



## MEDINA COUNTY DRUG ABUSE COMMISSION (MCDAC) Minutes of March 7, 2016

### ◆ ATTENDANCE

- Present

Evelyn Czyz - Township Rep.

Louis DeLoss - Township Alt. Rep.

Kim Grieco – School Districts 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.

Mary Schultz – Commissioners Alt. Rep.

Jeff Vogel - Commissioners Rep.

- Absent

James Bigam - Commissioners Rep.

Robert Starcher – Medina City Rep.

- Others Present

Adam Friedrick – Commissioners' Liaison

Gary Hubbard – Drug Task Force Director

Brian Nowak - MCDAC Executive Director

Paul Gierosky

Elizabeth Gierosky

### ◆ 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 February 1, 2016, were emailed in advance. Cliff Nowak moved to accept the minutes as submitted; the motion was seconded by Pat Nahrstedt. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously. The minutes will be placed on file as submitted.

### ◆ PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Gierosky introduced himself and his wife, Elizabeth. Mr. Gierosky stated that he is a York Township resident and currently a candidate for Medina County Commissioner running against Pat Geissman. Mr. Gierosky reviewed his background and stated that he is a businessman who has not previously run for office; he believes it is time for new leadership. He noted that he initially entered the race because of the Nexus pipeline issue and gave a brief review of the pipeline and how he believes it effects the county and its residents, and he stated that he doesn't feel that the current commissioners have accepted the responsibility that they should have in this issue.

### ◆ PRESENTATION

Medina County Drug Task Force Director Gary Hubbard introduced himself and explained that they are the enforcement arm that is primarily funded by the MCDAC levy. The budget request was approved by their operating board and also by the Council of Governments ("COG"). Mr. Hubbard distributed the budget and arrest statistics (made part of the permanent record).

Mr. Hubbard explained that their focus remains the same – work the street level drugs having an effect on local communities and work up to the higher level dealers from there. They have been fortunate to identify some larger level drug dealers lately. Mr. Hubbard discussed the arrest of Richard Lawless. Mr. Lawless was a large scale drug dealer that has had an effect on Medina, Wayne, Ashland & Richland counties for several years. During a search warrant on Mr. Lawless's property, nearly a kilo of cocaine, a half kilo of heroin, 5 properties, 32 weapons, cars and money were seized. Of significant note, a pill press was also seized. Heroin was being pressed into pill form and sold on the street as Percocet. Several people became addicted based on the substances he was selling. This was one of the first cases in Ohio where anyone was able to seize a pill press and identify who was making heroin pill to look like Percocet. Mr. Hubbard reported that nine people were arrested, one of them being a 67 year old female who died of a heroin overdose before she could be taken into custody.

The Drug Task Force is at full staff, and is fortunate to be one of the few agencies around to have a drug task force agent working closely with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) without the agent having to travel to Cleveland every day; this has been a tremendous help.

Continuing, Mr. Hubbard explained that the Drug Task Force is currently working the hotel/motel interdiction very heavily. There are two agents, along with a federal agent from Homeland Security, working this full time. This program identifies local residents that use the motels to deal drugs out of, to make meth and use the motels as a base of operations. This program doesn't only identify local residents, but also identifies transient drug dealers who are coming through the county via the highways and staying at local motels.

Mr. Hubbard reviewed the budget, explaining that there are not many significant changes. One change is that the COG and operating board approved promotion of an agent to a supervisor's rank, as Mr. Hubbard needs someone to assist with the day-to-day operations and having a supervisor would be a tremendous help.

After discussion regarding Mr. Hubbard's salary and the procedures to increase his salary to the level of a Sheriff's Lieutenant, Evelyn Czyz moved to request the COG review the budget request and consider increasing Gary Hubbard's salary to the Lieutenant status in the revised budget request coming to MCDAC; Wally Schaedel seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hubbard reported that the commissioners approved for the Sheriff to hire a deputy to replace a deputy; the Sheriff is assigning a full time deputy to the Drug Task Force. There will be a uniformed deputy with a newly trained drug sniffing dog and will work the highways of Medina County effective May 1.

There was a brief discussion regarding asset forfeiture and proposed changes in legislation making it more difficult to seize assets. Mr. Hubbard explained that asset forfeiture money, upon court approval, may be used for overtime, cars, rent, building improvements, training, travel, equipment, bulletproof vest, guns, ammunition, etc., but cannot be used for salaries. His department relies heavily on asset forfeiture.

Will Koran thanked Mr. Hubbard and his staff for their work on the levy.

#### ◆ **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

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

Brian Nowak thanked those who helped with the Medina County Home & Garden Show at the Community Center. Lou DeLoss reported that people were more open to discussions regarding their own families which has not generally happened in the past. Most discussions revolved around the heroin issue. Jeff Vogel added that a number of people mentioned that it affected their families, and a number of people thanked MCDAC for being there. He stated that it is good outreach and is well-worth the time.

Brian Nowak reported that he had received the contract from the Medina County Fair Board; the fair will be held the first week of August and Mr. Nowak will be distributing a sign-up sheet for booth coverage.

Mr. Nowak discussed the Let's Start Talking presentation held at the Health Department on March 2. (A handout was distributed and being made part of the permanent record). The two main parts of the presentation are information that is provided to parents and teachers receive a newsletter about teachable moments. The links are posted on the website and Facebook page. Mr. Nowak is looking into a couple of programs that could be brought into the school districts that would involve parents and students. Lou DeLoss noted that the presentation was good; the main thing is getting the parents involved. Will Koran noted that there are a few good videos on their website that could be eye-opening for parents.

Mr. Nowak distributed a flyer about Chasing the Dream (made part of the permanent record); it is a full day workshop that is being sponsored by the Drug Abuse Commission and hosted by Share Cluster that will feature updates on opiates, heroin, marijuana, addiction and recovery. Anyone interested was encouraged to attend.

Tom Stuber of The LCADA Way will be attending the April meeting to discuss the Medina Wellness Center and give an update. Also at the next meeting, the budget for this year will be looked at very closely, knowing that most of the grantees will be reapplying for grants.

#### ◆ **GO AROUND**

Wally Schaedel requested a follow up on Susan Kinney Dillon's question regarding Suboxone. Brian Nowak answered that he was advised by Tim Smith of The LCADA Way that whether or not someone needs Suboxone is the decision of the doctor. They try to keep it within a 48 hour window to be seen by the doctor in Lorain County. In the interim, they

maintain contact with the client until they are able to see the doctor. Tim Smith will be addressing this issue at the April meeting.

Cliff Nowak shared that his 26 year old nephew was killed by a drunk driver who was also high on drugs. There were four people in his nephew's car – all were killed, as was the drunk driver. The members expressed their sympathies to Mr. Nowak.

Pat Nahrstedt reported that she recently met with Mayor Laubaugh and Safety Director Matt Hiscock; they are seeking help for the people in their community, either sober houses or inpatient care such as CATS. There could potentially be a request for funding.

Adam Friedrick reported that he had been approached by Chief Arbogast of Medina Township and Chief Grice of Montville Township regarding support of a bill that would allow them to make traffic stops and arrests in an area that would be considered an interstate area. The commissioners wrote a letter in support of the bill.

Kim Grieco stated that the School Commander is coming up with a fine group of law enforcement cadets who are testing on Thursday on PT; they have gone through 600+ hours of training. Kent Patterson agreed that they are a good group. They started with 20 adult students and still have all 20. It's been a good class.

Will Koran thanked everyone for re-electing him as chairman of MCDAC at the last meeting.

◆ **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Cliff Nowak 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 7:14 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 April 4, 2016.

**\*Future 2016 Meetings\***

April 4	September 12
May 2	October 3
June 6	November 7
	December 5

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