

**MEDINA COUNTY DRUG ABUSE COMMISSION
MONDAY, MAY 16, 2005**

Roll Call

Vice Chair Kent Patterson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Jeff Vogel (Townships' Representative), James Bigam (Commissioners' Representative), Laura Dean (Medina Representative), Wally Schaedel (Medina Alternate Representative), Susan Likovich (Commissioners' Representative), Michael Maracz (Commissioners' Alternate Representative), Ralph Copley (Wadsworth Representative), Michael Jervis (Villages' Representative), Kent Patterson (Police Chiefs' Representative), Cliff Nowak (Brunswick Alternate Representative), Jack Higgins (School Districts' Alternate Representative), and Joe Lewandowski (Townships' Alternate Representative).

Absent: Ronald Likley (Wadsworth Alternate Representative), Tom Acklin (Police Chiefs' Alternate Representative), William Koran (School Districts' Representative), Joe Destro (Brunswick Representative), and Antony Kibogo (Commissioners' Alternate Representative).

Also present: Karl Cetina - MCDAC Executive Director and Commissioner Steve Hambley.

Review & Approval of Minutes – May

The May 2, 2005 minutes were emailed out in advance. *Ralph Copley made a motion to approve the minutes and Jack Higgins seconded the motion. Wally Schaedel pointed out that the meeting starting time in those minutes should say 6:03 – not 6:33. With that correction, all voted AYE and the minutes were approved.*

Old Business

- **New & Expansion Projects Defense of Proposals
Juvenile Drug Court**

Phil Titterington, Drug Court Coordinator, introduced himself, Lisa Marks, Non-intensive Clinician, and Juvenile/Probate Court Judge John Lohn. He thanked MCDAC for past support. He passed out and reviewed a statistical report on the successes of the Drug Court. They offer an intensive component as well as a non-intensive component that reaches a wide range of youth and families. They would like to expand services that treat youth in a clinical setting so this March they are proposing to add home based services to the Drug Court. Laura Dean arrived during this discussion. Phil said 56 young people have gone through the program, and they have 22 active now. They have had several successful graduations, some relapses, a few setbacks, and they have had to provide additional services to some – they don't just stop after they do counseling. They try to expand it and do follow through.

Lisa Marks explained some of the home-based services they are proposing. She said they are going to work with parents on setting boundaries and going over positive and negative consequences. With the children, they are going to work on helping them seek more positive and healthier activities.

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Phil said all of the participants would have access to the home-based services if needed. They use MCDAC's funding and support to leverage other dollars. They received over \$6,700 in checks and support from the community. One of the successes of the program is they use rewards and sanctions as a tool. They are also using funds from the ADAMH Board to hire a part-time mental health clinician. They are asking for an increase in support to offset some of the costs.

Upon questioning, Phil said they pattern the program after the Bureau of Justices System's Drug Court model. There are eleven key elements required to create a successful Drug Court and they follow them precisely. He and Judge Lohn visited six other Drug Courts to observe and see what works. Another question he answered was that graduation consisted of two components. The non-intensive lower level component requires the youth to complete about four months of treatment and supervision. In the intensive component the youth must complete a 9 to 10 month program with three phases. Phil told a success story. Steve Hambley arrived at this time.

Judge Lohn said they are proud to be a partner with MCDAC, and they listed them in their brochure. They try to reach out to the entire community to let them know what the Drug Court is all about. They have had a tremendous amount of financial support and in-kind contributions. They are trying to involve as many people as possible. They invited police officers to observe proceedings to let them know that this is not a "slap on the wrist" diversion program, but it is a difficult program. They have even reached out to the canine unit to be a part of the solution for juvenile drug and alcohol abuse. He said he hopes MCDAC and the Drug Court will continue to work closely.

Alternative Paths/Sheriff's Department

Gail Carmon, Director of Forensic Services at Alternative Paths, introduced herself and Lenny Hrovat, the coordinator of the substance abuse program at the Medina Jail. Susan Likovich excused herself from discussion about this program since she works for the Alternative Paths at the Sheriff's Department. Gail gave background about how Alternative Paths' services operate in a jail setting. They have both mental health and substance abuse services, and many people use both services. They have a psychiatrist and both individual and group counseling. They work with people to transition them back to the community and prevent them from going back to jail. They have tried to be very progressive in the last seven years. They helped about 1,000 people with mental health services and 413 people with substance abuse services in 2004. She said their motivation behind this request is that they have identified this as a gap in their ability to provide a continuum of care to insure sobriety.

Lenny Hrovat said the average inmate stay at the Jail is about 20 days. They go through intake, screening, assessment, and treatment if necessary. The Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Dependency Services certifies this program. The treatment program takes 18 months so if the person is not in jail that long they can complete it on an outpatient type basis. Another option would be referral to another agency such as ADDS and they could reside at Cathy's House.

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Also, if a person is appropriate for residential treatment, they petition a court for their involvement and see if they would support placement into a community residential program. Residential care would cost \$100 to \$300 per day, and it could involve a 30 to 90 days stay. He said they realize the price per day is a lot so they would only be treating a handful of people. Making a difference in those lives filters down to the other people they are connected to. Upon questioning, Lenny said all the residential treatment programs are ODADAS certified. Also, when asked about the target population to be served in residential treatment, he said he could think of about 20 people out of the 400 they served last year that have been in and out of jail several times as a result of alcohol and drugs. They have been through the community program and failed. He said out of the 20 they could only serve five or six, or maybe two. It would not be a lock down, but the person would reside at the facility when they leave incarceration.

Gail said they are looking at opportunities to leverage other avenues of funding. Judge Chase has put forward some IDAT funds for treatment, for example. They would be more than happy to look for other available resources. This is a growth process for them, and as they identify needs they look at channels they could access to make those needs be fulfilled. Susan Likovich returned to the meeting.

Oaks Family Care Center/Spencer Police

Rebecca Rak, Brunswick Division of Police FACT Coordinator, said they approached Oaks Family Care Center, Black River Schools, and Spencer Police and offered to assist in the creation of a similar program to what they do in northern Medina County. There is a definite need to work with the children of families in the Lodi, Spencer, and Homerville area. They have been offering services in partnership with the Family First Council and worked out of the Resource Center since 2000. They noticed there are many single parent families dealing with a lot of drug and alcohol, domestic violence, and sexual abuse issues. The younger siblings are showing a propensity for bullying and violence, and considering drugs and alcohol. The Black River School system has services for middle school and high school students, but the elementary school kids are in the middle of nowhere with nothing to do and not much programming available. They would like structured after-school programming with recreation, and also to bring in a mental health component for parents. They would like to offer curriculum dealing with anger management, bullying, being bullied, peer pressure, abstinence programming, and structure to build better character and make better decisions. Since the Black River School District covers four counties, they are suggesting that the coalition work together and find funding to serve all the counties, but make each pay for their own people. She has been authorized through the Brunswick Police Department to be the grant administrator and is very committed to making sure the program works. There is also a commitment of assistance by eleven parents. The focus of the grant is to strengthen programs they offer, making the community a safer place, and giving kids mentors and adults they can look up to so when they become older, they still have that groundwork.

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Dan DeRossett, Spencer Village Police Chief, added that school administrators and law enforcement in his area tend to be reactive rather than proactive. They would like to identify at-risk children and families and refer them before they enter the legal system. Looking at the court dockets and juvenile justice system, they find that there are an increasing number of referrals, but there is a lack of facilities to refer them to in the area. There is a lot of drug and alcohol use in the single parent homes and homes where both parents work. They would like to get this stopped before the siblings step into the same situation.

Rebecca said they are in the process of completing a grant that would provide for best practices and research based curriculum specifically for drug and alcohol. That would dovetail into this program very well. Upon questioning, Rebecca said they are starting with the elementary program because it is needed the most. The focus is to be there for the kids when they are at a transition point that puts them at the highest risk such as between fifth and sixth grade.

Youth 4 Youth/Wadsworth City Schools

Larry Tracey said Youth for Youth originated out of the Columbine tragedy five years ago. It started out as a one-day school safety program for high school students and developed into being in 38 schools. The schools are mostly in Lorain County, but also in Huron, Wayne, Medina, and Summit counties. The five trial schools this year were Black River, Western Reserve, Northwestern, Rittman, and North Olmsted. The program is student driven and they have recently added the component of teaching the staff their principles of safety, leadership, and success. The Board watched a video showing students discussing topics such as dealing with fights, racial slurs, conflicts between schools, sportsmanship, trust, student/teacher relationships, and developing unity. A team is formed of about 25 to 30 students that represents a cross section of the population and begins the school year by setting five goals to work on to make their school a better place. They take a stand on those goals and articulate them to the other students. Goals that deal with how they treat each other and social interaction are put on posters throughout the school. He mentioned that the topic of the problem of teen pregnancy chosen by one school as a goal to work on was not permitted by the administrators. There is a leadership conference in October at Lorain Community College where Youth for Youth teams can learn ideas from each other to solve their school's problems. The teams then replicate the conference at their own school. At the end of the year the teams evaluate their progress and see how they could do better the following year. Larry pulls out and lets the students take over at the end of the three-year process. Upon questioning, Larry said the teams are involved in formal activities beginning with a one-day retreat and a two-hour follow up a week later. After that administrative assistance the students are on their own and some meet one to two times per week.

New Business

• **Discussion of Presentations**

The Board reviewed the new and expansion projects first followed by the two stars. The comments listed are those other than what is listed on the Executive Summaries.

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Review of FY 05-06 Grant

- **New & Expansion Projects (three stars)**

Youth for Youth - (Requested \$88,000 last year - received nothing, requested \$5,800 this year)

Comments:

Kids listen more to kids than to adults preaching at them.

This program would put some fresh life in mentoring programs that are occurring now, although some schools seem to be threatened by outside people coming in.

When the students go through the whole process to identify a problem to focus on and talk about, and the administration won't let them - that would be somewhat frustrating. That would put the program in conflict with the administration.

Sometimes there are subjects that for whatever reason, the administration or teaching staff cannot support. There are a lot of things that kids don't understand or don't know, and that would turn them against the administration.

There was no connection with where it goes beyond the core team. The kids that directly participate learn a great deal, but the focus needs to multiply more and be a public service.

I would have liked to have seen letters of support or people from the county school systems that have the program and speak highly of it.

If schools wanted to buy into the program they could write it into their grant under contract services.

The Board approved the recommendation to not to fund the Youth 4 Youth program this year.

Spencer Police Department & Oaks Family Care Center "Family Alternatives Program" –
(New program – requesting \$6,000 this year)

Comments:

Wow! What a bargain!

Where are you going to get those kinds of services, connection, and outreach for \$6,000?! She would be doing everything MCDAC wanted for that area - crossing county lines and doing coordination, attracting other funding, and a lot of volunteerism is involved.

She would be building on a very successful program with FACT with MCDAC seed money.

They know their target population that they will focus on that is a needy population. This is one of the poorest areas in the county.

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The Board tentatively approved the recommendation to award \$6,000 to the Spencer Police Department & Oaks Family Care Center with no contingencies. Susan Likovich left before the Sheriff's Department grant discussion.

Sheriff's Department & Alternative Paths "Residential Tx. Funding" – (New Program – requesting \$26,500 this year)

Comments:

It sounds like there is potential for a lot of money to be wasted. Addicts fail ten times before they have a winner. Nobody fights the beast and succeeds in two or three tries.

This program does address an area that is weak in this county and that is treatment.

Their response was not strong when asked if they had reached out to other private or public sources.

If it is that needy of a population and they see recidivism, and families of the individuals have no other means - why haven't they found some other source?

They haven't defined their partnerships. They need to work with the partnerships to develop a proposal that would involve everybody and leverage other resources.

I am all for connecting people and facilitating people to get treatment. I would much rather award a smaller amount to give staff time to look for more money rather than directly spending money on residential or in-patient treatment.

They do a tremendous job out at the jail.

Last year the county funded \$266,000 for mental health services from the General Fund and \$255,000 for the ADAMH Board.

The Board approved the recommendation to not to fund the Sheriff's Department & Alternative Paths program this year. The vote was Michael Jervis, Laura Dean, Jeff Vogel, James Bigam, Ralph Copley, Kent Patterson, and Jack Higgins voting AYE. Michael Maracz and Cliff Novak voting NAY. Susan Likovich abstained from voting. Motion carried.

Upon questioning, Steve said they could encourage them to reapply next year with all three of the judges that have people in the jail that have those types of problems.

Karl said he would send a letter and would offer to go over the Executive Summary with them.

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Laura asked if the Board could specify what they wanted, and Karl said they could put out a request for proposals if they see a gaping hole in the county. They would write what they want to see happen and take bids. Susan Likovich returned.

Medina County Juvenile Drug Court – (Received \$20,000 last year - requested \$50,000 this year)

Comments:

This program really gives a “bang for the buck”. They make the parents communicate with their children and provide positive reinforcement. Giving them tickets to movies, for example, gets the families together in a positive manner.

Two and a half times what they got last year is excessive....maybe next year after they have shown how they utilize those dollars.

Home based services never amounted to what they thought it would.

They need to have a track record of another year to see actually what they say on paper they are going to do.

The Board tentatively approved the recommendation to award \$40,000 to the Medina County Juvenile Drug Court with no contingencies.

- **Ongoing Projects (two stars)**

Brunswick City Schools – (Received \$64,890 last year – requesting \$72,000 this year) **

Comments:

Not particularly good justification for the increase.

This is for part of the salaries, benefits, and training for two people. Benefits could be trimmed a bit.

The district is picking up \$80,739 – more than half the salaries and benefits, but the duties are not strictly drug and alcohol related.

The Board tentatively approved the recommendation to award \$69,344 with no contingencies. Joe Lewandowski left at this time.

Cloverleaf Local Schools – (Received \$61,800 last year – requested \$66,080 this year)

Comments:

The Board tentatively approved the recommendation to award \$66,080 this year with no contingencies.

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Medina City Schools – (Received \$72,968 last year – requested \$88,346 this year)

Comments:

They were anticipating losing \$11,000 from Safe and Drug Free Schools money so they figured that into their request, but that money is in the bank for this year. Taking \$11,000 away, \$77,346 is funding them fully.

The Board tentatively approved the recommendation to award \$77,346 to Medina City Schools with no contingencies.

Brunswick City Schools – Share Cluster – (Received \$8,376 last year – requested \$15,810 this year)

Comments:

That's quite an increase – almost double.

This year they are turning some money back in because they didn't utilize all the money last year.

The Board tentatively approved the recommendation to award \$12,000 to Brunswick City Schools – Share Cluster with no contingencies.

Catholic Charities Services – (Received \$13,276 – requested \$15,800 this year)

Comments:

Makes sense – they came in a little low last year.

They are getting situated in the community. They explained everything in their presentation a few months ago.

The Board tentatively approved the recommendation to award \$15,800 to Catholic Charities with no contingencies.

Medina County Drug Task Force – (Received \$430,888 last year – requested \$443,512 this year)

Comments:

These are realistic numbers.

The Board tentatively approved the recommendation to award \$443,512 to the Drug Task Force with no contingencies.

There was a short discussion about what to do with the leftover balance of approximately \$30,000. *James Bigam made a motion to carry forward the funds and discuss the option of issuing RFP's next month. Cliff Novak seconded. There was no discussion. All voted AYE, motion carried.*

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Cliff Novak made a motion that the grants be funded at the level tentatively approved by the Board. There was no discussion. All voted AYE and the motion carried.

SCHOOLS		
Black River Schools	29,500	
Brunswick City Schools	69,344	
Buckeye Local Schools	39,816	
Cloverleaf Local Schools	66,080	
Highland Local Schools	57,609	
Medina City Schools	77,346	
Medina County Career Center	35,000	
Wadsworth City Schools	75,730	
Sheriff's Schools' DARE/SRO	124,200	
Brunswick City Schools Share Cluster Trainings	12,000	
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Schools subtotal	586,625	
LAW ENFORCEMENT		
Medina County Drug Task Force	443,512	
MedWay-Wadsworth	50,485	
MedWay-Brunswick (already passed by Resolution)		90,835
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Law Enforcement subtotal	493,997	+ 90,835 = 584,832
PROGRAMS		
Family Assistance Coalition Team (FACT)	20,600	
Medina County Juvenile Drug Court	40,000	
HANDS Prevention for Older Adults	23,000	
PILOT PROJECTS		
Catholic Charities Services	15,800	
NEW PROPOSALS		
Spencer Police Dept./Oak Family Care Center	6,000	
Youth for Youth	-0-	
Sheriff's Department & Alternative Paths	-0-	
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Programs subtotal	105,400	
Total Recommendation	1,186,022	

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Karl said he would write up the resolution for Commissioners approval at the May 23, 2005 meeting.

Commission Members – Go Around

Jeff Vogel announced that there would be a brief levy committee meeting following this meeting for those that are interested.

Wally Schaedel thanked Karl Cetina for facilitating the grant process so well.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Next MCDAC Commission meeting: MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2005, 6:00 P.M. AT THE HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING.