



MEDINA COUNTY DRUG ABUSE COMMISSION (MCDAC) Minutes of October 3, 2016

◆ ATTENDANCE

- Present

Louis DeLoss - Township Alt. Rep.
Susan Kinney Dillon – Brunswick Alt. Rep.
Will Koran - School District Rep.
Pat Nahrstedt - Wadsworth Rep.
Cliff Nowak - Brunswick Rep.

Kent Patterson - Police Chiefs Assoc. Rep.
Wally Schaedel - Villages Rep.
Robert Starcher – Medina City Rep.
Jeff Vogel - Commissioners Rep.

- Absent

Evelyn Czyz - Township Rep. (excused)
Mary Schultz – Commissioners Alt. Rep.

- Others Present

Deb Bican – Cloverleaf Schools
Deputy Brooks – D.A.R.E. Officer

Adam Friedrich – Commissioners’ Liaison
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 September 12, 2016, were emailed in advance. Cliff Nowak moved to accept the minutes as submitted; the motion was seconded by Lou DeLoss. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously. The minutes will be placed on file as submitted.

◆ PRESENTATION

Brian Nowak introduced Deb Bican and Deputy Brooks of Cloverleaf Local Schools. Deputy Brooks stated that when Deputy Pries was promoted to the Detective Bureau, he volunteered to take over as Cloverleaf’s D.A.R.E. officer. He is a Cloverleaf graduate and a lifelong resident of that district. He recently completed the two week D.A.R.E. Officer Training which is required to teach the curriculum. The program is more about making better choices, how to express that you’ve made that choice, avoid situations, etc.; it’s really more of a life coaching program than just a “Drugs Are Bad” program. The core curriculum contains 77 classes to teach each year. He is also involved in the HUDDLE-SHUDDLE program. He expects students that are in leadership positions to hold themselves to a leadership standard. He noted that he has been impressed by the number of students that volunteer for numerous things; they have a great group of kids.

Deb Bican stated that Cloverleaf does their prevention program different than other schools; they have a prevention team that works together very effectively providing coverage for students K-12 and life coaching is an important part of it. She distributed and reviewed a handout (made part of the permanent record) explaining their main programming.

There was a discussion regarding the heroin epidemic and the students’ awareness of the issue. Deputy Brooks noted that the problem is that heroin has become cheaper and easier to get than prescription medications. At one point, OxyContin was selling for \$1 per milligram which is a lot more than heroin. Enforcement can only go so far; education or changing culture must happen at some point.

Kent Patterson stated on behalf of the Board that we are fortunate to have both Deb Bican and Deputy Brooks; they are from that area and are invested in the community. They are very hands-on and their hearts are into this programming.

◆ **MCDAC MEMBERS**

Will Koran asked everyone to take a moment to reflect on the loss of Jim Bigam. Jim served on this Board for many years and was Treasurer for the Anti-Drug Levy. Jim was known for presenting drug prevention programming in the community. Jim was a vital member of the Drug Abuse Commission and a well-respected member of Medina County.

Thoughts and prayers are also sent to Evelyn Czyz for a speedy and full recovery. Cards may be sent to Willowood Care Center in Brunswick.

◆ **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business for consideration.

◆ **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Brian Nowak reported that site visits have begun; final performance reports from the previous year are reviewed and the current grants are discussed. The site visits are usually completed by Thanksgiving.

Mr. Nowak announced that Fortaleza, a new treatment center, has opened in Brunswick; their mission is to strengthen individuals, families and communities. They offer an array of services similar to LCADA Way, everything from ambulatory detox to aftercare. They are located on Pearl Rd. near Laurel Rd. They are funded through a variety of insurances that are accepted and also self-pay. More staff will be added to serve as the need grows; they are currently serving about 30 Medina County residents.

The last week of October is Red Ribbon Week; the Board of County Commissioners will be asked to declare October 23 to 31, as Red Ribbon Week in Medina County.

◆ **GO AROUND**

Cliff Nowak stated that he was glad to be back; he has had some health issues. He thanked Susan Kinney Dillon for attending in his absence. He will also be reappointed to the Board.

Susan Kinney Dillon shared a story about her friend finding her 23 year old son dead from overdose of heroin/fentanyl. Her heart goes out to all of the families that have struggled because of this epidemic. She is happy to hear of treatment programming in Medina County and all the work everyone has been doing to help this horrible situation.

Adam Friedrick noted that he has known Deputy Brooks for quite a while; no one could be a better fit for the position of D.A.R.E. Officer. Kent Patterson added that he is also an excellent road deputy.

Kent Patterson reported that Carlson Funeral Home’s website, there is a nice story of Jim’s life.

◆ **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Lou DeLoss moved to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Pat Nahrstedt. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 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 November 7, 2016.

Future 2016 Meetings

November 7 December 5

Future 2017 Meetings

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

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