



MEDINA COUNTY DRUG ABUSE COMMISSION (MCDAC) Minutes of April 2, 2018

◆ ATTENDANCE

- Present
 - David Centner – Commissioners’ Rep.
 - Evelyn Czyz - Township Rep.
 - Louis DeLoss - Township Alt. Rep.
 - Will Koran - School District Rep.
 - Amy Lyon-Galvin – Commissioners’ Alt. Rep.
 - Holly Phillips – Commissioners Alt. Rep.
 - Peggy Reeves – School Districts Alt. Rep.
 - Cliff Nowak - Brunswick Rep.
 - Wally Schaedel - Villages Rep.
 - Kent Patterson - Police Chiefs Assoc. Rep.
 - Robert Starcher – Medina City Rep.
 - Jeff Vogel - Commissioners Rep.
- Absent
 - Matt Hiscock – Wadsworth Alt. Rep.
 - Susan Kinney Dillon – Brunswick Alt. Rep. (excused)
 - Pat Nahrstedt – Wadsworth Rep.
- Others Present
 - Alyssa Alfano – Cleveland.com
 - Brandon Chrostowski – Recovery Center of Medina County
 - Jessica Hazeltine – Recovery Center of Medina County
 - Veronica Perry – Chief Probation Officer

◆ CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was held in the lower conference room of the Professional Services Building located at 124 West Washington Street, Medina. Chairman Will Koran called the regular meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. After roll call, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

◆ CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of March 5, 2018, were emailed in advance. Cliff Nowak moved to accept the minutes as submitted; the motion was seconded by Wally Schaedel. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously. The minutes will be placed on file as submitted.

◆ PRESENTATION

Brian Nowak introduced Brandon Chrostowski and Veronica Perry. Brandon explained that the Recovery Center of Medina County is a place where anyone can come in and they will be told exactly what the next steps toward recovery are and they will walk them through the whole process. The Recovery Center also offers programming such as GED training, college information, guest speakers, child support workshops, holistic healing seminars and game nights, as well as a restaurant that provides job training which is modeled after one he started in Cleveland called Edwin’s which has had great success; the restaurant is staffed by people in recovery who are learning a trade. Brandon stated that this is also the revenue stream that it will take to continue on with the Recovery Center. This will be a sustainable venture not only for the restaurant, but also the Recovery Center itself.

There was discussion regarding serving alcohol at the restaurant. Brandon explained that this is a different approach and it offers the recovering addicts the opportunity to learn an elite skill so they can have a career in this industry. He further explained that people in recovery will have to deal with being around alcohol every day, and at the restaurant they can do so in a safe place. They currently have a second location at a church for those who are not comfortable going to a center where alcohol is served; that location is open Thursday-Saturday which tend to be the days recovering addicts have a higher chance of relapse. Veronica Perry explained that they are not a treatment center but rather a referral service and more. She shared an example of two people who recently came in and were severely suffering from alcoholism; they provided referrals to them for detox. This is also a place for those in recovery to go to socialize. In answer to a question, Mr. Chrostowski answered that they do drug testing; they have performed four drug tests in the last five days. There are guidelines they follow and unfortunately, the road to recovery includes relapse. They measure success with the assistance of ETP software; it is very specific, customizable software. The software tracks their information including grades, their recovery process, the meetings and employment including wage information. Mr. Chrostowski stated that to him, success is the addict completing their dream and they stay sober. Regarding job placement, Mr. Chrostowski noted that over 250 graduates of Edwin’s are working at over 100 restaurants in Cleveland. The idea is for the restaurant to sustain itself and whatever is left over will sustain the Recovery Center.

The grant monies requested would be for a one year salary for a case manager to assist Jessica Hazeltine, the manager of the Recovery Center. As they have grown, there has become a need for an additional staff member to focus in and help battle addiction. Ms. Hazeltine reviewed programs offered at the Recovery Center including GED information, holistic methods in recovery, employment and child support. All programs are open to the public and completely free. She also discussed a program called My Ten Year Plan which helps them to develop a career path and touches on many different areas including budgeting and responsibility; this helps them to advance 5-10 years from now. Mr. Chrostowski stated that the psychology behind this is to provide a more powerful yes. Ms. Hazeltine distributed brochures to all members as well as a list of scheduled events and activities planned at the Recovery Center.

◆ **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business for consideration.

◆ **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business for consideration.

◆ **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Brian Nowak reminded everyone of the following upcoming events:

* <u>Share Cluster Breakfast</u>	April 27	8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	Williams on the Lake
* <u>Faces of Recovery</u>	April 11	8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Cleveland Clinic Medina Hospital
* <u>Opioid Task Force Meeting</u>	April 13	9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.	Founders Hall (Wadsworth Medical Center
* <u>Drug Task Force Medication Take-Back Day</u>	April 28	10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Medina Township Police Department Wadsworth Police Department

Brian stated that we will be reviewing grants next month; more information will be provided at a later date. Will Koran suggested an executive summary of each grant be prepared and distributed in advance of the May meeting.

◆ **GO AROUND**

Lou DeLoss distributed and reviewed information regarding Inspiration Academy to be held at the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center. He encouraged everyone to attend.

Peggy Reeves stated that when she first heard about the alcohol at the restaurant, her reaction was like many others. However, after discussing this concept with her brother who is 38 years into recovery from alcoholism, her perspective on this concept has changed.

Adam Friedrich stated that they hire felons at Beckett and it's a gray area. If somebody's is going to recover, you can't just treat the alcohol, you have to get them out of the situation they were in, find them a place to live and find a way for them to find gainful employment. Anybody that's making effort to do something, including helping them find jobs, is the way right way to go about it.

Kent Patterson asked if the Recovery Center has ever contacted the Medina County Career Center about their programs; Peggy Reeves answered that they have.

◆ **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Evelyn Czyz moved to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Kent Patterson. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

◆ **NEXT MEETING/FUTURE MEETINGS**

Meetings are held at 5:00 p.m. in the lower level conference room of the Professional Building on the first Monday of each month except where noted. There are no meetings scheduled in January, July, or August. The next meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2018.

Future 2018 Meetings

May 7	October 1
June 4	November 5
September 10	December 3

*Minutes provided by Rhonda J. Beck
Administrative Assistant to the Medina County Administrator*