probate Court) on the ACT Team. They have conducted over 11 trainings and presentations regarding AOT – the who, what, and how.

If you know of someone who could benefit from AOT do not hesitate to contact:

Maggie Tolbert, RN
Utilization Review Specialist
ADAMHS Board
(216)241-3400, x 729

Melissa A. Longstreth LISW-S
Associate Director of ACT
(216)703-5245
(216)241-3400, x 729

John C. Spiccia
Cuyahoga County Probate Court,
Psychiatric Magistrate
(216)443-7585
(216)241-3400, x 729

TABLE 2. Evidence of AOT's clinical effectiveness

Decreases seen in:

- Psychiatric admissions
- Duration of stays
- Emergency department visits
- Arrests
- Incarcerations
- Days of homelessness
- Substance abuse
- Medication nonadherence
- Victimization
- Violent behavior

AOT, assisted outpatient treatment.

Opioid Crisis: Managing Opioid Turbulence



Scott S. Osiecki, ADAMHS Board Acting CEO & Chief of External Affairs presented on the heroin crisis and joined the panel discussion.

State Representative John E. Barnes, Pepper Pike Mayor Richard Bain and the ADAMHS Board sponsored a community forum on the **Opioid Crisis: Managing Opioid Turbulence**. The event was held at **Ursuline College on January 22, 2018**.

Acting CEO Scott S. Osiecki gave a presentation on the current epidemic we are facing locally and how the ADAMHS Board is providing funding and access to necessary support, treatment and recovery services. This presentation opened up a panel discussion with the audience about opioid addiction, the crisis at hand, treatment options and support available to those who living with substance use disorders and continued the conversation about how we can come together to manage the turbulence created by this crisis.

Nearly 60 people attended this event.

Frank Brickner bids the ADAMHS Board Farewell

Since 2013, Frank Brickner has served as the Chief Financial Officer at the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County. Frank has been a dedicated public servant and his integrity has served the ADAMHS Board well.

Prior to his work at the Board, Frank had 18 years of experience in workforce development and served as a business serviced manager of the County's workforce program.

We wish Frank all the best as he being is new role at the Chief Financial Officer of the Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Workforce Development Board of Ohio Means Jobs.

Cassandra Richardson, who retired from the Board, is serving as the Interim CFO.

Board of Directors

Eugenia Kirkland, LSW, MSSA, CDCA, *Chair*
J. Robert Fowler, Ph.D., *Vice Chair*
Pythias D. Jones, M.D. *Second Vice Chair*

Reginald C. Blue, Ph.D.	Max M. Rodas, MA
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Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr.,	Hugh B. Shannon
Cassi Handler	Harvey A. Snider, Esq.
Katie Kern-Pilch, ATR-BC, LPC-S	Mary M. Step, Ph.D.
Steve Killpack, MS	Ericka L. Thoms

Scott S. Osiecki, Acting *Chief Executive Officer*



Linda Torbert got a photo op with her favorite weatherman, Michael Estime

Visit to WKYC, Channel 3: Suicide Prevention

Linda Torbert, MSSA, LISW-S, the Children's Projects Administrator and Beth Zietlow-DeJesus, External Affairs Officer were engaged in a suicide prevention meeting with WKYC and partners from Life ACT, Frontline Services and NAMI of Greater Cleveland.

Responsible reporting on suicide is key in suicide prevention. WKYC took the time to meet with us to better understand the best ways to report about suicide and how to include suicide prevention efforts in their work. They want to be partners in reducing suicide as the second leading cause of death in Ohio.

WKYC deserves a round of applause from all of us in the behavioral health community for the efforts to report responsibly.



Linda Torbert, MSSA, LISW-S, Children's Behavioral Health Services Administrator and Beth Zietlow-DeJesus, External Affairs Officer, sitting at the WKYC News Desk

ADAMHS Board Staff On The Move!

At the end of December, **Danei Chavez retired** from the ADAMHS Board after 11 years of dedicated service. During her time with the board she served as Behavioral Health Prevention Specialist and was responsible for early childhood mental health, prevention programming and school-based care. She also served on the Suicide Prevention Coalition and the Infant Mortality Case Review Board at the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office. Danei was always willing to assist others and had a driving passion for her work. **All of us at the ADAMHS Board will miss her enthusiasm, especially for helping others.**

Tonya Birney, formerly the ADAMHS Board Training Officer, is the new Behavioral Health Prevention Specialist. Tonya has been with the ADAMHS Board since its inception and served with the previous Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board prior to the merger since September of 2000. Tonya is a licensed professional counselor, a licensed independent chemical dependency counselor and an Ohio certified prevention consultant with more than 20 years of experience. She is a valuable employee and we wish her the best of luck in her new role with the ADAMHS Board. **We would like to congratulate Tonya on her new position!**

The Training Officer position is currently vacant and all Training Institute questions can be referred to External Affairs Officer Beth DeJesus. The Winter Training Institute brochure can be found on our website at www.adamhsc.org.

Diane Taylor, our Adult Behavioral Health Specialist II, resigned from the ADAMHS Board to take a position as the **Deputy Director of The Erie and Ottawa Counties Mental Health and Recovery Board.** We wish Diane all the best in her new position!

This position is currently vacant and has been posted for internal applicants at this time.

It is with great pleasure that we announce **Robin DeFleice** is the **Administrative Assistant for the External Affairs, Finance and QI/Evaluation and Research Units.** Robin has graced our reception desk for the past year and we are excited to welcome her in her new position.

Taking Robin's place at the front desk will be **Lasenia Scott.** Ms. Scott is excited to join the ADAMHS Board team and has extensive

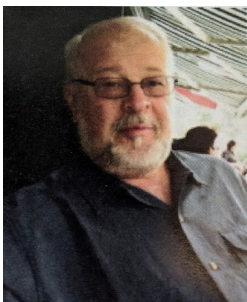
Well-Wishes to Bert Rahl on his Retirement

Bert S. Rahl is the Director of the Mental Health Program at Eldercare Services Institute, LLC and has worked at the Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging for more than 35 years. He has been a close partner of the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County and has served on various committees including The Council of Agency Directors, The Suicide Prevention Committee, The Hoarding Connection, The Adult Protective Services Steering Committee and the Mental Health Advocacy Committee. Mr. Rahl also sits on the Board of the Supplemental Care Services Association.

Mr. Rahl is an expert in his field and has extensive experience working with people living with mental illness. Prior to his work with the Mental Health Program, he was a social worker and a Mental Health Case Manager. He has been a staunch advocate for the elderly, especially those living with mental illness. **Bert has dedicated his career to helping others. All of us at the ADAMHS Board would like to thank him for his service and wish him a wonderful and well-deserved retirement.**



Bert S. Rahl



The Passing of Michael J. Stringer

Michael J. Stringer served as the **Criminal Justice Consultant for the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County** for many years. He was an advocate for those living with mental illness and/or addictions and their families. We are truly grateful for Mr. Stringer's dedication to those we serve. The ADAMHS Board extends sincere condolences to Mr. Stringer's family during this difficult time.

ADAMHS Board On the Go Highlights!

January 22-26: Crisis Intervention Training for Officers from Multiple Departments

Carole Ballard, MSSA, LISW, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Program Officer, provided CIT training to officers from seven local police departments: **Lakewood, Bay Village, North Olmsted, Cleveland MetroParks, Rocky River** and **Westlake**. CIT provides officers and other first responders with the skills they need to assist during a mental health or addiction crisis. They learn de-escalation techniques as well as best practices in crisis response. The ADAMHS Board applauds all departments that integrate CIT for their officers.



Officers from the Westshore Communities and the MetroParks recently received CIT Training from the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County.

In the News...

Scott Osiecki interviewed with WCPN to discuss the passing of Ms. Harper and the Board's transition to his leadership as Acting CEO. This aired during their morning community report.

Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., Board Member; **Starlette Sizemore-Rice**, Public Benefits Administrator; **Scott Osiecki**, Acting CEO, and **Rev. Andrea Jacobs, MDIV, BCC**, Director of Spiritual Care for OhioGuidestone were interviewed on **Missions** on Heavenly Host Internet Radio for a full hour to discuss the ADAMHS Board Faith-based Initiative. Listen to the whole segment here (*There is silence at the beginning of this link, so just be patient!*): <https://www.mixcloud.com/HeavenlyHostsRadio/missions-12018-adamhs-board/>.

Channel 5 News reporter, Meg Shaw, interviewed **Scott Osiecki** about legislation (House Bill 457) that was introduced to the house in late December (*The segment has not yet been aired*). **HB 457** would require anyone on parole who tested positive for heroin, fentanyl or carfentanil be immediately **jailed or sent to mandatory residential treatment for 30 days at the State's expense**. We know that jail is not conducive to treatment or recovery. We are also concerned that people already waiting to get into residential treatment will be bumped from their place in line and that residential treatment may not be the best choice. **Good intentions aside, this legislation would put undue burden on jails and residential treatment centers with little impact on increasing recovery from substance use disorders.**

Ascent Earns Large Grant from Third Frontier to Aid Addiction Recovery

Ohio Third Frontier, a commission of the State of Ohio's Development Services Agency, is committed to transforming the state's economy through the accelerated growth of diverse startup and early stage technology companies.

Ascent, an online service that connects recovering addicts to peer coaches and resources, was recently awarded \$464,000 from the Ohio Third Frontier Commission to create a new app. This is a Cleveland company that receives funding from the

ascent

ADAMHS Board. Ascent is developing an app to help those who are recovering from addiction. Peer support is essential for recovery from addiction. People living in recovery need support to get and stay clean and sober. This app will provide peer support 24-hours a day to anyone in need. This is going to give those recovering from addiction a better chance at long-term recovery.

We want to congratulate everyone at Ascent for their hard work and innovation as they prepare to launch their app. For more information on this app follow them on social media @_Ascent_ or visit their website: ascent.org/launch.

Call for Artists: 2018 Client Artwork Display Program

The ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County is **calling for artists** to display their artwork as part of the **2018 Client Artwork Display Program**. This Program:

- Showcases Client and Consumer Artwork
- Highlights Provider Agencies
- Recognizes the Benefits of Art Therapy
- Celebrates the Recovering Community

Sample of Client Artwork Submission:
Photograph by Robin D.



Each month, two-dimensional artwork (paintings, sketches, drawings, etc.) created by clients within the ADAMHS Board system will be featured in the Ohio Room at the ADAMHS Board's offices. Artwork from different artists will be displayed each month and exhibit months are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. **To participate in this program, please complete the application posted on our website: www.adamhsc.org.**