

A MATTER OF SUBSTANCE: AT-A-GLANCE

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DIVISION QUICK FACTS

In Memory: Every month, through this newsletter, we give you information on services and programs and regulations and policies. All those things matter. But what matters more is the people who make it all work by giving of themselves every day. It is with great sadness that we share the passing of **Pastor Bob Smith**.

When IDPH received the first Access to Recovery (ATR) federal grant in 2007, the program's goals were to:

- expand capacity for substance abuse recovery support services
- support client choice in determining what services and providers were best for them
- increase the array of faith-based and community based providers

While success with the first two goals occurred quickly, recruitment of faith-based providers was much more difficult. IDPH ATR staff made numerous phone calls and sent out dozens of e-mails trying to find faith-based providers interested in participating in ATR, with very limited success. One day, IDPH received a call from a man in Sioux City. He identified himself as Pastor Bob Smith and said he conducted 5th Steps at Jackson Recovery. Staff there had told him about ATR and he wondered if he could help. He said he'd been a minister for many years and helping individuals recovering from addiction was his calling. As IDPH staff shared information about ATR, "Pastor Bob" said he thought it sounded like something he'd like to be a part of but he didn't need to receive money for it. After further discussion of ATR program goals and the value of the services he could provide, Pastor Bob said he thought he understood. Within a few weeks of that call, IDPH received one of its first ATR faith-based provider applications -- from Pastor Bob.

Bob Smith was born in Sioux City on June 10, 1935. He attended Sioux City Central High and then served in the Navy from 1952-1956. Bob and his wife Marilyn married in September of 1956. Bob worked for MidAmerican Energy for more than 30 years. In his "retirement", Bob devoted his time to his ministry, including 20 years of work with Jackson Recovery patients. Bob was a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He often said he was the wealthiest man alive because of his family.

Bob's daughter Janet has said "Dad found his true calling working with those struggling with addiction. He shared with me an experience that forever changed him. Dad drank a lot when he was in the Navy and for a brief period after he got out. He told me he got home late one night and passed out on the couch. When he woke up the next morning, he heard a voice telling him he had come to a turning point in his life and the choice he made that day would shape his future. He quit drinking that day. He made a commitment to Christ and over the next five decades lived his life in alignment with that commitment."

It was obvious during IDPH's last ATR site visit with Pastor Bob that his health was declining but his spirits were good. He said he'd lived a long life and he was proud of what he'd done with it. Not wanting to see people saddened by his health, he left the staff with a joke that went something like this:

Lena went to the local paper to put a notice in the obituaries that Ole died. The man at the counter, after offering his condolences, asked Lena what she would like to say about Ole. Lena replied, "Just put, Ole died." The man, somewhat perplexed, asked "That's it ...Ole died? Surely, there must be something more you'd like to say? If it's money you're concerned about, the first five words are free." Lena stood there and pondered for a few minutes and finally said, "Ole died. Boat for sale."

The day before he passed away, Pastor Bob Smith completed 5th Step number 1,033.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAMHSA Motivational Interviewing Webinar: Engaging People in Discussions about Health-related Changes

August 15. To register, go to www.integration.samhsa.gov.

Recovery Month: Celebrate Recovery at Adventureland
September 9. Altoona. For more information contact

Training Resources at 515-309-3317.

SAVE THE DATE - 2012 Mental Health Conference
October 9-10. Ames - Scheman Conference Center.

Watch for more details at www.trainingresources.org.

For more information about the Division of Behavioral Health, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/bh

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