



MEDINA COUNTY DRUG ABUSE COMMISSION (MCDAC) Minutes of December 5, 2016

◆ ATTENDANCE

- Present
 - David Centner – Commissioners’ Rep.
 - Louis DeLoss - Township Alt. Rep.
 - Susan Kinney Dillon – Brunswick Alt. Rep.
 - Pat Nahrstedt - Wadsworth Rep.
 - Cliff Nowak - Brunswick Rep.
 - Wally Schaedel - Villages Rep.
 - Kent Patterson - Police Chiefs Assoc. Rep.
 - Robert Starcher – Medina City Rep.
- Absent
 - Evelyn Czyz - Township Rep. (excused)
 - Will Koran - School District Rep. (excused)
 - Mary Schultz – Commissioners Alt. Rep. (excused)
 - Jeff Vogel - Commissioners Rep. (excused)
- Others Present
 - Brian Nowak - MCDAC Executive Director
 - Claudia Johnson – Highland Schools
 - Deputy Sharon Centner – D.A.R.E. Officer

◆ CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was held in the lower conference room of the Professional Services Building located at 124 West Washington Street, Medina. Vice Chairman Kent Patterson called the regular meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. After roll call, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

◆ CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

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

◆ PRESENTATION

Brian Nowak introduced District Prevention Coordinator/Guidance Counselor Claudia Johnson and D.A.R.E. Officer Deputy Sharon Centner of Highland Local Schools. Deputy Centner distributed copies of Highland Local Schools 2016-2017 District Calendar; it was noted that their Safety Town volunteers are displayed on the cover. The D.A.R.E. program is in the Safety Town; they start theirs at the Pre-K level. Approximately 150 children go through the Safety Town program.

The research is showing that when you build relationships with students, faculty and families, the continuity and consistency is a big factor in making good decisions, especially relating to drugs and alcohol. Education in Ohio is very test-based, so with that comes a lot of anxiety and many students are turning to a quick-fix to deal with the stress. With education, you have to look at the whole person and educate them in a whole way. Deputy Centner added that drugs are everywhere. They need to educate the students and give them the tools to be able to say that drugs are not for them.

Mrs. Johnson explained their programs include Education & Prevention, Intervention and At-Risk Initiatives, specifically, drug testing which has been in place at Highland Schools approximately 15 years. Drug testing is a way to keep students involved in sports while being drug-free. She believes the drug testing policy is a deterrent.

Mrs. Johnson explained that she is very proud of the Peer Leader program which is funded by MCDAC. The Peer Leaders present monthly lessons to students in grades 3, 6 and 8; topics include life skills, decision-making, drugs and tobacco, bullying, internet safety and study skills and there are currently 90 high school Peer Leaders. It is a very highly-selected group. There are 2-3 leaders in each classroom and they work as a team. The Peer Leaders are also a good barometer for what’s going on in the school.

Those students that are not selected as Peer Leaders can still be involved in programs such as D.A.R.E., SADD (Students against Destructive Decisions), etc. They encourage the students to get involved with another club, and to also try again the following year. Deputy Centner stated that the popularity of these programs is for those that have a genuine compassion for children and want to make sure they understand how to make good choices. Mrs. Johnson noted that many of these students want to be teachers and are able to use these lessons for student teaching.

Deputy Centner reported that a D.A.R.E. Role Models Club was developed; it has been successful and continues to grow. In this program, the students just have to want to make good choices. She brought sample student applications for the MCDAC members to view. The D.A.R.E. program is research and scientific-based, and is now in 52 countries. In answer to a question posed by Cliff Nowak, Deputy Centner stated that because of the relationship building, she does hear from former students. She is very proud of all of her students, but particularly those who have come from a single-parent home, are struggling, but they make it. When those kids write or text her, she is able to tell them how proud she is of them. There are 119 D.A.R.E. students in the high school and 102 in middle school.

Some of the events they are involved with are Red Ribbon Week, Safety Town, Coats for Kids, 5th Grade Graduation, D.A.R.E. Skate Night, Bowling Nights, and Social Media & Internet Safety Classes in addition to involvement in school and community events.

Mrs. Johnson stated that they have always followed the Community Intervention Model which has been in place for many years, but they do recognize that chemical dependency is a problem, and they are trying to combat it with education and prevention programs. Deputy Centner added that addiction is a brain disease.

Continuing, Mrs. Johnson explained that they are also involved with programs such as Share Cluster, After Prom, P.T.O. which has a Parent Concern form, Teacher In-Service, B.I.O.N.I.C. (Believe It or Not I Care) night, health curriculum, community speakers and assemblies, Medina County Drug Task Force, and parent meetings.

Deputy Centner briefly reviewed the Extreme Challenge, crisis response team, chemical counseling and referrals, coordination of county services and agencies, expulsion alternatives, in-school suspension, drug K-9s and other various prevention programs.

Kent Patterson stated that both Mrs. Johnson and Deputy Centner represent their programs very well. Everything they do can be seen on a daily basis. Highland has the best reputation in the county for their D.A.R.E. and the student programs they are involved with. Cliff Nowak added that they are always thinking outside the box. They were both thanked for jobs well done.

◆ **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business for consideration.

◆ **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Brian Nowak reported he and Gary Hubbard have been discussing the need for a heroin task force in Medina County. Phillip Titterington assured Brian that he and Krista Wasowski will be heading up a heroin task force beginning next year. Brian, Gary and others will be a part of it. Bringing resources together is important and coming up with additional ideas. For example, like Cuyahoga County, we need a crisis line for people to call, as well as a number that would be left at a scene where someone was resuscitated. Brian noted that over the last few months, he has been receiving more phone calls than ever from family members or individuals seeking help.

The Local Government Expo will be held on January 11, 2017 from 7:30 AM to 10:30 AM at Williams on the Lake. Brian will be sharing a table with Gary Hubbard.

The Medina County Share Cluster will host a speaker on March 22 at Weymouth Country Club. Flyers will be distributed next month regarding this event.

Brian noted that it will be interesting to see as we get into 2017 what type of Anti-Drug Levy funds will be collected; it will be crucial moving forward. One thing for certain is there will be no new money. Any program increases would have to come from an existing program.

He reported that he had spoken with Evelyn Czyz; she sounds very good and was in good spirits, but each day is a struggle. She is continuing with therapy. Brian asked everyone to keep her in their thoughts.

Brian reminded everyone that there is no meeting in January. The next meeting is February 6, 2017; the election of officers will take place at that time. He will be approaching The LCADA Way to present at the February meeting.

◆ **GO AROUND**

Cliff Nowak stated that he is very pleased to have David Centner joining; he is an excellent person to replace Jim Bigam on the board.

Wally Schaedel wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Lou DeLoss stated that he had also spoken with Evelyn; she’s doing okay. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Susan Kinney-Dillon also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Bob Starcher wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

David Centner stated that it is an honor to replace Jim on the board. Jim had been a friend of his family for nearly 50 years was one of his earliest influences on him wanting to be in law enforcement. His loss is devastating and will be for a long time. He wished everyone happy holidays.

Kent Patterson also wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

◆ **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Wally Schaedel 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 February 6, 2017.

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 Commissioner*