MEDINA COUNTY DRUG ABUSE COMMISSION (MCDAC)
Minutes of December 3, 2018

♦ ATTENDANCE
  • Present
    Cliff Nowak – Brunswick Rep.
    Evelyn Czyz - Township Rep.
    Wally Schaedel – Villages Rep.
    David Centner – Commissioners Rep.

  • Absent
    Will Koran – School District Rep. (Excused)
    Jeff Vogel- Commissioners Rep.

  • Others present
    Adam Friedrick
    Robert Newman – C.A.T.S.
    Brian Nowak
    Linda Robertson – Cathy’s House

♦ 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 Chair Kent Patterson 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 November 5, 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 Robert Newman from C.A.T.S. and Linda Robertson from Cathy’s House. Robert Newman stated that the facility opened in August and they have had 25 residential clients; 2 were AWOLs and 13 clients successfully completed the program. Mr. Newman stated that the average length of stay is 82 days. 22 of 25 clients were opiate dependent. 7 utilized Medication Assisted Therapy (MAT) with Vivitrol. They have a mobile Vivitrol clinic that visits each of their locations because they do not have a doctor on staff. They spoke with Bellfaire who exclusively uses Suboxone and decided to allow Suboxone as a MAT in their program. There are currently 8 clients and 8 open beds. The biggest challenge is filling beds. Mr. Newman stated that everything in their facility is funded by Medicaid and there seems to be a hesitancy for outpatient facilities to refer them for in-patient because it is more restrictive. In answer to a question, the facility is locked in terms of nobody can come in, but the doors have a crash bar. If clients leave, Wadsworth Police Department and parole officers are contacted. Mr. Newman noted that a majority of clients are coming from Common Pleas court. In Wadsworth, 90 days would be considered a long stay. During the day, clients are in sessions for 36 hours a week and have activities to occupy their time. The facility is strictly male. Commissioner Friedrick asked if they have anyone working on remedying the hesitancy to refer. Mr. Newman stated that he has talked to Veronica Perry about the difficulty filling the facility. They just hired a new marketing person whose job is to meet with other organizations to discuss the facility. Mr. Newman noted that right now it is strictly Medicaid, but they are working with a consultant to start taking private insurance. The facility is not feasible for both male and females because it is an open space with bunk beds. Summa has approached them about opening a women’s facility, but they want to be successful with the male facility first.

Linda Robertson stated that Cathy’s House is a structured sober residence with 10 men and 6 women. Clients are often referred and are required to get a job, attend daily AA meetings, and complete chores. They have to demonstrate that they have a desire to have a sober life. Cathy’s house has served Medina County for 20 years. They ask that clients stay 9 months to a year and need to be 18 years of age or older. 59 residents have been served year to date including 33 women and 26 men. 19 of the men and 12 women stayed 6 months to a year. The drug of choice for the men was alcohol or some alcohol combination and for women it was heroin or heroin combination. Ms. Robertson stated that the men tended to stay at the facility longer because women feel obligated to get back to their children and families. Wally Schaedel noted that Cathy’s House has a waiting list. Ms. Robertson stated that the holidays bring more people in. Discussion occurred about different substance anonymous meetings happening in the county. Ms. Robertson stated that a lot of the clients seem to put
their drug of choice as all or multiple combinations. There is not a lot of prescription abuse in clients. The waiting list is currently at 2 or 3, but with the holidays, it will grow. Wally Schaedel stated that the wait list may have to wait a few months or a year because it depends on how long the current residents stay in the house especially since Cathy’s House tries to keep them for 6 months to a year. Cliff Nowak inquired if businesses are receptive to the house. Mr. Schaedel stated that they are very receptive. Ms. Robertson stated that A.I. Root and Sandridge have both employed people from Cathy’s House. Evelyn Czyz asked if there was a curfew. Ms. Robertson stated 11 pm unless they work different shifts. Holly Phillips mentioned that she attended the Opioid Task Force Meeting and there was a presentation on women and addiction and their challenges that they face. Women’s treatment is often disrupted by feelings that they have to get back to their families and children.

♦ 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 there is a new organization called Francis Recovery House and Brian will be meeting with him to learn more. The Kiwanas event is this Saturday, December 8th at 11 am and Brian will be representing MCDAC. Mr. Nowak stated he attended the last drug task force meeting and will be leaving it to Gary to address at the March meeting, but the Feds are changing asset forfeiture, how the money is collected, dispersed, etc. The MCDAC website has been updated. The grant forms that are submitted have been turned into fillable PDF format. The semi-annual reports are due January 31st. Mr. Nowak thanked Megan for assisting with the forms. Gary will be here in March and in February, Kathy Fulkerson will be discussing the Mindfulness program in Brunswick. There will be elections at the February meeting. Mr. Nowak thanked Adam Friedrick for his support and contributions to the commission and anti-drug levy. Commissioner Friedman stated that Colleen Swedyk will be replacing him on the MCDAC board.

♦ GO AROUND
All board members wished each other a Merry Christmas and thanked Adam for his service to MCDAC. Pat Nahrstedt mentioned that there will not be a January meeting. Commissioner Friedman stated that there are no boards that take their jobs as seriously or are as passionate, then MCDAC is. Mr. Friedman stated that it is easier to be dedicated when the board members are dedicated. Kent Patterson asked MCDAC to remember John Detchon because he passed away. John dedicated his life to service in Medina County.

♦ ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business, Peggy Reeves 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 5:51 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 February 4, 2019.

*Future 2019 Meetings*

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