



## MEDINA COUNTY DRUG ABUSE COMMISSION (MCDAC) Minutes of February 6, 2017

### ◆ ATTENDANCE

- Present

David Centner – Commissioners’ Rep.

Evelyn Czyz - Township Rep.

Louis DeLoss - Township Alt. Rep.

Matt Hiscock – Wadsworth Alt. Rep.

Susan Kinney Dillon – Brunswick Alt. Rep.

Will Koran - School District Rep.

Pat Nahrstedt - Wadsworth 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

Peggy Reeves – School Districts Alt. Rep. (excused)

Mary Schultz – Commissioners Alt. Rep. (excused)

- Others Present

Adam Friedrick – Commissioners’ Liaison

Brian Nowak - MCDAC Executive Director

Tim Smith, The LCADA Way Medina & Wadsworth  
Wellness Centers 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 call, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### ◆ CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of December 5, 2016, 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.

### ◆ ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Wally Schaedel nominated Will Koran to serve as chairman; the motion was seconded by Cliff Nowak. There were no further nominations. Pat Nahrstedt moved to close the nominations and the motion was seconded by Jeff Vogel. There was no discussion and the motion to close nominations passed unanimously. There was no discussion regarding the nomination and the motion to elect Will Koran as chairman passed unanimously.

Evelyn Czyz nominated Kent Patterson to serve as vice chairman; the motion was seconded by Jeff Vogel. There were no further nominations. Wally Schaedel moved to close nominations and the motion was seconded by Cliff Nowak. There was no discussion and the motion to close nominations passed unanimously. There was no discussion regarding the nomination and the motion to elect Kent Patterson as vice chairman passed unanimously.

### ◆ PRESENTATION

Brian Nowak introduced Director of The LCADA Way Medina & Wadsworth Wellness Centers Tim Smith. Mr. Smith reported that they started operations at their Wadsworth location in the later part of the summer. Their initial goal was to serve 234 families; they have exceeded that number. They are continuing to expand their services. Currently, they have 12 clients attending IOP in the evening and 6 clients attending IOP in the morning. An IOP is an intensive outpatient program and is a three day a week program, three hours each session and is supplemented with individual sessions and case management with their referral sources. Day treatment is similar to an IOP, but it is an outpatient program; it is also referred to as partial hospitalization. It is a higher level of care and for people that need more than an IOP but they don’t need residential.

Mr. Smith noted that they have opened a men's house and there are currently 12 men in the house. They are transported to a day treatment program five days a week and they are also seeing the physician. The past medication assisted therapy (MAT) has been Suboxone, but they are primarily moving toward a new trend of using Suboxone for detox and moving on to a non-addictive medication called Vivitrol. Vivitrol is a medication that has no euphoric effect and it is a shot given once a month; medication compliance is very good. Mr. Smith explained that if someone on Vivitrol uses heroin, they would waste their money because the Vivitrol blocks the receptors and it also eases the cravings. Treatment helps the mental obsession; medication helps the cravings. The clients are asked for a one year commitment to start. The new science says that it takes 35 weeks for the brain to heal. The success rate is high. They have one client who recently reached his one year anniversary, has a job and is back with his family. He is now checking in once a month. Mr. Smith reported that they are working closely with Alternative Paths, Drug Court and Adult Probation to track outcomes of the clients. Adam Friedrich added that the Drug Court works very closely with Veronica Perry at Adult Probation; she has positive things to say about The LCADA Way. Most of the grants and things they are working on as far as a drug perspective are all basically Vivitrol. Mr. Smith noted that both of the judges like it.

The men's house is in Akron and they are also opening a women's house in Akron later this month; another men's house and women's house are set to also open in the near future. The current waiting list is six weeks. Retention is very good and client satisfaction is extremely high. Cathy's House has also been utilized. They have wonderful therapists on staff and their physician assistant is an addictionologist and they are also bringing on an RN starting next week.

There was a brief discussion regarding how clients pay. Mr. Smith stated that 95% are on Medicaid and they also have a sliding fee scale. If they are not currently enrolled in Medicaid, they will assist them with the application. They also work with many other insurance providers.

Will Koran advised Mr. Smith that their work in the county is appreciated.

#### ◆ **NEW BUSINESS**

Will Koran reported that there had been a request to move the meeting time to 5:30 p.m. Wally Schaedel made a motion to change the meeting time to 5:30 p.m.; Bob Starcher seconded the motion. There was discussion regarding this motion and two members noted that they are unable to make the 5:30 p.m. meeting time. There was no further discussion and the motion failed unanimously.

#### ◆ **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Brian Nowak reported that the drug disposal box in the Emergency Room of Cleveland Clinic has been removed; the new security did not want to participate any longer. This change took place in January. Brian provided a brief history of the drug disposal boxes and noted that nearly 25,000 pounds of medications have been collected since the program started.

St. Ambrose church will be hosting a lunch tomorrow where they are convening leaders in the county (both civil and religious) to share ideas regarding the heroin issue in the county. They have a very nice website called "Greater than Heroin" and good information on their Facebook page. Brian will be attending.

Continuing, Brian indicated that he and Lou DeLoss will be attending a workshop in Columbus on February 14. Attorney General Mike DeWine is bringing people together from all over the state. The workshop is called "Ideas in Motion – Fighting the Drug Epidemic in Ohio." The agenda addresses the issues of prevention that needs to be happening in the schools.

Over the holidays, Brian stated that he met with Phillip Titterington of the ADAMH Board, Mark Trew of Alternative Paths, and Paula and Chris of Solutions about the future of Solutions and Alternative Paths. Solutions is going through a reorganization.

The Home & Garden Show will be held March 4-5 at the Community Center; Gary Hubbard will be setting up a display. Brian noted that he had asked for help on Saturday and 90% of the time on Saturday will be covered by either Solutions or The LCADA Way. Family-A-Fair will be held at the Community Center on April 29 and a table has been reserved for that event as well.

#### ◆ **GO AROUND**

Cliff Nowak welcomed Evelyn Czyz back.

Lou DeLoss inquired about the overdoses that occurred at the Sheriff's office. He has received phone calls asking about this. David Centner explained that Friday afternoon, the booking area was full. There were people put into holding cells and a number of people put into the "drunk tank" which is off the booking area. One of the men had brought heroin with them and shared it with three other men. All four men overdosed and Narcan was used on them; they were transported to Medina Hospital. An investigation is in process.

Evelyn Czyz noted that it was great to be back. She thanked everyone for the cards, visits and prayers.

Matt Hiscock introduced himself and gave a brief history of his experience. Wadsworth has a very active, grass-root community group known as the Wadsworth Drug Free Community Coalition; he has sat on this for quite some time. Wadsworth had three more overdoses over the weekend; there were no fatalities but were all Narcan saves.

Susan Kinney Dillon stated that Fox 8 news did a story about the heroin problem and that Ohio is one of the number one states with the problem. One of the Milanos from Milano Monuments was referring people to the “Greater than Heroin” site. It was a good news story on the epidemic. Cliff Nowak noted that Cleveland had 7 fatalities in 24 hours.

Kent Patterson followed up on what David Centner discussed and said that from what he understands, those things are nearly impossible to detect. David stated that they have a body scanner in the jail, but that process doesn’t happen until they are actually being booked. These men were in a holding pattern until they could get them into booking to go through the scanner.

Adam Friedrich stated that the collaboration between The LCADA Way, Adult Probation and the Sheriff’s Department (along with all of the other entities around Medina County) is fantastic. The work that everybody does together makes things easier.

◆ **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Evelyn Czyz moved to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Wally Schaedel. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:49 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 March 6, 2017.

**\*Future 2017 Meetings\***

March 6	September 11
April 3	October 2
May 1	November 6
June 5	December 4

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