



MEDINA COUNTY DRUG ABUSE COMMISSION (MCDAC) Minutes of September 10, 2018

◆ ATTENDANCE

- Present

Cliff Nowak – Brunswick Rep.
Evelyn Czyz - Township Rep.
Robert Starcher – Medina Rep.
Will Koran - School District Rep.
Susan Kinney Dillon – Brunswick Alt. Rep.
Pat Nahrstedt – Wadsworth Rep.

Holly Phillips – Commissioners Alt. Rep.
Kent Patterson - Police Chiefs Assoc. Rep.
Jeff Vogel - Commissioners Rep.
Matt Hiscock – Wadsworth Alt. Rep.
Wally Schaedel – Villages Rep.

- Absent

David Centner – Commissioners Rep.
Amy Lyon-Galvin – Commissioners Alt. Rep. (Excused)
Peggy Reeves – School District Alt. Rep. (Excused)

- Others present

Adam Friedrick
Brian Nowak
Rebecca Rak – F.A.C.T. Coordinator, Brunswick Division of Police

◆ 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 April 2, 2018, were emailed in advance. Cliff Nowak 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

Brian Nowak introduced Rebecca Rak, F.A.C.T Coordinator, Brunswick Division of Police. Brian explained that the prevention specialist moved on from Black River so they were left with the option to find a new prevention specialist or contract with Ohio Guidestone and Bellfaire. Contracting would allow Black River the ability to offer prevention and counseling for students and families. Brian stated that Rebecca was asked to bring together Ohio Guidestone and Bellfaire to meet with the principals and superintendents to determine what the program will look like for Black River.

Rebecca Rak presented what Black River School District will be doing this year. Rebecca mentioned that there is funding available in the county, such as Medicaid and Medicare, which can be used and the MCDAC funding will be used as draw down funds when all other options have been explored. The MCDAC budget for Black River is \$19,000. Through Ohio Guidestone and Bellfaire partnering, Black River has access to two huge multi-county agencies with best practices, research based curriculums, training staff, and mental health professionals. She is making MCDAC funding a small part of the budget this year. In a small rural area, it is really hard to find a masters level mental health professional at \$19,000 a year to serve three buildings so contracting these services out is a better plan. Ohio Guidestone or Bellfaire counselors work well together and can see any student that needs help regardless if they had seen a counselor from the opposite agency previously. They work well together to focus on serving the needs of the students. The two agencies are driven by the school's needs. It is critical to have the same person come back to build trust with the school and students. Ohio Guidestone has already hired someone to start in Black River by October 1st. Bellfaire is in the hiring process. For Black River, the greatest need is individual sessions for at-risk or high-risk students. Rebecca has given the counselors a timeline to establish sessions and determine what the children are dealing with. Once the needs are determined, they can find the most beneficial format. Rebecca has introduced F.A.C.T to the school. Black River is really excited to have counseling for their students.

Rebecca stated that one of the struggles is MCDAC funds are for Medina County and Black River has students from other counties which makes it hard to track at times, but contracting takes this away. Both agencies have ADAMH and other county funding that can help. Rebecca distributed the most recent logic model for the district and explained that getting the school to understand insurance first and then MCDAC funding has been challenging. Will Koran stated that Share Cluster

can help Melissa, from Ohio Guidestone, and Joyce, from Bellfaire, with Huddle. Rebecca mentioned that she wants to make sure programs are completely vetted before working with the children.

Cliff Nowak asked if the billing rates were comparable. Rebecca stated that it is comparable. The billing is a little different for them because they get paid for staff time. Every 20 hours of staff time, they receive 1 hour of supervision. They do not get paid travel time because the staff members are local. The counselor from Ohio Guidestone is from Litchfield. Rebecca noted that children are being seen during lunch or breaks for only about 20 minutes. These agencies conduct in home sessions and work with the parents. It does not have to just be in Medina for home visits. Black River is transforming their media center into a counseling space, big enough for small group. Jeff Vogel stated that through this partnership, they have the potential of providing more service to kids by billing insurance and then using MCDAC funds. Rebecca stated that she is looking at having two counselors to start, but as the case load gets too heavy, they can add another counselor. Cliff Nowak noted that Bellfaire and Ohio Guidestone provide housing. Rebecca stated that they provide space for beds if youth need to stay a night and Bellfaire can handle children on the spectrum through the Monarch Center. The two agencies offer a variety of services and can follow the children throughout the three buildings in the district.

◆ **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business for consideration.

◆ **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business for consideration.

◆ **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Brian Nowak reported that Kite Fest was on Sep. 8, but due to rain, he cancelled the West Virginia New Era Kite Club and the event ended at 12:30 p.m. The race went on as scheduled at 10 a.m. and there were 60- 70 people. The event benefitted Fighting for Alyssa and through the sponsorships, they were able to donate grants to some of the local non-profits. Holly Phillips stated that there was a nice comradery and the group was really supportive of recovery in Medina County.

Brian stated that the Fair went well and since they are funding more treatment, there were more volunteers. The activities director from Huntington Square Apartments in Medina stopped by the Fair booth and asked if they could present to the residents. On Friday, Gary Hubbard and Brian Nowak talked to residents about drug abuse in Medina County and the work of the Drug Task Force. Gary is more than happy to present to other groups within the county.

Brian stated that the site visits will begin next week and will take him through the middle of November. Brian noted that he has asked Ohio Guidestone to talk about their recidivism prevention specialist at the next meeting.

◆ **GO AROUND**

Holly Phillips mentioned that at the Opioid Task Force Meeting they spoke about a peer support program starting up for those in recovery and she is pleased to hear this. Commissioner Friedrick stated that the Recovery Center had an event in Brunswick and one of the speakers was a woman who gave her testimony. She started a church in Wadsworth for people in recovery. He would like them to come and speak to MCDAC. Holly noted that it is nice to have many options for people in recovery. Wally Schaedel mentioned that at the Kiwanas, David Gibson, agent from ICE working in Medina, spoke to the group. He was involved in a nationwide drug bust with Gary Hubbard. He would be a great speaker for other groups. Cliff Nowak stated that Ohio Guidestone and Bellfaire are wonderful and he had a great niece who spent time at both facilities. This helped her turn her life around. He knows they will help children if they are a danger to themselves or others.

◆ **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 5:39 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 October 1, 2018.

Future 2018 Meetings

October 1	November 5
	December 3

Minutes provided by Megan M. Holly
Assistant Clerk of the Board of Medina County Commissioners