

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

## FAITH-BASED OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES FEBRUARY 1, 2023

**Committee Members Present:** Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., Committee Chair, Patricia James-Stewart, M.Ed., LSW, Rev. Brenda Ware-Abrams, Mary R. Warr, M.Ed.

**Absent:** Ashwani Bhardwaj, Rev. Max M. Rodas, MA

**Board Staff Present:** Scott Osiecki, Chief Executive Officer, Carole Ballard, Anthony Henderson, Woo Jun, Linda Lamp, Clare Rosser, Jessica Saker, Starlette Sizemore

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., Faith-based Outreach Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

### **2. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

No public comment on agenda items was received.

### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Faith-based Outreach Committee minutes of June 1, 2022 were approved as submitted.

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

Ms. Starlette Sizemore, Director of Special Projects, reported that the Third Quarter Report contains 10 pages of in-depth analysis of information that includes measurements for all eight faith-based providers individually, plus combined data; along with observations about outcomes. Ms. Sizemore thanked Mr. Anthony Henderson, Chief Compliance Officer, and Mr. Thomas Williams, Evaluation and Research Officer, for their efforts with gathering the data. The full report is available on the ADAMHS Board's website.

Ms. Sizemore stated that the mission of the Faith-based outreach initiative is to 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. Due to program differences and ages of program participants, several measurement instruments were used. A chart was shared that showed combined results from all providers using the same measurement tool. The grand total of individuals served for all eight faith-based providers in 2022 was 619; and the expected annual total was 864.

Ms. Sizemore 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), and Quizzes/Evaluation, which includes Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) and Awareness & Education. Ms. Sizemore shared that for the first three quarters, the breakdown of individuals served in each of the measurement instruments included the following: DESSA 123 individuals, DARS 291 individuals, MHFA 34 individuals, and Awareness and Education 171 individuals, for a total of 619 individuals.

The faith-based programming for children in grades K-12<sup>th</sup> 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 is 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. Sizemore highlighted that the chart provided reflected that overall, 68% to 78% of individuals showed improvement in resilience for each of the subscales; and overall, 81% showed improvement in resilience in one or more of 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 2022; however, in the Second Quarter Far West Center had eight individuals and in the Third Quarter had 11 individuals and National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Greater Cleveland had 15 individuals in the Second Quarter and no individuals in the Third Quarter.

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). The total number of individuals for each of the faith-based providers for the first three quarters is as follows: Far West Bridges Program 18 individuals, NAMI Greater Cleveland 100 individuals and GTC 53 individuals.

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

- **99Treasures Arts & Culture – Project Community Empowerment Holistic Solutions for Holistic Problems**  
Project Community Empowerment Holistic Solutions for Holistic Problems is a grassroots Saturday/Summer Program for 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. Sizemore highlighted that 99Treasures Arts & Culture youth researched gun violence and the consequences of firearms. She shared that they provided socialization activities in two Housing and Urban Development (HUD) facilities for senior citizens and that a board-certified psychologist is on staff to do assessments and make recommendations.

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

The Bridges Program has completed the last session of a four-part Bridges series at Bay Presbyterian. Bridges Program staff have also provided an educational session at the Westlake Community Center entitled "Coping with the Stress of the Holidays" and participated in a community outreach presentation at Dr. Martin Luther Evangelist Church regarding cultural diversity.

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

47 individuals successfully completed Component I – Spiritual Caregiving to Help Addicted Persons and Families. Component II – Chemical Dependency Counselor Assistant (CDCA) – Licensing and Credentialing – 23 individuals

are certified as CDCA and 23 individuals are certified as CDCA Preliminary. Overall, 25% of the participants are employed in treatment facilities and others are seeking employment in this field.

▪ **Kingdom Developers Consulting – Strength to Obtain Purpose (STOP)**

The STOP Program assists individuals in overcoming adversity experienced in early life. The aim of the program is to reduce risk taking behaviors including the use of alcohol and other drugs, criminal activity and engaging in any behavior that could jeopardize one's future. The STOP program serves at-risk youth in grades K-12, families and adults involved with the criminal justice system.

The STOP Program is in two schools, Invictus East High School and Franklin Delano Roosevelt Academy. In Invictus High School, all campus programming was suspended until January 2023. STOP Program staff will follow-up with the Family Liaison to provide tangible resources for students. In Franklin Delano Roosevelt Academy STOP Program staff will provide consultation with school psychologist regarding Social Emotional Learning needs and Social Support Team meetings.

▪ **Naaleh Cleveland – High Risk Mentorship Program**

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

Five participants from last year, who were heavily involved with substance use and engaging in high-risk behaviors, are all sustaining sobriety. Mentors are helping youth find part-time employment; and have provided daily social skill group activities, group fitness and wellness activities that focused on building resilience.

▪ **NAMI Greater Cleveland – Faith-based Project**

NAMI Greater Cleveland increases 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 has in-person support groups at Bay Village Presbyterian Church, St. Joseph Church in Strongsville and Grace Church. They are also transitioning the Faith Program to the new Community Education and Outreach Coordinator.

▪ **OhioGuidestone – Workforce 360 Program**

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

The Workforce 360 Program currently has one individual that has newly accessed mental health services (23 individuals total), 23 individuals that have received mental health services and spiritual services, 80 individuals that have only received spiritual services and one individual that has received expanded Chaplain engagements (16 individuals total).

▪ **Trinity Outreach Ministries – FAITH Program Inner City Youth and Families Cultural Arts Performance**

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

Families supported each other toward healthy choices and family sobriety. At least 25 families participated in providing special bags to homeless men and women; and families reported that they appreciated the FAITH Program of 2022 and look forward to starting back in 2023.

Ms. Sizemore responded to questions from the Board of Directors present. She also noted that the detailed Faith-based Programs Performance Outcomes 2022 Third Quarter Report and Faith-based Outreach Initiative Program Progress Report can be reviewed for additional detail; and reiterated that these detailed reports are provided on the Board's website. (The

PowerPoint presentation and detailed Third Quarter Report are attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit.)

## 5. PROGRAM PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS

- GTC – Substance Use Disorders Educational & Training Program for Latinx Clergy & Church Leaders

Rev. Dr. Felix Muniz, Executive Director of GTC, reported that 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. Their goal is to provide ministerial training and sound theological education to Hispanic/Latino church leaders who generally do not have access to traditional theological institutions due to language barriers, socio-economic status and/or formal education. GTC has a partnership with Ashland Theological Seminary with the purpose to train men and women for bachelor exempt status for application to the master's program.

The GTC Substance Use Disorders Educational & Training Program for Latinx Clergy & Church Leaders has two components with the following learning objectives:

Component I. Spiritual Caregiving to Help Addicted Persons and Families (21 hours)

Participants learn to:

1. Recognize addiction
2. Provide pastoral/care of addicted persons and families
3. Gain self-understanding/understanding of prevention strategies
4. Understand the role of the community in recovery from addiction
5. Meet requirements to be certified as CDCA by the Ohio Chemical Dependency Professional Board

Component II. Licensing & Credentialing (40 hours)

Participants trained in:

1. Theories of addiction
2. Counseling procedures & strategies with addicted populations
3. Group process & techniques
4. Assessment & diagnosis of addiction
5. Treatment planning
6. Ethics

Rev. Dr. Muniz reported that GTC's goal was to enroll, train and educate 40 pastors & church leaders in substance use disorders in 2022; and shared the following:

- 53 participants were registered for the program
- 47 participants completed Component I and moved on to Component II.
- All 47 participants successfully completed both Components I & II
- 24 participants are certified as CDCA
- 23 participants are certified as CDCA Preliminary
- 25% of participants are currently employed in treatment facilities

Rev. Dr. Muniz shared that this program can be enriched if they add a component on evaluating racial trauma, conflict intervention and conflict management (coming in 2023). He reported that GTC has become a referral source for employment at treatment facilities and social service agencies. Rev. Dr. Muniz responded to any questions the Board of Directors had. (The PowerPoint presentation is attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit.)

- It's Not a Moment. It's a Movement (INAMIAM)

Pastor Kyle Earley, Chief Executive Officer and Founder of INAMIAM, reported that INAMIAM was formed in 2018 with the mission to increase awareness, educate, and promote action-focused strategies for policy change and community connections through community-organized leadership, training, and culturally appropriate services. INAMIAM is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization servicing Northeast Ohio.

INAMIAM Programs include the Youth Empowerment Program (YEP), Activist Academy and The Faith Movement (TFM). YEP has offered services to over 400 students in Akron Public Schools for six years. They are currently in six buildings improving school climate and family life through:

- Mental Health Prevention and Education
- Academic Enrichment
- Health & Wellness

Activist Academy provides skill-building and guidance for emerging leaders to take on new responsibilities and stand in the spotlight as effective advocates for their communities. TFM provides faith leaders with tools and resources necessary for developing Mental Health Ministries aimed at reducing the stigma of mental illness and integrating the important role of spirituality within the treatment and recovery process. Program Initiatives include the following:

- Gas On God
- TFM Voter Engagement Program
- Opioid Harm Reduction
- Mentally Mangled Mental Health Summit

Pastor Earley shared the following as to why this program is needed:

- 23% of pastors acknowledge they have personally struggled with a mental illness.
- 49% of pastors say they rarely or never speak to their congregation about mental illness.
- 65% of churchgoing family members of those with mental illness want their church to talk openly about mental illness.
- 76% of churchgoers say suicide is a problem that needs to be addressed in their community.
- 70% of pastors feel unequipped to help congregants deal with matters of mental or emotional health.
- Only 27% have a plan to assist families affected by mental illness; and of those, only 21 percent of family members are aware of the plan in place.
- Only 14% of churches have a counselor skilled in mental illness on staff, or trained leaders who know how to recognize mental illness.

Paster Earley also reported on the Mentally Mangled Mental Health Summit. He reported that the Summit had 83 attendees. Over 85% expressed interest in developing a mental health ministry, 90% feel unequipped to establish or sustain mental health ministries in their church, 90% expressed a need for training and technical assistance to increase mental health awareness, 80% desired continued conversations and seek connections to counseling services for themselves and members of their institutions of faith and 45% have never attended counseling due to stigmas associated with mental health. Paster Kyle Earley responded to any questions the Board of Directors had. (The PowerPoint presentation is attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit.)

## **6. SPONSORSHIP: IMPACT OF POLICE USE OF FORCE ON THE MENTAL HEALTH OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY**

Mr. Scott Osiecki, Chief Executive Officer, reported that the Cleveland Community Police Commission (CPC) was established to provide community input on police policies to help strengthen relationships between officers and the communities they serve. Better policies will help ensure policing in Cleveland is safe, effective, and that people's civil rights are upheld. The CPC was established in 2015 as part of the terms of the Consent Decree between the City of Cleveland and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). Following an investigation, the DOJ determined there was a pattern of excessive force used by the Cleveland Division of Police (CDP). These findings were documented in the DOJ's findings letter. The Consent Decree outlined the work that needed to be done so CDP policies, practices and procedures comply with Constitutional law.

The American Psychiatric Association (APA) recognizes the profoundly negative impact that police brutality on Black males has on their mental health, as well as the mental health of the Black community [and] encourages initiatives that foster direct collaboration between law enforcement and Black communities in order to engender trust, cooperation, and understanding. The CPC is dedicated to bringing information and education on the status of Black mental well-being and establish access to treatment and care for the mental health, bodies and souls of the Black community before, during and after traumatic police encounters. Community partners that support the event include: Cleveland City Council; National Congress of Black Women; Greater Cleveland Pastor's Association; Fatherhood Initiative; Cleveland Municipal School District; Akron University; Cleveland State University; National Center for Urban Solutions; Spread the Love Foundation; CEO 360; Angelo Miller Foundation; African American Men's Wellness Agency; Alpha Pi Alpha Fraternity, Delta Alpha Lambda Chapter; Project Lift; Black Lives Matter; Cuyahoga County Community College; Murtis Taylor; WOJU 95.9 Radio; Omega Fraternity; YWCA; Ghetto Therapy; Citizens for a Safer Cleveland, and Serenity Health & Wellness Corporation. Funding is also being requested from: St. Luke's Foundation; HealthComp; Woodruff Foundation; MetroHealth; Cleveland Foundation and the Fowler Foundation.

Sponsorship of *The Impact of Police Use of Force on the Mental Health of the Black Community* aligns with the ADAMHS Board's faith-based and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives and continued work with the Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC) and law enforcement to reimagine and reshape our mental health, addiction and recovery network into an equity-based system of inclusion.

*The Impact of Police Use of Force on the Mental Health of the Black Community* is a series of mini conversations that will be held from March through May 2023 that will culminate in a larger Community Conversation in July 2023, that is being sponsored by the Cleveland Police Commission:

- o March 23, 2023 Conversation Focus: Black Women - You Are My Sister. Hosted By: YWCA Greater Cleveland
- o April 29, 2023 Conversation Focus: Black Men - Real Men Real Talk. Hosted by: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity - Delta Alpha Lambda (Cleveland Chapter)
- o May 2023 Conversation Focus: Black Youth - For Our Future. Hosted by: Tri-C
- o July 2023 Combined Large Conversation - The Conversation: How Police Violence and Brutality Impacts the Black Community Conversation. Hosted by Black Lives Matter Cleveland, Citizens for a Safer Cleveland and The Angelo Miller Foundation

This series of conversations will look at the ways in which police policies and practices, including use of force, affects the mental and physical health of Black men, Black women and Black youth. These conversations will focus on presenting data, listening to attendees' lived experiences, and providing resources to develop solutions. Information gathered from this event will be documented, researched and analyzed in a continuing effort to gather more evidence to help inform better police training, practices and policies in Cleveland. These efforts will also be a source of information on how to connect to resources to begin building healthy Black men, and by extension, families and community including the men and women who serve as law enforcement officers. This conversation will aim to look at some of the ways in which police use of force affects the mental and physical health of Black communities and especially Black men including the impact of years of life lost in the community, adverse mental health impact from direct and indirect exposure, and public "safety" as detrimental to public health.

After the Community Conversation and through August 31, 2024, attendees will be able to access mental health counseling and other support at no cost. The CPC is requesting \$25,000 from the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County to serve as a sponsor to defray costs associated with *The Impact of Police Use of Force on the Mental Health of the Black Community*. As a sponsor, the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County will be identified as a sponsor on printed and digital materials, participate in the planning of the Community Conversation, and present a break-out session during the Community Conversation. The Community Conversation is expected to attract 500 individuals and will include continental breakfast, keynote speaker, break-out sessions, lunch, a closing with a local or national talent and comments by the Cleveland CPC. The CPC is also requesting \$50,000 of new pooled funding from the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County to be drawn down to cover the cost of mental health and other related services for attendees through August 31, 2024 – with a referral for continued services as needed. Some of the services may be billable under insurance from provider agencies, while the pooled funding would cover services for the uninsured, as well as services that are not billable under insurance. Ms.

Shaleneh Williams, MA, Community Engagement & Project Coordinator of the Cleveland CPC, was present to respond to any questions the Board of Directors had.

**Motion to approve \$25,000 to serve as a sponsor of *The Impact of Police Use of Force on the Mental Health of the Black Community* to defray costs associated with hosting the event and to approve \$50,000 of new pooled funding to be drawn down to cover the cost of mental health and other related services for attendees through August 31, 2024 to the Planning & Oversight Committee.** MOTION: P. James-Stewart / SECOND: M. Warr / AYES: P. James-Stewart, B. Ware-Abrams, M. Warr / NAYS: None / ABSTAIN: None / **Motion passed.**

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was received.

**8. FOLLOW-UP**

No follow-up was received.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No public comment was received.

**10. UPCOMING FEBRUARY AND MARCH BOARD MEETINGS:**

- Planning & Oversight Committee Meeting: February 8, 2023
- Finance & Operations Committee Meeting: February 15, 2023
- General Meeting: February 22, 2023
- Community Relations & Advocacy Committee Meeting: March 1, 2023
- Nominating Committee Meeting: March 8, 2023
- Planning & Oversight Committee Meeting: March 8, 2023
- Finance & Operations Committee Meeting: March 15, 2023
- General Meeting: March 22, 2023

***There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.***

***Submitted by: Linda Lamp, Executive Assistant***

***Approved by: Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., Faith-based Outreach Committee Chair***