

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

FAITH-BASED OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES OCTOBER 4, 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

Board Staff Present: Scott Osiecki, Chief Executive Officer, Carole Ballard, Woo Jun, Linda Lamp, Tiffany Ponds-Kimbrow, Jessica Saker, Starlette Sizemore, Joicelyn Weems

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 7, 2023 were approved as submitted.

4. **THE IMPACT OF POLICE USE OF FORCE ON THE MENTAL HEALTH OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY UPDATE**

Ms. Shaleneh Williams, BA, MA, Community Engagement and Project Manager and Creator, Cleveland Community Police Commission, 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 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 Metropolitan School District; The University of Akron; 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 Community College; Murtis Taylor Human Services System; WOVU 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; The MetroHealth System; 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 was a series of mini conversations that were held from March through May 2023; and culminated in a larger Community Conversation in July 2023, that was sponsored by the CPC:

- 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 looked 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 have focused on presenting data, listening to attendees' lived experiences, and providing resources to develop solutions. Information gathered from these events were 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 were also 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 aimed 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 requested \$25,000 from the ADAMHS Board 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 was identified as a sponsor on printed and digital materials, participated in the planning of the Community Conversation, and presented a break-out session during the Community Conversation. The CPC will also receive \$50,000 of new pooled funding from the ADAMHS Board 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. Williams thanked the Board for their support of the conversation series; and highlighted that the Board's support definitely assisted them to achieve the mission for the project, which was to bring awareness and education on the status of Black mental wellbeing and also to provide access for treatment and therapy. This sponsorship also helped them to begin to actualize their vision to have dialogue with the Black population to help them to begin to organically advocate against systems that have historically treated them unfairly. Ms. Williams shared that she is proud to report that throughout this conversation series, they were able to touch more than 350 individuals. Also, during the conversation that was had on July 28, 2023; producer, director and owner of MadWerkz Studios, Mr. Joddy Eric Matthews, was present and captured the entire final conversation on film; and has included this as part of an Apple TV documentary on activism in Cleveland. Ms. Williams shared this video with all in attendance.

Rev. Gohlstin reported that this conversation series has transcended the local sphere resonating with a broader national audience. Also, 70 individuals have expressed an interest and signed up for therapy. The initial goal was to collect 300 completed surveys; and thus far 100 have been obtained, with the hope to increase the database to ensure robust statistical results of the data collection. The data collection deadline was extended to Tuesday, October 31, 2023. The final report that is being conducted by The University of Akron was originally scheduled for October 2023, however, will now be January 31, 2024.

5. FAITH-BASED OUTREACH PROGRAM 2023 1-2 QUARTER REPORT / CURRENT STATUS HIGHLIGHTS

Ms. Starlette Sizemore, Director of Special Projects, reported that the 2023 1-2 Quarter Report contains 11 pages of in-depth analysis of information that includes measurements for all seven providers individually, plus combined data; along with observations about outcomes. 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 seven faith-based providers year to date was 690; and the expected annual total was 785.

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. 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 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 during the first and second quarters of 2023, the aggregate improvement on DARS scores for all providers was 188 individuals for the first time, and 163 individuals for a second time. This allowed for the analysis of outcomes from this tool. Overall, 94% of clients assessed at Board providers improved in at least one aspect of the DARS assessment (in comparison to their first assessment). Further, 87% improved in relationship scores, 83% improved in initiative scores, and 80% improved in internal belief and self-control scores.

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 80% 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 82% during the First Quarter of 2023. No one participated in a MHFA program during the Second Quarter of 2023.

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 National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Greater Cleveland (GC) and the Galilean Theological Center (GTC).

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

▪ **99Treasures Arts & Culture – Holistic Solutions for Holistic Problems Initiative**

Holistic Solutions for Holistic Problems initiative provides a base-strategic program and art activities that aid an intergenerational population; and provides a human-centered and spiritual approach for clients using holistic, culturally specific and interfaith services. This initiative also provides an innovative, therapeutic year-round out-of-school-time program and a summer camp.

Ms. Sizemore highlighted that 23 individuals received their Peace Camp Program certifications; six participants maintained their sobriety along with a teen and participants drummed at the *Night Out Against Crime* event at Luke Easter Park.

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

GTC has a Substance Use Disorders Educational and Training Program for Latinx Clergy and 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.

GTC held *Spiritual Caregiving to Help Addicted Persons and Families*; with 52 registrants and 43 successfully completed this component. Credentialing and Certification had 43 active participants. They also held *Integrated Management of Psychological Trauma & Interpersonal*; and 43 participants completed this component.

▪ **It's Not A Moment, It's a Movement**

The Faith Movement provides faith leaders of all races and denominations with tools for developing Mental Health Ministries aimed at reducing the stigma of mental illness and investing in the important role of spirituality in the treatment and recovery process. It's Not A Moment, It's a Movement serves 50 faith leaders.

It's Not A Moment, It's a Movement held the following events:

- Met program conference goal of 100 individuals, which included the *Mentally Mangled Mental Health Summit*.
- Faith trainings were held in August 2023
- *Mentally Mangled Mental Health Tour* was held in September and October 2023
- Collaborated with Serenity House and Right Direction Behavioral Health Services

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

Naaleh's High Risk Teen Mentorship Program provides mentorship to struggling teens in the community that are having a difficult time with substance use, mental health issues, and family dysfunction. They work on building self-esteem and self-confidence through learning life skills and physical fitness.

Naaleh Cleveland's peer support increased self-advocacy and peer leadership. They increased gym attendance and team partnerships around planning for the summer/school year and delegated leadership roles to older members of the group – form of mentorship for younger participants.

▪ **NAMI GC**

NAMI GC builds relationships with faith-based organizations and increases support, education and referrals around mental health and substance abuse issues in community churches by building support groups/partnerships, and by providing an understanding of mental/behavioral health and dual diagnosis.

NAMI GC held three trainings. The first training was Understanding Mental Illness with 20 participants at Lyndhurst Community of Faith Church. The second training was an Understanding Mental Illness presentation in Spanish during September 2023 at AVIVA Church. The third training, *How Faith Communities Can Support Individuals with Mental Illness*, had 53 participants.

▪ **OhioGuidestone – Workforce 360°**

The Workforce 360° Faith-based Services Program utilizes spiritual care as a bridge to mental health services and uses both group and individual sessions to promote resiliency, supportive relationships and healthy coping mechanisms to prevent and mitigate mental health and substance use disorders. A Community Chaplain collaborates with staff to provide resources and support in the classroom and in situations of crisis, high emotion and life decisions.

Utilizing Spiritual Care as a Bridge to Mental Health Services reported the following:

- # newly access mental health services – 3 individuals this month, 13 individuals in total
- # received mental health services and spiritual services – 13 individuals
- # only received spiritual services – 58 individuals

- Expanded Chaplain engagements – 2 individuals this month, 8 individuals in total

- **Trinity Outreach Ministries – Another Chance Of Ohio**

Inner City Youth and Families Cultural Arts Program provides prevention programs to children in the Family First Childcare Center and families and youth attending Trinity Outreach Ministries, Holy Trinity Church and the Cultural Arts Center. The program provides family fitness, music classes, facilitates spiritual and character development, cultural or performing arts classes and community outreach.

The Faith Program distributed 200 bags of supplies to kids in foster care and other residential facilities. The graduates from local colleges joined the music activities and assisted with the weekly performances; and the program participants provided meals for the homeless and learned skills of hospitality and kindness.

Ms. Sizemore responded to questions from the Board Directors present. She also noted that the detailed Faith-based Outreach Program 2023 1-2 Quarter Report/Current Status Highlights can be reviewed for additional detail; and reiterated that these detailed reports are provided on the Board's website. (The PowerPoint presentation and detailed Faith-based Outreach Program 2023 1-2 Quarter Report are attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit.)

6. PROGRAM PROVIDER PRESENTATION

- **99Treasures Arts & Culture – Holistic Solutions for Holistic Programs Initiative**

Ms. Raj Roberson, Program Director, reported that 99Treasures Arts and Culture specializes in art projects such as the curation of corporate office spaces, Arts4Peace Gallery Walls, and unique art for the home. Artwork is produced by youth and a professional artist. She reported that their mission is to provide Arts and Culture awareness to the underserved African American community, and others, S.T.E.A.M. through art, artistic skill development, entrepreneurial training, reading and life skills. In addition, host events and special programs to help gain exposure for individuals in the community. Their vision is to be a socially active, community-based organization that is committed to the optimal well-being of their community. This is accomplished through their intergenerational multi-faceted curriculum. Through the Arts, they will enrich the quality of life for talented and emerging artists/entrepreneurs in their community.

99Treasures Arts & Culture, Inc., in collaboration with Coalition for a Better Life, dba Peace in the Hood, Inc., and 99 Treasures international has been providing consistent programming to underserved populations from varying ethnic neighbors for 31 years. Most of their participants are gang involved or at risk of becoming gang involved youth and their families. The agency has provided 31 years of consistent out-of-school-time programming and 26 years of summer Peace Camps.

Team members are trained in trauma informed and culturally competent services. Their team includes board members, volunteers and full-time staff. They have six social workers, a board-certified psychologist, a certified teacher, art therapist, an experienced statistician, entrepreneurship instructor, certified Rites of Passage instructor, three trauma trained street outreach workers, an experienced holistic nutrition expert, two nurses and a retired physician. Their team members are diverse in ethnicity and spiritual preferences. All of their program staff have a minimum of a bachelor's degree and three have their master's degrees. They work with other agencies/therapists to coordinate services as needed; and they also participate in any meetings, if requested, and their client signs a release of information for that agency.

Ms. Roberson reported that their team believes in collaboration and working together to address the challenges facing the community. She stated that they are members of the Ohio Afterschool Network, the Mt. Pleasant/Lee/Harvard MyCom Collaborative, the Shurah Council of Greater Cleveland, the Cuyahoga County Trauma Collaborative, the Cuyahoga County Opiate Task Force, Tea Time for Peace, the Cuyahoga County Suicide Prevention Coalition and the Eliminating Structural Racism Advisory Group. They are also one of the founding members (and still active) of the S.T.A.N.C.E. Committee (Stand Together Against Neighborhood Crime Everyday) of the United States District Attorney for Northeast Ohio as well as the Prevention subcommittee.

Some members of their team are members of the Association of Black Psychologists, National Association of Black Social Workers, Cleveland State Alumni Association, Tulane University Alumni Association, Bowling Green Alumni Association, Northwest Neighborhood Association, Children's Defense Fund and the First District Community Relations Group.

Ms. Roberson shared that 99Treasures Arts & Culture, Inc., had 51 original pieces of artwork on display at the Cleveland Public Library - Mt. Pleasant Branch in preparation of their art unveiling, which will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2023. They also hosted monthly community family art classes at the library – Painting for Peace. They also entered into a new partnership to increase dietary knowledge and the benefits of healthy eating with a nutritional consultant. (The PowerPoint presentation is attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit.)

7. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was received.

8. FOLLOW-UP

OhioGuidestone – Workforce 360° – Faith-based Services Program Statistics

Ms. Sizemore shared OhioGuidestone's Workforce 360° data. 80% of the 91 participants found employment. 90% of the individuals were African-American, 5% were Hispanic/Latino/Latina and 5% were other ethnicities. 75% were female and 25% male. Individuals are working at Amazon, Alcon Industries, Inc., University Hospitals, Cleveland Clinic, Frontier Airlines, Liberty Labor, ABM Industries, Greater Achievement Child Enrichment Center and The Heights Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center.

Rev. Gohlstin requested all of the faith-based provider agencies present to provide comments regarding expectations; and an analysis of what they have completed thus far in 2023.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comment was received.

10. UPCOMING OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER BOARD MEETINGS:

- Committee of the Whole Meeting: October 18, 2023
- General Meeting: October 25, 2023 at May Dugan Center, 4115 Bridge Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44113
- Community Relations & Advocacy Committee Meeting: November 1, 2023
- Committee of the Whole Meeting: November 8, 2023
- General Meeting: November 15, 2023

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Submitted by: Linda Lamp, Executive Assistant

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