



MEDINA COUNTY DRUG ABUSE COMMISSION (MCDAC) Minutes of April 4, 2016

◆ ATTENDANCE

- Present
 - Evelyn Czyn - Township Rep.
 - Louis DeLoss - Township Alt. Rep.
 - Susan Kinney Dillon – Brunswick Alt. Rep. (6:12)
 - Will Koran - School District Rep.
 - Cliff Nowak - Brunswick Rep. (6:41)
 - Kent Patterson - Police Chiefs Assoc. Rep.
 - Wally Schaedel - Villages Rep.
 - Mary Schultz – Commissioners Alt. Rep.
 - Robert Starcher – Medina City Rep.
 - Jeff Vogel - Commissioners Rep.
- Absent
 - James Bigam - Commissioners Rep. (excused)
 - Kim Grieco – School Districts Alt. Rep. (excused)
 - Pat Nahrstedt - Wadsworth Rep. (excused)
- Others Present
 - Adam Friedrich – Commissioners’ Liaison
 - Joe Matuscak – The LCADA Way
 - Tim Smith – The LCADA Way
 - Tom Stuber – The LCADA Way
 - Brian Nowak - MCDAC Executive Director

◆ 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 6:00 p.m. After roll, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

◆ CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of March 7, 2016, were emailed in advance. Wally Schaedel moved to accept the minutes as submitted; the motion was seconded by Robert Starcher. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously. The minutes will be placed on file as submitted.

◆ PRESENTATION

The LCADA Way President/CEO Tom Stuber introduced Director of Medina Treatment Services Tim Smith and Director of Market and Community Outreach Joe Matuscak.

Tim Smith reported that they opened the Medina Treatment Services in December and are currently serving 25 active clients at a variety of levels of care and have one client that finished aftercare. To date, they have completed 49 assessments and 3 clients have been referred to either the Key for Women or Timothy House for men. The majority of the clients they are working with are opiate-addicted and what they have always known is the longer they can keep someone engaged in services, the better their chances of being successful are.

Currently they have two outpatient clients that are using Suboxone and one client using Vivitrol; Vivitrol is a blocker only. As each client moves through treatment, their path to recovery can move up or down in the levels of care depending on their needs, and so far, it’s working well. They will continue to expand their programs based on clients’ needs.

Mr. Smith stated that Judge Kimbler and Adult Probation have been a big part of what they are doing; about half of their clients have been referrals from the court. They have had a few come in for medication with no therapy; that’s not what they do. Medication is not therapy; it assists therapy. Treatment and recovery are client-driven, family-driven and community-driven.

Adam Friedrich asked aside from drug court and adult probation, what other agencies within the county are they working with, particularly the ADAMH Board. Mr. Smith answered that they have also been working with the Wadsworth Drug Free Community Coalition and collaborating with some other groups, but they are not specifically working with the ADAMH Board at this time.

There was brief discussion regarding monthly follow up care after treatment. Mr. Smith noted that unfortunately, when dealing with a chronic condition, relapse is frequently what happens even after someone has completed therapy. One of the key elements of surviving an opiate relapse is early intervention to get them reengaged.

Tom Stuber reported that they had originally projected that they would serve 96 individuals during the first seven months of operation. To date, they have served 54; Mr. Stuber believes they will hit their target. Mr. Stuber noted that they appreciate the acceptance into the community. They work closely with Job & Family Services and the media has been wonderful with raising awareness of the opiate epidemic.

Mr. Stuber announced that they have two members of the Medina Community that have joined their Board of Directors – Cindie Schneider of the HANDS Foundation and Lea Heidman of Fighting for Alyssa. They are still looking for others as they want the leadership of the agency to have a pulse on all of the communities they serve.

In January, they expanded their services to families in Medina through their partnership with Robby’s Voice. They are offering treatment, education and support to families from this community who are seeking help. The families are not required to have a family member in treatment with them to access this service. It is offered weekly and free of charge, and they are currently seeing about 20 families per week. Their objective is to make treatment available to everyone who needs it. They have been approached by Wadsworth Mayor Laubaugh and Safety Services Director Matt Hiscock requesting they open a wellness center in Wadsworth as well. They are in the final stages of negotiations with Summa Health Care to open a wellness center on their campus; they project it to be in place by July (at the latest.) They will be offering the same services as the Medina location, plus there will be capacity to open some adolescent services as well. They hope to bring medical services related to addiction through Summa to this community as well.

Continuing, Mr. Stuber explained that getting people into residential or recovery housing has been a challenge; demand is exceeding capacity. There are currently a couple of Medina County residents in their residential program, but with the opiate epidemic expanding like it has, they have been pressed in terms of demand. As of May 1, they are targeted to open two new recovery housing projects in partnership with Primary Purpose; one will house 60 men and one will house 16 women.

Mr. Stuber reported that there are two challenges they are facing in Medina – transportation and medical services. They have been delivering transportation from their site to their Lorain medical offices, however, that is not enough. Individuals cannot get transportation to and from treatment in the community. They are currently co-authoring a federal grant with the Medina County Drug Court that would allow them to bring two drivers and two vans to transport individuals to and from treatment. If they cannot access care, they cannot get better.

Regarding the medical challenge, Mr. Stuber stated that the opiate epidemic has pushed their medical department to its limit. They recognize that to see their physician is sometimes taking two or more weeks; it is unacceptable. They have approached the Nord Family Foundation and the Community Foundation of Lorain County for funding that would allow them to bring on an additional physician and nurse. In addition, they are hoping that Summa will come on board to assist with some medical services locally.

Mr. Stuber stated that he feels things are moving along well and he thanked MCDAC for supporting them.

Will Koran noted that it’s great to hear their success and that they are expanding quickly.

Wally Schaedel asked if there is a way to facilitate their services with what Cathy’s House offers. Mr. Stuber answered that this is one of their counselors has been working with Cathy’s House in trying to blend services.

◆ **NEW BUSINESS**

Brian Nowak reported that Wadsworth City Schools has requested a transfer of funds in the amount of \$3899 for materials. (A copy of the request is being made part of the permanent record.) Kent Patterson moved to approve the transfer of funds; Wally Schaedel seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Nowak announced that Chief DeForest and MEDWAY Director Don Hall have made the decision to begin the process of no longer having MEDWAY go into the City of Brunswick. As of July 1, they will be receiving services for drug enforcement from the Medina County Drug Task Force. This change is not a result of any problems or discontent; it was decided that the City of Brunswick will be better served by receiving drug enforcement from the Medina County Drug Task Force. The Drug Task Force will be hiring an additional officer and MCDAC has recommended an increase in Gary Hubbard’s salary, which needs approval from the COG. There was a discussion regarding grant approvals and the timing of this change.

Mr. Nowak stated grant applications will be reviewed for the budget in May. He distributed and reviewed a copy of the current year grant budget (made part of the permanent record.) Mr. Nowak does not anticipate many changes with the exception of The LCADA Way which is expanding into Wadsworth.

◆ **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Brian Nowak reported the following upcoming events:

- Workshop in Seville on April 6 – Jim Joiner will be facilitating the workshop regarding heroin and marijuana addiction and recovery
- Leadership Medina Addiction Forum at RPM on April 7
- Share Cluster Breakfast on April 22
- Family-A-Fair at the Community Center on April 23

◆ **GO AROUND**

Susan Kinney Dillon noted that she was happy to hear Mr. Stuber address the progress they are making regarding the medical aspect of treatment.

Cliff Nowak reported that while at a meeting, he discovered that 60 people on Cuyahoga County died of heroin overdoses in March.

◆ **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Wally Schaedel moved to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Cliff Nowak. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

◆ **NEXT MEETING/FUTURE MEETINGS**

Meetings are held at 6:00 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 2, 2016.

Future 2016 Meetings

May 2	October 3
June 6	November 7
September 12	December 5

*Minutes provided by Rhonda J. Beck
Assistant Clerk to the Medina County Board of Commissioners*