



FAITH-BASED OUTREACH COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026

4:00 P.M.

2012 West 25th Street, United Bank Building / 6th Floor - Ohio Room

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.

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order** – Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., Committee Chair
2. **Public Comment on Agenda Items** – Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** June 4, 2025 – Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr.
4. **Acknowledgement of Service: Mary Warr, M.Ed.** – Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr.
5. **Discussion: 2026/2027 Faith-based Outreach Program/Initiatives**
6. **New Business**
7. **Follow-up**
8. **Public Comment Period**
9. **Upcoming February and March Board Meetings:**
 - Finance & Oversight Committee Meeting: February 18, 2026
 - General Meeting: February 25, 2026
 - Community Relations & Advocacy Committee Meeting: March 4, 2026
 - Ad Hoc Continuum of Care Committee Meeting: March 11, 2026
 - Nominating Committee Meeting: March 18, 2026
 - Finance & Oversight Committee Meeting: March 18, 2026
 - General Meeting: March 25, 2026

Faith-based Outreach Committee

Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., Committee Chair

Patricia James-Stewart, M.Ed., LSW, Committee Vice Chair

Ashwani Bhardwaj ◻ Dr. Benjamin Franklin, Jr. ◻ Charles Garven, M.D. ◻ Linda D. Johaneck

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

FAITH-BASED OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES

JUNE 4, 2025

Committee Members Present: Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., Committee Chair, Dr. Benjamin Franklin, Jr., Patricia James-Stewart, M.Ed., LSW,

Absent: Ashwani Bhardwaj, Mary R. Warr, M.Ed.

Board Staff Present: Scott S. Osiecki, Chief Executive Officer, Sarah Adkins, Latoya Hunter Hayes, Ian Jameson, Linda Lamp, Jessica Saker

1. CALL TO ORDER

Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., Faith-based Outreach Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:02 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

No public comment on agenda items was received.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Faith-based Outreach Committee minutes of June 5, 2024 were approved as submitted.

4. INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

Rev. Gohlstin introduced Dr. Benjamin Franklin, Jr., Senior Pastor of Inner Healing Ministries Church. Dr. Franklin expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve as a Community Representative on the Faith-based Outreach Committee and shared that he looks forward to working collaboratively with all involved. He noted that he has been blessed to be previously associated with the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board for approximately five or six years through his work with a program, describing the experience as very positive. He expressed his sincere appreciation for the opportunity to continue serving in this new capacity.

5. VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING DISCUSSION AND DRAFT POLICY

Ms. Latoya Hunter Hayes, Chief of External Affairs, shared that Ohio House Bill (HB) 257, introduced during the 135th General Assembly, authorizes certain public bodies to conduct meetings virtually through teleconference, video conference, or similar electronic technologies. This legislation aims to enhance participation by allowing Board Directors and the public to attend meetings remotely.

The bill was sponsored by State Representatives Jim Hoops and Thad Claggett. It progressed through the legislative process, passing both the House and Senate with near-unanimous support. Governor Mike DeWine signed the bill into law on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, and it was scheduled to take effect on Wednesday, April 9, 2025.

Under HB 257, eligible public bodies are permitted to hold virtual meetings, as long as they comply with Ohio's Sunshine Laws, which mandate transparency and public access. This change is anticipated to boost public participation and improve attendance from Board Directors, creating a more accessible and efficient meeting environment.

Ms. Hunter Hayes reported that over the past few months, a draft policy had been presented to the Board of Directors, and feedback received was incorporated into a revised version for further discussion. Ms. Jess Saker, Director of Information Technology (I.T.), provided an update on the impact of recent legislation on the Board's operations. She noted that, in response to the new legal requirements, staff had developed a Virtual Board Meeting Policy. The draft policy is designed

to ensure compliance with the updated legislation while enhancing the accessibility and effectiveness of virtual meetings. The policy aims to support a seamless and transparent virtual meeting experience for both Directors and the public.

Ms. Saker went into significant detail about the key revised provisions of the policy, emphasizing its purpose to establish clear guidelines for conducting ADAMHS Board of Director meetings virtually only in the event of an emergency. She highlighted that the draft policy not only addresses technical aspects, such as the required use of Zoom for virtual meetings, but also outlines procedures for public access, participation, and decorum. The new revised draft policy ensures that by implementing these guidelines, the Board aims to preserve transparency, efficiency and access to public meetings under emergency conditions and/or special circumstances.

Additionally, Ms. Saker reviewed the definition of an emergency as outlined in the policy. For the purposes of this policy, an emergency is defined as any of the following conditions: inclement weather that makes travel to the meeting location hazardous; a power or internet outage at ADAMHS Board property; building construction, repairs, or damage that prohibit the use of in-person meeting space; or any other situation declared an emergency by the Board Chair.

Ms. Saker reported on the policy statements regarding the emergency use of virtual meetings. She stated that the ADAMHS Board may conduct a virtual General Meeting only during an emergency, as defined previously. The decision to hold a meeting virtually will be made by the Board Chair, in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer, with appropriate notice provided. Virtual meetings will adhere to the structure and participation guidelines outlined in the policy to ensure accessibility and transparency.

Furthermore, Ms. Saker explained that the draft policy addresses other critical areas, such as voting procedures, meeting recordings, and restrictions on virtual meetings, ensuring that the Board operates with full transparency and in compliance with all relevant laws. The goal, as outlined in the policy, is to create an inclusive environment where all stakeholders can participate effectively in Board meetings, even in a virtual setting. Ms. Saker's presentation provided a thorough overview of the policy's framework, underscoring the Board's commitment to adopting best practices for virtual meetings and engaging with the community in a transparent and accessible manner. Ms. Saker and Ms. Hunter Hayes responded to questions from the Board Directors.

In response to feedback from Board Directors at previous meetings, the draft Virtual Meeting Policy has been revised to incorporate additional input. As a result, a second revised version of the Virtual Board Meeting Policy was shared. The revised policy aims to establish clear guidelines for conducting Board of Directors meetings virtually, specifically under emergency or special circumstances. It is designed to uphold transparency, accessibility, and procedural integrity when in-person meetings are not feasible. The policy ensures that Board members and presenters remain visible and audible, supports orderly public participation, and safeguards the integrity of public comment periods—all in full compliance with Ohio's open meeting laws.

Emergency or special circumstances are defined as any situation that makes in-person attendance impractical or unsafe, including inclement weather, internet or power outages, facility issues, public health concerns, or the absence of Board Directors who are still willing and able to participate remotely. The Board Chair, in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer, holds the authority to determine whether such conditions exist and to approve a virtual meeting accordingly.

Virtual meetings will be conducted via Zoom webinar. The public will have access through advertised links on the ADAMHS Board's website and social media platforms. All Board Directors and presenters must remain on camera, and a quorum may be established virtually in accordance with Ohio law. Public comment will be allowed at the beginning and end of each meeting, with comments managed through the Zoom "raise hand" feature and limited to two minutes per speaker. The chat function will be disabled, and screen sharing will not be allowed.

Additional provisions clarify that Board Directors must notify the Chair 48 hours in advance if they intend to participate virtually, except in emergencies. The meetings will not be recorded, and no transcripts will be saved, though live captions will be enabled. All voting must occur via roll call unless unanimous consent is granted without objection. Virtual meetings are prohibited for sessions involving major financial decisions or significant hiring approvals, which must occur in person.

However, in-person meetings will continue to be livestreamed for public view, though public comments will only be accepted in person.

Standards of conduct for both virtual and in-person meetings are also included to maintain order, respect and safety. Disruptive behaviors such as harassment, yelling, threats or exceeding time limits during public comment may result in removal from the meeting. All speakers must remain on topic and behave respectfully.

Finally, the policy outlines the responsibilities of the Executive Staff, IT Department, and External Affairs team. Executive Staff will evaluate conditions, notify the public, and prepare meeting materials. The IT Department will ensure technology is functional and troubleshoot issues. External Affairs will manage the Zoom meeting, track attendance, moderate public comments and assist in overall facilitation. This comprehensive policy ensures the ADAMHS Board can conduct official business responsibly and inclusively during times when virtual meetings are necessary.

After a lengthy discussion of this policy, Board Directors were reminded that there was a consensus among the Board not to hold any hybrid meetings. Ms. James-Stewart emphasized that it is the responsibility of Board Directors to the community to be present at Board meetings. She underscored the importance of in-person engagement as a reflection of the Board's commitment to transparency, accountability and active participation in its governance responsibilities. Additional Board Directors concurred, reinforcing the collective agreement that in-person attendance is essential to fulfilling the Board's duties effectively.

6. FAITH-BASED OUTREACH PROGRAM 2025 1st QUARTER REPORT / CURRENT STATUS HIGHLIGHTS

Ms. Hunter-Hayes reported that the 2025 1st Quarter Report contains 15 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. Hunter-Hayes reiterated that the mission of the Faith-based Outreach Initiative is to acknowledge and advocate for the role of spirituality in the recovery process; to integrate spiritual perspectives with other evidence-based interventions and best practices; and to promote the message that treatment is effective and recovery is possible. Due to the varying structures of the programs and the differing ages of participants, multiple assessment tools were used. A chart was presented showing the aggregated results from providers who used the same measurement instrument. As of year-to-date reporting, the total number of individuals served across all seven faith-based providers was 336, with an annual projection of 770 individuals. Ms. Hunter-Hayes emphasized that caution should be exercised when interpreting data based solely on quarterly figures, as program timelines and data collection schedules may not align neatly with standard calendar quarters.

Additional considerations include the Galilean Theological Center (GTC), where clients typically remain in the program for extended periods. While GTC's program had not officially launched as of Quarter 1 in 2025, 26 clients are currently registered. She also shared that I'm in Transition (IIT) Recovery, Counseling & Outreach Services' Faith-based Program is scheduled to begin in Quarter 2 of 2025 and therefore had no clients during Quarter 1. Additionally, It's Not a Moment, It's a Movement (INAMIAM) did not submit data for inclusion in the Quarter 1 Faith-based Report.

Ms. Hunter Hayes noted that the effectiveness of these programs is assessed using three measurement instruments: the Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA) Outcomes, the Devereux Adult Resilience Survey (DARS), and various quizzes and evaluations, including those related to Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) and Awareness & Education. She reported that 262 individuals completed an outcome tool during Quarter 1 of 2025. As previously mentioned, GTC's program had not yet launched in Quarter 1; however, 26 individuals have registered in anticipation of its start.

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 total number of clients who completed either a pre-test or post-test through Quarter 1 of 2025—among Faith-based provider agencies that planned to utilize the DESSA social-emotional learning instrument—was reported as follows: 144 for 99Treasures Arts & Culture, 98 for Naaleh Cleveland, and 0 for Trinity Outreach Ministries. For children in grades K–8 and high school who completed both a pre-assessment and post-assessment, the chart shared illustrated their distribution across three social-emotional learning categories—Need for Instruction, Typical, and Strengths—at each assessment point.

At the time of the pre-test, 32% of students were identified as needing instruction, 66% fell into the typical range, and 2% demonstrated strengths. In contrast, the post-test results showed improvement: 22% of students were categorized as needing instruction, 71% were in the typical range, and 7% were identified as demonstrating strengths.

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. Hunter Hayes highlighted that a total of 81 individuals were administered a preliminary Devereux Adult Resilience Survey (DARS) assessment, and 75 completed a second assessment. She further shared that most participants (ranging from 79% to 93%) showed improvement across each individual subscale of the DARS. Overall, 96% of participants demonstrated improvement in resilience in one or more of the subscales.

MHFA is a program designed to teach individuals how to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental illness and provide support on a first-aid basis. During Quarter 1, a total of 23 clients participated in the MHFA training. Of those who completed the MHFA quiz, 86% achieved a score of 80% or higher, indicating a successful understanding of the material.

The Education and Awareness programs are designed to provide a broad range of mental health and substance use information with the goal of enhancing participants’ knowledge and awareness. These initiatives are organized by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Greater Cleveland, GTC, IIT, and INAMIAM. During the first quarter of 2025, participation numbers were as follows: NAMI Greater Cleveland served 86 participants, GTC had 26 participants, IIT’s program had not yet launched, and INAMIAM reported no participants. It is important to note that GTC functions as a continuing cohort of faith leaders; as such, while the program remains active in future quarters, no new participants will be added.

In Quarter 1 of 2025, 100% of attendees in NAMI Greater Cleveland’s Education and Awareness programs reported that the presentations met their expectations and provided useful information. Additionally, 97% of participants indicated that they learned something new during the sessions.

Other Education and Awareness programs reported the following updates for Quarter 1 of 2025: GTC’s Training and Education program is scheduled to begin in Quarter 2; however, planning and outreach efforts during Quarter 1 resulted in 26 individuals registering for the program. IIT – Recovery Fulfillment Center also spent the first quarter engaged in project planning and preparation, with operations expected to begin at the start of Quarter 2. No data was submitted for Quarter 1 by the program INAMIAM.

Ms. Hunter Hayes 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.

During Quarter 1, 99Treasures Arts & Culture's Youth Council, along with staff and camp volunteers, planned the 28th Annual Peace Camp. Peace Camp 2025 is scheduled to run from June 16 through July 25, operating Monday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Mt. Pleasant Cleveland Public Library. Program participants attended a Muslim Iftar held at Cleveland City Hall, where the organization's co-founder, Khalid A. Samad, was honored, along with the organization itself and Ms. Raj Samad. In addition, program staff completed supervisor training through Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU), and several participants registered to become YOU workers. Program highlights also included a youth receiving the Bell Ringer Award at St. Ignatius High School and another youth performing with their school choir to sing the National Anthem at the Cleveland Cavaliers basketball game on Saturday, March 1, 2025. Notably, a total of thirty-two clients continued to maintain their sobriety during this period.

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

GTC has a Substance Use Disorders Educational & 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.

Throughout April 2025, GTC continued the planning and outreach phase for its Substance Use Disorders Educational & Training Program. Efforts included outreach to more than 40 Hispanic and Latino churches through email, social media, and direct community engagement; development of a training calendar; contracting of presenters; and securing approval for all trainings from the Ohio Chemical Dependency Professional Board. On Saturday, April 19, 2025, GTC officially launched Component I: Spiritual Caregiving to Help Addicted Persons and Families, with forty-two participants registered. Component II: Integrated Management of Psychological Trauma & Interpersonal is scheduled to begin on Saturday, June 7, 2025, followed by Component III: Credentialing and Certification, which is set to start on Saturday, July 12, 2025.

▪ **IIT – Recovery Fulfillment Center**

IIT – Recovery Fulfillment Center provides comprehensive support and resources for individuals navigating their journey of recovery from addiction, mental health, and related challenges. Designed to offer a holistic approach addressing various aspects of an individual's life to ensure clients are equipped for long-term recovery success to reintegrate into the community. Serving 100 individuals.

The IIT – Recovery Fulfillment Center held its grand opening ribbon-cutting ceremony on Tuesday, April 15, 2025. Board staff, city leaders, state officials, provider partners, and community members all came together to celebrate this important event. The center officially opened its doors on Monday, April 21, 2025, ready to support individuals on their journey toward recovery.

As of Wednesday, April 23, 2025, the center has served four individuals by providing a variety of services, including recovery housing, medical assistance or referral to healthcare, medical assistance or referral to behavioral healthcare, and referrals to Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) treatment. The provider continues to work diligently to raise awareness about this vital resource available to East Cleveland and the surrounding communities.

▪ **INAMIAM**

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.

INAMIAM referred two individuals to the Minority Behavioral Health Group and two to New Vision Health and Wellness for behavioral health services. Through their Faith Leaders Mental Health Circle sessions, 15 faith leaders received mental health education and/or counseling. The Faith Movement program also facilitated three community conversations surrounding faith, treatment, and recovery. Additionally, the organization trained two institutions of faith—Second New Hope Baptist Church and Faith Temple Church—to create Mental Health Ministries, with a total of 50 individuals participating. So far, the provider has registered 243 individuals for the May Mentally Mangled

events, including 127 for the Revival and 116 for the Conference. The Mentally Mangled Mental Health Conference is scheduled for Thursday, May 22, 2025, at Mount Sinai Friendship United, 7510 Woodland, Cleveland, Ohio.

▪ **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 has started a new mentoring group specifically for younger teens aged 13 to 14 years old and created a support group for teens struggling with addiction. In addition, they have partnered with local schools to help prevent student dropouts and collaborated with local businesses to provide summer employment opportunities for teens.

▪ **NAMI Greater Cleveland**

NAMI Greater Cleveland 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.

Recent events hosted by NAMI Greater Cleveland included a Health and Resource Fair on Sunday, March 9, 2025, which attracted 64 attendees. On Saturday, March 29, 2025, a MHFA session was held with 23 participants. The program "Spirituality and the Practice of Gratitude" took place on Monday, April 7, 2025, with 58 attendees, followed by "Understanding Mental Illness" on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, which drew 75 attendees.

Looking ahead, several events are scheduled in the coming months. On Saturday, May 17, 2025, a MHFA session in Spanish was held at Iglesia Pentecostal Eterna Roca in Cleveland. On May 21, 2025, "Understanding Mental Illness" took place at Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church, Cleveland. Additional events included "Mental Health in the Black Community" on Saturday, May 31, 2025, at Affinity Missionary Baptist Church, a Community Resource Fair is scheduled for Saturday, June 7, 2025, at Bethany Baptist Church, Cleveland, and a Back to School Rally on Sunday, July 27, 2025, at Temple Baptist Church in East Cleveland.

Several faith-based psychoeducation programs are also planned. On Monday, May 19, 2025, Julie Novas, LCSW, JD, presented "Spiritual Practices for Wellness: Radical Acceptance" via Zoom. On Thursday, July 17, 2025, the Jewish Family Services Association will host "Mental Health Considerations for the Jewish Community." On Tuesday, August 12, 2025, Julie Novas will lead "Spiritual Practices for Wellness: Somatics," and on Wednesday, October 15, 2025, Sandie King, BCC, will present "Understanding Spiritual Distress." Lastly, on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, Julie Novas will offer "Spiritual Practices for Wellness: Spirituality & Self-Care for Caregivers."

▪ **Trinity Outreach Ministries – Another Chance of Ohio**

The 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.

Trinity Outreach Ministries – Another Chance of Ohio assisted families and youth with registering for The Faith Program. Participants from Whitney M. Young School have been preparing for the Wednesday, May 21, 2025, production titled "I Love Somebody and It's Me Me Me." This production showcased youth encouraging others to say "No" to drugs, bullying, and guns, and "Yes" to studying and working hard.

In addition, youth and families helped provide meals for women at the homeless shelter. The provider continued planning several upcoming events, including the Children's Ball, the return of The Retired Deacons Club play, and the launch of the first-ever Intergenerational Summer Prom for families.

The Youth Easter Program was held on Sunday, April 20, 2025, drawing up to 100 guests, including parents and family members. The event placed a spotlight on children ages 1 to 17. With assistance from the youth hospitality team, the provider distributed 75 Easter baskets to youth, community members, and women from the homeless shelter, which also included personal hygiene kits.

Looking ahead, the provider is preparing for the Annual Day of Reclaiming Fatherhood Summit scheduled for Saturday, June 7, 2025. This event will focus on encouraging fathers and men to be healthy, strong, sober, and present in their families and churches.

Ms. Hunter Hayes responded to questions from the Board Directors present. She also noted that the detailed Faith-based Outreach Program 2025 1st 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 2025 1st Quarter Report are attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit.)

7. PROGRAM PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS

▪ Naaleh Cleveland – Mentorship Program

Ms. Michelle Bernstein, LISW-S, Clinical Director, and Rabbi Nosson Kielski, Boys Teen Mentorship Coordinator at Naaleh Cleveland, provided insights into the Teen At Risk Mentorship (T.A.R.M.) Program.

Ms. Bernstein explained that Naaleh Cleveland is committed to addressing community needs by developing tailored behavioral health programs. Several years ago, they launched the T.A.R.M. Program in response to a recognized gap in services for at-risk teens. Each year, the program evolves to meet the changing needs of its participants.

Naaleh is a non-profit organization with a mission to strengthen the mental and emotional health of the community. They address a range of pressing concerns, including unmet mental health needs, the addiction crisis affecting the region, the importance of individualized academic support, and the need to create pathways toward meaningful employment.

Ms. Bernstein emphasized that mentorship is one of the most effective interventions for adolescents struggling with mental and emotional health, a fact supported by extensive research.

The goals of the T.A.R.M. Program include:

- **Networking with Community Schools:** Identify teens in greatest need of support.
- **Mental Health Support:** Connect participants to professional services and rehabilitation centers when appropriate.
- **Teamwork & Social Skills:** Foster communication, cooperation, and problem-solving through group projects.
- **Skill Building:** Support high school diploma attainment and provide vocational training for long-term career success.
- **Internet Safety Education:** Promote responsible digital behavior, teach online safety and legal protections against exploitation.
- **Addiction Prevention:** Educate teens on addiction risks and help develop healthy coping mechanisms.
- **Financial Literacy:** Teach practical skills for managing money, using credit responsibly, and understanding taxes.
- **Healthy Habits:** Encourage nutrition education, physical fitness (including marathon participation and gym attendance), and building self-confidence.

Each mentee in the program sets individualized goals focused on improving their mental, emotional, and physical well-being. During the fall and winter months, Naaleh provides structured opportunities for mentees to work toward both educational and personal development milestones.

This year, a significant number of participants successfully earned their General Educational Development (GEDs). Mentee goals ranged from education, physical health, and mental health to job readiness, religious growth, and sobriety. Impressively, over 80% of the participants achieved their overall goals for the year.

Ms. Bernstein provided an overview of Naaleh's referral hotline, highlighting its role in connecting individuals and families with essential behavioral health services. She also emphasized the impact of Rabbi Kielski's Teen Camp—an engaging summer program where participants not only enjoy recreational activities but also gain valuable vocational skills in areas such as painting, carpentry, and landscaping.

In addition, Rabbi Kielski shared impactful testimonials and photographs from the Teen Camp, offering a compelling visual and narrative overview of the program's success. Dr. Franklin, Jr., commended the initiative and asked how the broader community—including educators and other local stakeholders—intersects with the program. He was informed that the core purpose of the initiative is to cultivate hope for the future by engaging youth and accomplishing meaningful developmental goals. Following the presentation, both Ms. Bernstein and Rabbi Kielski addressed questions from the Board Directors, providing further insight into the program's operations and outcomes. (The accompanying PowerPoint presentation is attached to the original meeting minutes on file in the Executive Unit.)

▪ IIT, Recovery Fulfillment Center

Ms. Jennifer Calloway and Mr. Jason Calloway, Co-founders and Executive Directors at IIT, Recovery Fulfillment Center, shared that IIT has faced a daunting challenge that resembles failure—but with faith in God, they believe they will prevail.

IIT is a faith-based, non-profit organization committed to saving lives from overdose. The organization meets individuals where they are and guides them toward self-sufficiency and sustainability. Their qualified staff and dedicated affiliates are advocates for recovery and are available to help anyone ready to make a change.

The program is designed for individuals aged 18 and older and welcomes people of all races and ethnicities. IIT is especially committed to supporting those who have struggled with substance abuse, experienced incarceration, lack job skills, face functional illiteracy, or have endured personal violence and generational poverty. If they are unable to provide the help needed, one of their partner organizations will step in to assist.

IIT aims to help clients overcome the obstacles life has placed in their path and refocus their energy toward growth. Clients typically stay in a supportive, drug-free home environment for three to six months. During their time at the IIT Guest House, residents work on achieving short-, intermediate-, and long-term goals. Many participants earn their high school equivalency (GED) and receive training in marketable skills. In addition to academic and vocational development, residents are taught key values and social-interpersonal skills essential for successful reintegration into mainstream society.

The IIT Recovery Fulfillment Center also serves as an on-site resource hub in partnership with local organizations to support residents of Cuyahoga County. The center offers basic needs assessments to help individuals and families access the right services. Through structured, compassionate programming—including harm reduction, prevention education, education around the layers of stigma in recovery, and barrier-free services for substance users—IIT empowers the community toward health and healing.

Their goal is to connect individuals and families with the vital resources they need to achieve stability, well-being, and renewed hope. The community faces a range of significant challenges that require urgent and coordinated attention. Among the most pressing issues are mental health concerns, which affect individuals across all age groups and socioeconomic backgrounds. SUD continues to strain healthcare systems and families, often contributing to related problems such as homelessness. The issue of homelessness itself remains a persistent concern, with many individuals lacking access to safe and stable housing. Human trafficking, a hidden yet devastating crime, further threatens the safety and well-being of vulnerable populations. Additionally, widespread poverty and hunger continue to impact the quality of life for many residents, limiting access to basic needs and opportunities for upward mobility. Addressing these interconnected challenges is essential for building a healthier, more equitable community.

The community faces several critical challenges related to mental health. High rates of untreated mental illness remain a significant concern, often leading to worsening symptoms and decreased quality of life for affected individuals. Limited access to crisis stabilization services further compounds the problem, leaving many without timely intervention during mental health emergencies. Additionally, stigma and underdiagnosis continue to prevent individuals from seeking help or receiving accurate assessments, perpetuating cycles of suffering and isolation. Addressing these issues requires collaboration among key partner organizations, including Metro Behavioral Healthcare Hospital, Highland Springs Behavioral Healthcare, Windsor Laurelwood Behavioral Healthcare, Signature Health, and Renaissance Mental Health. These organizations play a vital role in expanding access to care, reducing stigma, and providing comprehensive mental health services to those in need.

SUD remain a growing concern in the community, with several critical challenges impacting prevention and treatment efforts. The rise in opioid and methamphetamine use has intensified the public health crisis, while the continued prevalence of cocaine, crack, and alcohol use shows no signs of decline. There is a significant need for expanded in-patient residential treatment services to support long-term recovery, especially for individuals with severe or chronic substance use issues. Compounding these challenges is the persistent stigma surrounding relapse and the underreporting of overdoses, which hinders both recovery and accurate data collection. Several dedicated treatment partners are working to combat these issues, including Ethan Crossing Treatment, Landmark Treatment, New Day Treatment, Alliant Treatment, Northern Ohio Recovery Association (NORA) Treatment, and the Hitchcock Center for Women, which provides specialized support for women with children. These organizations are essential in delivering a continuum of care and helping individuals reclaim their lives from addiction.

The homelessness crisis in the community is driven by a combination of complex and deeply rooted challenges. Chronic homelessness remains a persistent issue, often exacerbated by significant barriers to securing stable housing, such as lack of income, poor credit, or legal difficulties. Many individuals experiencing homelessness also face co-occurring mental health conditions or SUD, which complicate efforts to achieve long-term stability. Addressing these multifaceted needs requires a strong network of housing and support partners. Key organizations working to combat homelessness include Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA), Emerald Development and Economic Network (EDEN), Inc., Housing, the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH), Front Steps Housing and Services, the Housing First Program, and the AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland. Together, these partners provide critical services ranging from emergency shelter and permanent housing to case management and supportive care, forming a coordinated response aimed at breaking the cycle of homelessness.

Human trafficking remains a grave and often hidden crisis in the region, with several significant challenges impeding efforts to combat it effectively. Vulnerable populations—including youth, immigrants, and individuals experiencing poverty or homelessness—are frequently targeted for exploitation. Underreporting is a major issue, as victims often fear retaliation, lack trust in authorities, or are unaware of available support resources. Additionally, there is a critical need for more trauma-informed care services that address the complex psychological and emotional needs of survivors. Key advocates working tirelessly to confront these challenges include the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center's Human Trafficking Division, the Collaborative to End Human Trafficking, and the Renee Jones Empowerment Center. These organizations play a vital role in prevention, survivor support, education, and advocacy, creating pathways to safety and healing for those affected.

Poverty and hunger continue to impact the community deeply, particularly among vulnerable groups such as children and the elderly. Food insecurity remains widespread, with many families struggling to access consistent, nutritious meals. Limited economic opportunities further entrench the cycle of poverty, especially in areas where job training, education, and transportation are lacking. This cycle is often worsened by limited access to essential support services. To address these challenges, strategic interventions are needed, including expanded access to food banks and meal programs, robust workforce development and job placement services, and comprehensive benefits navigation to help individuals obtain assistance such as Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and identification. These strategies are essential for not only meeting immediate needs but also empowering individuals and families toward long-term economic stability.

Creating meaningful and lasting change in the community requires strong, united leadership across sectors. A collaborative alliance is being built with the active involvement of the East Cleveland Mayor and City Council, whose leadership and

policy support are critical in shaping local initiatives. Local faith-based organizations bring deep community connections and trusted outreach, serving as pillars of hope and stability. Recovery and behavioral health leaders contribute essential expertise in addressing mental health and substance use challenges, while community advocates and dedicated volunteers provide grassroots energy, lived experience, and a commitment to equity. Together, this diverse coalition forms a powerful foundation for coordinated action, shared responsibility, and sustainable progress.

To effectively address the pressing challenges facing the community, immediate and coordinated action is essential. The first step is to convene a citywide coalition that brings together all key stakeholders, including government leaders, service providers, faith-based groups, and community advocates. This coalition will work to develop a shared, strategic plan with clear, measurable goals to ensure accountability and track progress. Identifying funding and resource gaps will be crucial to securing the support needed for sustainable impact. Finally, launching pilot programs in partnership with the listed agencies will allow for targeted, scalable solutions that can be refined and expanded based on community needs and outcomes. Now is the time to act—unified, strategic and committed to change.

Mr. and Mrs. Calloway expressed the need for additional funding; however, the Board indicated that any consideration for increased funding would occur once the provider agency has completed its probationary period. Following their presentation, Mr. and Mrs. Calloway responded to questions from the Board Directors. (The accompanying PowerPoint presentation is attached to the original meeting minutes on file in the Executive Unit.)

8. COMPASSION IN ACTION: TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE FOR FAITH LEADERS EVENT RECAP

Ms. Hunter Hayes provided a brief overview of the *Compassion in Action: Trauma-Informed Care for Faith Leaders* event, including key data and insights that underscored its relevance and impact. Reflecting on earlier efforts, she highlighted a presentation hosted by the Board on Tuesday, August 20, 2024, which featured the Trauma-Informed Education Coalition and included a feedback session with Dr. Joan Duvall-Flynn, Founder and Chair of Trauma Informed Education. During this session, 16 community and spiritual leaders were invited to discuss the potential value of a broader community event aimed at educating the faith-based community about trauma-informed care and the critical role faith can play in the recovery process. The consensus among participants was clear: a larger event would be highly beneficial and well-received.

Ms. Hunter Hayes shared that the *Compassion in Action* event took place on Monday, March 10, 2025, at the Cleveland Marriott East, located at 26300 Harvard Road, Warrensville Heights, Ohio, featuring keynote speaker Dr. Duvall-Flynn. The event was planned with two primary goals: to equip attendees with the tools necessary to recognize and mitigate the impact of trauma within their congregations and the broader community, and to expose participants to speakers from a variety of faith disciplines actively engaged in this work across Cuyahoga County. Alongside the keynote, a multifaith panel of leaders representing the Islamic, Jewish, and Christian communities shared their perspectives on how trauma manifests within their communities and highlighted the efforts they are undertaking to address and alleviate it. While 125 individuals registered for the free event, approximately 45 attended, based on sign-in records.

Ms. Hunter Hayes highlighted that the attendance drop-off was not unusual for a free event and was largely expected, given that individuals who do not pay to attend are less likely to show up due to lower personal investment. However, she noted that the fact that 125 people registered demonstrated a strong interest in the information and a desire to learn more. During the event, attendees received resource bags that included harm reduction items and educational materials focused on mental health to further support their understanding and engagement.

During the event, an insightful survey was conducted asking participants to suggest potential solutions that the Board or the broader community could implement to better educate the faith-based community about mental health and trauma. The respondents offered a variety of ideas, which have since been shared with Rev. Gohlstin for further consideration. In addition to these suggestions, Ms. Hunter Hayes noted that participants already highly valued trauma-informed care, a sentiment that remained strong throughout the event. Before the event, 96% of attendees rated trauma-informed care awareness as important to their work, and this figure rose slightly to 97% afterward, demonstrating sustained and nearly unanimous support for the relevance of trauma-informed care among faith leaders.

Ms. Hunter Hayes noted that participants' knowledge of trauma-informed care showed a significant increase as a result of the event. Before the session, 69% of attendees rated themselves as knowledgeable—scoring six or higher on a self-

assessment scale. By the conclusion of the event, that number rose to 76%, indicating a measurable gain in self-assessed understanding. Additionally, participants were asked about their understanding of the impact of trauma. Prior to the event, 87% reported that they understood how trauma affects an individual's cognitive, emotional, psychological, or physical well-being, rating this six or higher. Following the event, this figure increased to 93%, reflecting a meaningful improvement in comprehension and insight among attendees.

9. FUTURE TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE FAITH-BASED COALITION DISCUSSION

Rev. Gohlstin shared that Dr. Lenkoski, a psychiatrist and former Board member, emphasized the importance of integrating spirituality into mental health conversations by stating that 80% of psychosis is spiritual in nature. Rev. Gohlstin also clarified that the faith-based movement emerging from this effort is not exclusively Christian but is open and inclusive of all religious traditions. As a result of the discussions and momentum generated during the March event, it was decided that a future trauma-informed care faith-based coalition would be developed to continue this vital work across diverse faith communities.

Rev. Gohlstin shared that Dr. Duvall-Flynn has agreed to return and assist in the formation of the Trauma-informed Care Faith-based Coalition. He also requested that Board staff reach out to Dr. Joy DeGruy—an esteemed American author, academic, and researcher—to explore the possibility of her collaborating with Dr. Duvall-Flynn in developing the coalition. Rev. Gohlstin then opened the floor to those in attendance, inviting input on what they would like to see as the Board moves forward with this initiative. In response, Mr. Calloway emphasized that the coalition should be inclusive and open to all members of the community, regardless of faith tradition. Dr. Franklin, Jr., added that bringing together representatives of both the spiritual and clinical fields would create a powerful and meaningful dynamic, strengthening the coalition's ability to address trauma from a holistic perspective—through some intentional symposiums and/or workshops.

Ms. Hunter Hayes shared that a MHFA Training specifically tailored for faith-based leadership could be a valuable next step. This targeted approach would help equip clergy and spiritual leaders with the skills needed to recognize and respond to mental health challenges within their congregations and communities. Rev. Gohlstin added that he would like to see the Trauma-informed Care Faith-based Coalition formally established by the time of the Faith-based Outreach Committee's scheduled Board meeting in October, emphasizing the importance of maintaining momentum and setting clear milestones for progress.

Ms. Mary Louise Tatum, MPH, MSN, PMHNP-BC, a therapist at the Cleveland Clinic, emphasized the importance of training individuals through a holistic approach, noting that this method is a key component that could positively impact care throughout Northeast Ohio.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Deborah Watson of Trinity Outreach Ministries commended the presentations and announced that all attendees are invited to the upcoming Fatherhood Summit, hosted by Trinity Outreach Ministries on Saturday, June 7, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Holy Trinity Cultural Arts Center. She also emphasized that the Trauma-informed Care Faith-based Coalition represents a movement, not just a moment in time, and is a living entity that needs to grow.

Rev. Dr. Felix Muniz, Ph.D., Founder, Director, Mentor and Theology Professor at GTC, congratulated the Board for establishing the Trauma-informed Care Faith-based Coalition and expressed his enthusiasm for its continued growth and positive impact. He shared that training should be focused on how to assess trauma and also deal with racial trauma as well.

Rev. Gohlstin suggested that Ms. Hunter Hayes, Ms. Tatum and Dr. Watson appear together on his radio show at WOJU to discuss this matter.

11. FOLLOW-UP

No follow-up was received.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comment was received.

13. UPCOMING JUNE AND JULY BOARD MEETINGS:

- Ad Hoc Continuum of Care Committee Meeting: June 11, 2025
- Nominating Committee Meeting: June 18, 2025
- Finance & Oversight Committee Meeting: June 18, 2025
- General Meeting: June 25, 2024
- Ad Hoc Continuum of Care Committee Meeting: July 9, 2025
- General Meeting: July 23, 2025

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Submitted by: Linda Lamp, Executive Assistant

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

DRAFT

Proclamation

Presented to
Mary Warr, M.Ed.
In Acknowledgement of Service
February 4, 2026

WHEREAS, The Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County expresses sincere recognition to Mary Warr M.Ed., for her commitment to the ADAMHS Board's Faith-based Outreach Committee; and,

WHEREAS, she was appointed by the Board of Directors to a four-year term of office as a committee member with a reappointment to not more than one subsequent term of office; and,

WHEREAS, she served as a Community Representative on the ADAMHS Board's Faith-based Outreach Committee for two 4-year terms, February 2018 through January 2022, and February 2022 through January 2026, with her term of office ending January 31, 2026; and,

WHEREAS, during her term, she adhered to the mission of the Faith-based Outreach Committee: to recognize and advocate spirituality in the recovery process; to collaborate the spiritual perspective with other interventions and best practices; and to promote the concept that treatment works and people recover; and,

WHEREAS, Mary Warr contributed her knowledge to help the committee meet the following goals:

1. Increase awareness and understanding of mental health/addiction in the faith community and to address societal stigma surrounding the illness; and,
2. Incorporate spirituality as an optional component of treatment; and,
3. Educate the faith community about mental health/addiction in order to help the congregation and overall community; and,
4. Develop language and boundaries to clarify the scope of practice for faith-based leaders/professionals within the treatment community and treatment professionals within the faith community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED.

1. The ADAMHS Board recognizes the valuable contributions of Mary Warr, M.Ed., that supported the faith community, public mental health, addiction and recovery system of care in Cuyahoga County.
2. The ADAMHS Board of Directors commends Mary Warr, M.Ed., for two 4-year terms of office as a Community Representative on the Faith-based Outreach Committee, benefiting the residents of our county.
3. The ADAMHS Board of Directors wishes to express its gratitude and appreciation to Mary Warr, M.Ed., for her contributions over the years.

Board of Directors:

Patricia James-Stewart, M.Ed., LSW, Chair

James T. Dixon, Vice Chair ▫ **Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., Second Vice Chair**

Bishara W. Addison ▫ *Ashwani Bhardwaj* ▫ *Norman A. Bliss* ▫ *Reginald C. Blue, Ph.D.* ▫ *Gregory X. Boehm, M.D.*
Erskine Cade, MBA ▫ *Sadigoh C. Galloway, MSW, LSW, LICDC-CS* ▫ *Charles Garven, M.D.* ▫ *Anita Gray* ▫ *Hallie R. Israel*
Linda D. Johaneck ▫ *Steve Killpack, MS* ▫ *Kathryn Y. Parks, MBA, MA, LPC, LICDC* ▫ *Molly Wimbiscus, M.D.*

Jason Joyce, Chief Executive Officer

Faith-based Outreach Committee Packet