



MEDINA COUNTY DRUG ABUSE COMMISSION (MCDAC) Minutes of February 1, 2016

◆ ATTENDANCE

- Present
 - James Bigam - Commissioners Rep.
 - Evelyn Czyz - Township Rep.
 - Louis DeLoss - Township Alt. Rep.
 - Kim Grieco – School Districts Alt. Rep.
 - Susan Kinney Dillon – Brunswick Alt. Rep.
 - Pat Nahrstedt - Wadsworth Rep.
 - Cliff Nowak - Brunswick Rep.
- Absent
 - Will Koran - School District Rep. (excused)
- Others Present
 - Tina Burdette – Wadsworth City Schools
 - Adam Friedrick – Commissioners’ Liaison
 - Andrew Hill – Wadsworth City Schools
Superintendent
 - Brian Nowak - MCDAC Executive Director
 - Kent Patterson - Police Chiefs Assoc. Rep.
 - Wally Schaedel - Villages Rep.
 - Mary Schultz – Commissioners Alt. Rep.
 - Robert Starcher – Medina City Alt. Rep.
 - Jeff Vogel - Commissioners Rep.
 - Kristen Prough – Wadsworth City Schools

◆ 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 6:00 p.m. After roll, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

◆ CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of December 7, 2015, 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.

◆ ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Wally Schaedel nominated Will Koran to serve as chairman; the motion was seconded by James Bigam. There were no further nominations. Cliff Nowak moved to close the nominations and the motion was seconded by James Bigam. 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.

James Bigam nominated Kent Patterson to serve as vice chairman; the motion was seconded by Evelyn Czyz. There were no further nominations. Wally Schaedel moved to close 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 Kent Patterson as vice chairman passed unanimously.

◆ PRESENTATION

Kristen Prough stated Wadsworth City Schools thrives for collaboration and receives support from many different community agencies. The counseling department takes the lead in implementing the programs which include classroom guidance, group support and individual support for the students. They also have a Prevention and Intervention Specialist.

At the elementary level, the focus is prevention as they believe that to be the key to success. In middle school, the focus also is prevention along with some intervention. There are some students exhibiting at-risk behavior, so they like to intervene early. At the high school level, the focus is on prevention and some intervention, but they also work on developing teen leadership, particularly through HUDDLE.

Ms. Prough reported that they have partnered with Solutions Behavioral Healthcare through a resiliency grant through the United Way. Students are screened and at-risk students are provided skills to deal with disappointments in life. This is an 8-week program and they were able to see 50 students last year and are on track to see the same this year.

Continuing, Ms. Prough discussed the Heroin-Opiate Awareness Campaign that is being done in partnership with the City of Wadsworth. The information can be found on their website.

Ms. Prough further discussed addition of a half time guidance counselor which has enabled them to have two days of guidance counselor support at each building; the impact has been huge. The guidance department is very cohesive. She reviewed the number of lessons and students served and thanked MCDAC for their support.

Prevention Specialist Coordinator Tina Burdette reported that programs she is in charge of at the high school mainly focus on teen leadership such as HUDDLE. The HUDDLE curriculum was updated; the updates were implemented to get the students more involved. She also reviewed programs such as Extreme Challenge, STAMP, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Red Ribbon Week which have been very successful.

Ms. Burdette discussed Project Love which has 28 eighth graders that meet every other week. They come up with leadership activities that are done at Wadsworth Middle School. The goal is to promote positives, as middle school is a very trying time. The students come up with the ideas.

Heroin Awareness has been added this year. In November, there was a student presentation where Rob Brandt of Robby's Voice attended and spoke. The students were very engaged. Another presentation will be held on February 17 and will be more geared toward parents.

Superintendent Andrew Hill spoke about the collaboration between the Wadsworth City Schools and the city in relation to the prevention/awareness campaign which began at the end of July. He noted that a funeral home director was concerned about all of the young adults he was burying based on opiates. He stated that awareness within the community was one of the most impactful things the schools can do and was also the easiest. He explained that between 5,000 and 6,000 informational email messages are sent every two weeks and updates are posted on Facebook. He referenced the schools' website at wadsworth.k.12.oh.us. He added that the change of the part time guidance counselor has made a huge difference. He expressed his appreciation to MCDAC for their support of that change.

◆ UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business for consideration.

◆ NEW BUSINESS

Budget Transfer – Black River Local Schools

Brian Nowak reported that Black River Local Schools receive \$20,000 per year; \$18,150 are contractual fees that go to the prevention specialist. The remaining \$1,200 is for purchase services (i.e. speakers) and \$250 for materials. Mr. Musselman is requesting that \$400 of material expenses go towards the speakers. They are looking for higher quality presenters; presenters that will hold the students interest and would give a more effective message.

Jim Bigam moved to approve the budget transfer; Kim Grieco seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

Solutions BHC Grant Revision

Brian Nowak reported that in November, Solutions started a phased intensive outpatient program specifically for opiate dependency. The phased program means that clients may go 4 times a week, 3 times a week, etc. depending on the level of needed care. To get the program started, they took the recidivism prevention specialist that MCDAC funds, kept her part time and moved her over to the opiate IOP part time. Mr. Nowak explained that the recidivism prevention specialist position and the purpose of the full time position. Solutions kept the detox part of this position, but moved her over to run the opiate phased treatment program. The funds were not transferred, only the position was.

◆ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Brian Nowak stated that the Local Government Expo was held on January 13; he thanked Evelyn Czyz and Robert Starcher for attending. Mr. Starcher reported that the students of the leadership class were not aware of the extensiveness of Medina County addressing the drug issue and were impressed. Evelyn Czyz noted that the new venue was much nicer than it has been in the past.

Mr. Nowak reported that Linda Robertson is the new director for Cathy's House and Mark Skoda is taking over as Chairman of the Board. Wally Schaedel explained that Mr. Skoda will take over the daily operations and that they have a very good house father. There was a brief discussion regarding the average length of stay and admission policies which have not changed. Mr. Schaedel explained that the rule structure is strict and the residents are monitored closely.

Brian Nowak reported that the Drug Task Force operating board has reviewed their budget; Gary Hubbard will be presenting at the March meeting.

Brian Nowak noted that he had a meeting with Phil Titterington of the ADAMH Board, which is the primary funder in Medina County. The meeting went well and the importance of collaboration was discussed. Tim Smith of LCADA will be attending the April MCDAC meeting which is the Monday before grants are due. At this time, Mr. Nowak is unsure if LCADA will be seeking funds for another year.

Kent Patterson stated that he serves on both boards and was asked to be at the meeting. He reported that Brian Nowak did an outstanding job in describing the role of MCDAC and programs MCDAC is involved with. The meeting was very positive and the importance of working together for limited funds was brought forward. Mr. Patterson reported that the interaction between Mr. Nowak and Mr. Titterington will be very effective.

Brian Nowak reported that Will Koran received an email and follow up call from Governor Kasich's office. They want to come to Medina and present a "Start Talking" initiative. The presentation will be at the Health Department on March 2 from 10:00-11:30 a.m. The focus will be primarily on the schools.

The Home and Garden Show will be held on March 5 & 6; MCDAC will have a booth.

There was a brief discussion regarding the status of CAT.

◆ **GO AROUND**

Susan Kinney Dillon reported that she has been told that The LCADA Way only has one doctor prescribing Suboxone, and that doctor is in Lorain County. It is taking at least two weeks or more to see a doctor. Brian Nowak will follow up with Tom Stuber.

Cliff Nowak inquired about the CVS program which will be offering Narcan over-the-counter.

Pat Nahrstedt stated that the program that Wadsworth is doing is outstanding. It is very well done and could possibly be duplicated for other groups.

Bob Starcher reported that the "Start Talking" is the same language being used on Wadsworth's website.

Jim Bigam reported that Friends for a Drug Free County had collected \$4,251.00 with \$80.58 remaining.

Kent Patterson thanked everyone for this confidence in Will Koran and himself in re-electing them as chair and vice chair.

◆ **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Wally Schaedel moved to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Kim Grieco. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:11 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 7, 2016.

Future 2016 Meetings

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

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