



## MEDINA COUNTY DRUG ABUSE COMMISSION (MCDAC) Minutes of October 1, 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.

Kent Patterson - Police Chiefs Assoc. Rep.

Wally Schaedel – Villages Rep.

Peggy Reeves – School District Alt. Rep.

- Absent

David Centner – Commissioners Rep.

Holly Phillips – Commissioners Alt. Rep. (Excused)

Jeff Vogel – Commissioners Rep.

Matt Hiscock – Wadsworth Alt. Rep.

- Others present

Adam Friedrich

Brian Nowak

William Maxon-Kann- OhioGuidestone

Stephanie Robinson- OhioGuidestone

### ◆ 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 September 17, 2018, were emailed in advance. Cliff Nowak moved to accept the minutes as submitted; the motion was seconded by Wally Schaedel. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously. The minutes will be placed on file as submitted.

### ◆ PRESENTATION

Brian Nowak introduced representatives from OhioGuidestone, William Maxon-Kann and Stephanie Robinson, to discuss the work of the Recidivism Prevention Specialist and Recovery Coach. Mr. Maxon-Kann stated that the purpose of the position is to connect folks with detox, assist with leaving the detox centers, and to connect them with services in recovery. Yolanda Tolliver is the Recidivism Prevention Specialist and since July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 she has worked with 34 clients. All 34 clients had a form of mental illness. 15 of the 34 clients attended outpatient and 7 were discharged. 2 of the discharges were due to incarceration. There was 1 client who passed away during the process. Currently, she has 30 clients, 4 in drug court, 9 in counseling or psychotherapy and 2 clients to be discharged. Yolanda works with 2 clients in a residential treatment facility. A part of Yolanda's job is to communicate with the clients, arrange appointments, transport clients and advocate for the clients. She works to remove barriers such as housing, employment, transportation, grocery shopping, etc. Yolanda communicates with clients via text, email, phone call, in the community, and at the office. She tries to meet clients where they are. Yolanda has 1,876 documented hours working with clients for the grant. Yolanda completes additional hours that aren't document. 3 of 30 clients work with Stephanie in the peer support program. In answer to a question, Mr. Maxon-Kann stated she does drive clients, but staff who drive clients have to have a certain level of liability insurance through their insurance company. Mr. Schaedel asked if they make use of Cathy's House as a resident facility. Stephanie Robinson stated that she does utilize Cathy's House and she will contact Yolanda if they have openings. Cliff Nowak asked how many clients are homeless. Mr. Maxon-Kann stated that none right now, but clients do stay in motels. Ms. Robinson stated that some are couch surfing because housing is an issue. Mr. Maxon-Kann stated that they drug test some clients, but everyone in drug court does have to get 3 random urine screens a week. Kent Patterson inquired about the client who passed away. Mr. Maxon-Kann stated that to his knowledge it didn't have to do with a substance abuse, but instead a medical condition that was not caused by substance abuse.

Stephanie Robinson stated that she started seeing clients in August/September in peer support. Peer support is one person with lived experience helping another person with lived experience. She is 10 years clean from drugs, alcohol, and an eating disorder. Ms. Robinson stated that she got into recovery coaching two years ago and helped establish Robby's Recovery Center. Ms. Robinson started with OhioGuidestone and their mission is to get services available to the community of Medina. Today, anyone can receive peer support services. Ms. Robinson stated that she meets with clients on a weekly

basis and help them dream again. Peer Support helps them see a person who is doing really well, helps them identify barriers, and allows them to talk with someone who understands. Ms. Robinson meets clients where they are at and she sits in between a counselor and a sponsor. She acts as an advocate and makes sure needs are being met. Ms. Robinson has a full case load which is 11 clients that she sees weekly. OhioGuidestone is in the process of hiring more peer supporters. OHMAS allows peer supporters to see up to 20 clients a week and can supervise 5, but OhioGuidestone will be keeping peer supporters at part time at 12-15 clients with two years of time in recovery. All services are done at OhioGuidestone, but in 2019, there will hopefully be a new location for recovery support services. Ms. Robinson stated that today, they don't have a juvenile program, but it is something that is being researched. Ms. Robinson is connecting with organizations to see what can be done in the future to offer peer support services to juveniles. Ms. Robinson noted that she hopes to start a community of peer support in Medina County. Commissioner Friedrich inquired about how often expected or new mothers are clients. Ms. Robinson stated that it does come up in the community and usually she works with the Health Department or Oasis. Peer Support allows her to know the community and resources really well and can point clients to the appropriate services. There are not enough services for women and children in Medina County. Mr. Maxon-Kann stated that OhioGuidestone does offer services for maternal depression, but there are a lot of women struggling with substance abuse.

◆ **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 last month, the commission discussed the changes at Black River regarding their contracting with OhioGuidestone and Bellfaire. A semi-annual and annual report will be completed, but they will be at a MCDAC meeting next year to discuss their successes and challenges. There have been some personnel changes. At Medina City Schools, Cathy Lasher retired and Ron Blue will be taking her place. Claudia Johnston retired from Highland and is being replaced by Daryn Archer. Medina County Drug Task Force made minor changes to their bylaws and Thursday at the Council of Government meeting they will be voted on. In the past, MCDAC has been invited to have a table at the Local Government Expo, but that is being replaced by a Road Rally where they are visiting agencies. Brian stated that he does not believe they will be coming to MCDAC. The Professional Building will someday be sold and this Thursday, the architects will be meeting with Brian to discuss space at the Administration Building. On October 25<sup>th</sup>, Brian will be conducting a site visit at the Recovery Center. Jessica Hazelton will be coming to MCDAC in November to talk about the Recovery Center. Red Ribbon Week is the last week of October in schools and there will be a resolution by the commissioners.

◆ **GO AROUND**

Adam Friedrich noted that he received a letter from a student from Kent State University addressed to MCDAC that was appreciative of their work with the war on drugs. Kent Patterson asked if MCDAC was going to take a position on Issue 1. Will Koran stated that Issue 1 is the removal of many penalties for incarceration for drug/alcohol abuse. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio has come out against Issue 1. Kent Patterson made a motion that MCDAC not support Issue 1; the motion was seconded by Cliff Nowak. Commissioner Friedrich stated that the CCAO came out in opposition of Issue 1 as well. All commission members voted AYE and the motion passed.

◆ **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Evelyn Czyz 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 5:50 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 November 5, 2018.

**\*Future 2018 Meetings\***

November 5

December 3

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