

**ALCOHOL, DRUG ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**MARCH 20, 2024**

**Committee Members Present:** James T. Dixon, Committee Chair, Reginald C. Blue, Ph.D., Erskine Cade, MBA, J. Robert Fowler, Ph.D., Katie Kern-Pilch, MA, ATR-BC, LPC-S, Harvey A. Snider, Esq. / **Absent:** Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr.

**Board Staff Present:** Scott Osiecki, Chief Executive Officer, Ian Jameson, Woo Jun, Linda Lamp, Joicelyn Weems

**1. Call to Order**

James Dixon, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

**2. Public Comment on Agenda Items**

There was no public comment on agenda items.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the April 26, 2023 Nominating Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

**4. Status of ADAMHS Board of Director Appointment Term Roster**

Mr. Woo Jun, Chief Operating Officer, referenced numerous documents detailing a review of ADAMHS Board of Director Appointments. These documents included the following:

- A reference document titled "Recruitment of ADAMHS Board of Directors Policy"
- Board of Directors' Appointment Term Roster
- Board of Directors Composition

Mr. Jun reported that the purpose of the Recruitment of ADAMHS Board of Directors Policy is to help enlist qualified and committed individuals who are demographically representative of the population of Cuyahoga County to serve as Directors on the ADAMHS Board for state and county appointments. It is the policy of the ADAMHS Board that candidates for Board of Directors should reflect demographically the community of Cuyahoga County and the ADAMHS Board Nominating Committee will be authorized to make recommendations for Director positions of the ADAMHS Board for state and county appointments. This policy shall be utilized whenever a Director's vacancy occurs or upon the need for a new Director to replace a Director who is not in good standing as a result of the failure to attend meetings as prescribed in the Ohio Revised Code (ORC).

Mr. Jun provided an update on the ADAMHS Board of Director Appointment Term Roster. He discussed the Recruitment of ADAMHS Board of Directors Policy, examined both County and State appointments and reappointments, and presented the current composition breakdown of the Board of Directors.

The requirements per ORC §340.02; stipulate that at least one Board member shall fill each of the six categories listed:

- A clinician with experience in the delivery of mental health services
- At least one person who has received or is receiving mental health services
- At least one person who is a parent or other relative of a person has received or is receiving mental health services
- A clinician with experience in the delivery of addiction services
- At least one person who has received or is receiving addiction services
- At least one person who is a parent or other relative of a person has received or is receiving addiction services

The category of "At least one person who has received or is receiving mental health services" is currently vacant.

Mr. Snider asked whether the ADAMHS Board is required to inform the Cuyahoga County Council and the County Executive about the current absence of county appointments on the Board, resulting from Board Director resignations,

and emphasized the need for greater stability. J. Robert Fowler, Ph.D., Board Chair, stated that he is drafting a letter to the County Executive to propose a collaborative approach regarding Cuyahoga County appointments. Dr. Fowler mentioned that he will distribute the draft communication to the entire Board for their review.

Ms. Katie Kern-Pilch highlighted the minutes dated April 26, 2023, wherein the Nominating Committee conducted interviews with candidates for the previous state appointment vacancy and the Cuyahoga County vacancies. As a result of this process, the Nominating Committee members recommended three potential Board Director candidates to Cuyahoga County for appointment, which received full Board approval. Following the Nominating Committee's discussion regarding the continued interest of three former potential Board Director candidates, it was decided that Ms. Linda Lamp, Executive Assistant, would reach out to these individuals to ascertain their continued interest in serving as a Board Director.

**Motion to seek approval to submit the three recommended appointments, should they still express interest, from the 2023 Board Director interview process to Cuyahoga County for consideration.** MOTION: R. Blue / SECOND: R. Fowler / AYES: R. Blue, E. Cade, R. Fowler, K. Kern-Pilch, H. Snider / NAYS: None / ABSTAIN: None / **Motion passed.**

### **5. Reappointment Recommendations for Two County Appointments and Two State Appointments**

The Board of Directors' Appointment Term Roster was reviewed. Currently, the ADAMHS Board of Directors comprises seven African Americans, one Asian, and six Caucasians. Presently, there are four vacant seats on the Cuyahoga County Board of Directors. According to the shared information, committee members noted that four Board of Director appointments will expire on Thursday, June 30, 2024. Among these, two appointments are from Cuyahoga County, Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., and Bishara W. Addison. Rev. Gohlstin will conclude his second term as a Cuyahoga County appointee. Despite completing his second term as a county appointee on June 30, 2024, Rev. Gohlstin remains eligible for reappointment since his initial term was only 21 months. Pursuant to ORC 340.02(D), he "may serve for three consecutive terms under the same appointing authority only if one of the terms is for less than two years." Also, Bishara W. Addison will be completing her first term as a Cuyahoga County appointment.

Furthermore, two appointments that are made through the State, specifically by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), will be expiring on June 30, 2024, Mr. Steve Killpack, MS, and Mr. Ashwani Bhardwaj. Mr. Killpack and Mr. Bhardwaj will conclude their initial term as State appointees. Historically, the ADAMHS Board has the authority to recommend Board Director candidates for reappointment to the respective appointing authorities; however, the decision to reappoint lies solely with the appointing authorities, and there is no assurance that these individuals will be reappointed.

Dr. Fowler shared that he has requested that correspondence be forwarded to County Executive Chris Ronayne to request that Rev. Gohlstin and Ms. Addison be reappointed for an additional four year term. Their passion to serve others, leadership experience and wealth of knowledge would continue to be an asset to the ADAMHS Board and the citizens of Cuyahoga County, especially in the realm of behavioral health and addiction treatment and recovery services.

Based upon the Nominating Committee's review of the ADAMHS Board of Director Appointment Term Roster, Nominating Committee members reached consensus that Ms. Linda Lamp, Executive Assistant, will assist identified Board Directors regarding their interest in serving an additional term through their respective appointing authority.

### **6. Nomination Slate of Board Officers for FY2025-FY2026**

Ms. Lamp referenced the tentative timeline prepared for the work of the Nominating Committee. She noted that historically the Nominating Committee has solicited input from Board members regarding their interest in serving as an ADAMHS Board Officer. A draft memorandum explaining the process and Form of Intent questions were reviewed. The deadline of Friday, April 26, 2024, for completing and submitting a Form of Intent was agreed upon. (The ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County, Proposed Timeline for Nomination of FY2025-FY2026 Board Officers is attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit.)

According to ADAMHS Board Bylaws, the Nominating Committee's charge is to announce the recommended Slate of Officers for a two-year term at the May General Meeting scheduled for May 22, 2024. Ms. Lamp further added that this is the only opportunity, per the Bylaws, to receive nominations from the floor. Discussion followed.

Committee members agreed that:

- 1) If a nomination is received from the floor, the candidate will be required to complete and submit the Form of Intent by the end of the business day on Tuesday, May 28, 2024.
- 2) If the required form is received by the deadline, the candidate, nominated from the floor, will be added to the ballot to be voted upon at the General Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 26, 2024.

**Motion to request permission to send a Letter of Intent on Monday, April 1, 2024, to all ADAMHS Board Directors, inquiring about their willingness to serve as a Board Officer for a two-year period.** MOTION: R. Blue / SECOND: H. Snider / AYES: R. Blue, E. Cade, R. Fowler, K. Kern-Pilch, H. Snider / 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 March and April Board Meetings:**

- Finance & Oversight Committee Meeting: March 20, 2024
- General Meeting: March 27, 2024
- Faith-based Outreach Committee Meeting: April 3, 2024
- Nominating Committee Meeting: April 10, 2024
- Finance & Oversight Committee Meeting: April 10, 2024
- General Meeting: April 17, 2024

***There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m.***

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

***Approved by: James T. Dixon, Nominating Committee Chair***