

**MEDINA COUNTY DRUG ABUSE COMMISSION (MCDAC) MEETING  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2005**

**Roll Call**

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

Present: Jeff Vogel (Townships' Representative), Kent Patterson (Police Chiefs' Representative), James Bigam (Commissioners' Representative), Laura Dean (Medina Representative), Susan Likovich (Commissioners' Representative), Wally Schaedel (Medina Alternate Representative), Antony Kibogo (Commissioners' Alternate Representative), and Joe Destro (Brunswick Representative).

Absent: Ralph Copley (Wadsworth Representative), Ronald Likley (Wadsworth Alternate Representative), Tom Acklin (Police Chiefs' Alternate Representative), Michael Jervis (Villages' Representative), Joe Lewandowski (Townships' Alternate Representative), William Koran (School Districts' Representative), Michael Maracz (Commissioners' Alternate Representative), Cliff Nowak (Brunswick Alternate Representative), and Jack Higgins (School Districts' Alternate Representative).

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

**Review & Approval of Minutes – June**

The June 6, 2005 minutes were emailed out in advance. *Joe Destro made a motion to approve the minutes and James Bigam seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted AYE and the minutes were approved as presented.*

**Old Business**

Wally Schaedel asked for an update on the suggestion of relocating the MCDAC Office to the Professional Building that was put forward by Will Koran and discussed at the June meeting.

Karl Cetina said he visited the Professional Building and the county is looking at the possibility of moving the MCDAC Office as well as the Tobacco Coordinator and Diversion over to that building. Solutions Behavioral Services (formerly ADDS) and other direct services need more space in the Human Services Building. They have done the sight visit and are looking into the feasibility. Chris Jakab, Finance Director, will be meeting with Mike Jenks, Solutions Director, to continue to strategize and move forward. A working relationship with Will and the Educational Learning Center would probably not work out, but the Commissioners have told him MCDAC could continue to utilize their clerical support as needed.

Steve Hambley said the Commissioners are in the process of hiring an additional person so there will soon be more capacity to offer him the services he needs. He commented that the MCDAC space in the Professional Building would be larger and much nicer than what he has now.

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Karl said he has been utilizing the services of the new secretary at First Stop as much as possible now. If they end up relocating at the Professional Building he would like to work out an arrangement for more of a routine such as a secretary coming for a half day on a weekly basis.

Kent Patterson asked Karl if he is able to make copies of the "Choices We Make" video they viewed at the June meeting.

Karl said he talked to Dodd Camera in Medina who discounted the cost considerably. They make about 50 DVD's and 10 VHS copies. John Waddell, Tobacco Coordinator, is going to make an insert for the DVD case that says it is compliments of MCDAC and the copies were made available by MCDAC and Dodd Camera's generosity. He should have them available to disburse at the next Board meeting. Upon questioning, Karl said the video is about 20 minutes long.

Wally Schaedel added that the Levy Committee could make good use of the video during the campaign. They could also show it to local groups such as service organizations and the Medina County Economic Development Corporation for public relations purposes.

Steve Hambley pointed out that the 20-minute version might be too long so perhaps they could re-edit it with Share Cluster's permission.

**New Business**

• **Fred Wolk's Resignation**

Karl Cetina discussed the Director of the Drug Task Force (DTF), Fred Wolk's resignation. He said that there have been several meetings of the Operating Board and Council of Governments (COG) in that regard that included Police Chiefs, officials from Medina, Brunswick, Wadsworth and the Townships, MCDAC representatives, and others. They talked about different options such as a countywide DTF under either the DTF or Medway. He is glad that they are looking at a countywide DTF as an opportunity for growth and expansion and also pleased they are "thinking outside the box". There are still some loose ends and he asked Commissioner Hambley if he had an update.

Steve said Commissioner Pat Geissman was going to get a quote from Medway to cover the entire county. The City of Medina, the Prosecutor's Office, and others have indicated that they are not interested in "mothballing" the DTF so at this point they are they are back to square one. He feels it was fine to review it and discuss it. Basically it has come full circle to the point where many are asking why they would try to change it, realizing Fred's resignation should have nothing to do with reviewing the worthiness of the DTF and Medway operations now and then. It has been reviewed two times and in his opinion they have the best of both worlds now. Each community has its preferred means of drug law enforcement. That is probably what they should convey to the community. Upon questioning if they have moved ahead and selected a new DTF Director, he said he doesn't think Pat got the Medway quote back yet and they have not talked

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about the next step. It has been communicated that the other partners are not interested. There is an interim Director in place now. The Operating Board will be coming back soon with some recommendations.

### **Executive Director's Report**

- **Grantee Annual Reports Completed**

Karl Cetina reported that all the grantee's reports are in. A couple of them were delinquent so he made some phone calls. At a Share Cluster meeting he emphasized with the agencies and schools that were there, the importance of showing outcomes in their reports. Showing data is fine, but they also needed to draw some conclusions from their data. About half of the grantees did good outcomes studies and showed some percentage increases with their prevention work, recidivism rates, etc. They seem to understand it more this year and the science based, research based, and evidence based verbiage is becoming second nature to them.

- **Grantee Award Letters Signed**

Karl reported the grantee award letters were all signed and returned to him.

- **Partnership for Success**

Karl said he is Chair of the Family First Council this year. This program is funded by money from the state's Department of Youth Services. Medina County received a \$75,000 grant to do a needs-assessment for Partnership for Success that is to be geared to a 0-21 age population and their families. They are looking at six different areas such as substance abuse with teens, mental health issues, violence, and academic performance. He went to Columbus for training last Thursday. The needs-assessment is laid out with a good research based and evidence based methodology. Next year they will get \$100,000 to implement something to fill that need. The state is doing it this way, through Family First as the vehicle, to show counties a way of really doing a good collaborative needs-assessment to locate gaps in services in both the public and private sectors – rather than funding special interest groups, or who yells the loudest, or throwing darts at a dartboard to see where the money is tossed at. They will be discussing this further at a strategic planning committee on September 30<sup>th</sup> and he will be doing a presentation. His focus will be that this program will continue on a long-term basis. It is not just another frustrating unfunded state mandate. He said the MCDAC Board should encourage people to do evidence based programs; do needs-assessments as part of the MCDAC grant process; and encourage partnering with these other organizations because a framework will be provided. Two or three years from now grantee applicants will not say they want to do a certain alcohol or drug related educational or prevention program because they think it is a good idea. Due to their needs-assessment facts through groups such as schools, United Way, the business community, service clubs, etc. they will know what their #1 need is and ask for MCDAC's help with it. He sees MCDAC as an integral part of that community-wide focus in the future. He talked to Commissioner Hambley about their desire to broaden the needs-assessment and expand its scope by having agencies such as United Way and the Health Department pitch in financially so they can focus beyond those six target areas. If this works out, MCDAC might consider putting

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\$5,000 towards some very intensive needs assessment that could be contracted in part with Akron University.

Steve added that the intent is also not to duplicate needs-assessments. They intend to go with a broader based comprehensive look at the human service needs rather than focus on one given population such as older adults, or ages 0 – 21. The groups will each have their different niches in the combined effort, but they need to stay focused and not dilute the end product.

Karl said they would be seeing more about Partnership for Success in the newspapers. The core team is Julie King with United Way, Vince DeGeorge and Chris Ruf with Family First Council, Suzanne LeSure with Cornerstone, and Karl Cetina with MCDAC. There will be a picture in some newspapers in next week or so. All in all, he believes it is a good initiative.

- **Treatment Accountability for Safe Communities (TASC) National Conference**

Karl said the “Treatment Alternative to Street Crime” program is now called “Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities” and he will be attending the National Conference starting tomorrow. The reason for the name change is because of places like Medina County could not relate to inner city street crime so this broadened the scope. The treatment and accountability piece is outcome and evidence based using research proven effective programs. Discussion by top-notch speakers will include topics such as drug courts and mental health courts, and Karl said he has been promoting this “missing link” to the county for a couple of years. Also, the topic of a recent TASC meeting he attended was about the economic benefit of TASC type programs. He commented that he wished the Commissioners and the Finance Director could have heard the talk because it stressed that, just like in the business world...you have to spend money to make money. In other words, you have to put the programming out to save some money in the long run. The talk pointed out that studies show there is no cost effective benefit to spending money on treatment and education in a jail or prison setting if they do not offer after care. There must be some follow up on engagement on the re-entry piece.

### **TUPCF Tobacco Update**

Karl stated that Dr. John Waddell would be at the October meeting showing what they have accomplished in their first year, along with folks from Solutions that are doing the work in the schools. It will also touch on the pregnancy component. They turned in their year-end report on August 15<sup>th</sup>. It was 104 pages long and it included about 60 pages of statistics, outcome, and measures of improvement. Tobacco programming is now in all the schools. They continue to work with Medina General Hospital and the Oaks Family Care Center with the pregnant women. Cornerstone helps with the evaluation piece. In the bigger picture, the \$500 million of tobacco settlement money has been diverted into the state’s general fund. \$300 million that was received initially and they were supposed to get another \$500 million. The diverted tobacco money will cover paying for everyone’s e-checks for two years. The master settlement agreement was earmarked towards monies to help people that had gotten a chronic disease related to smoking or second-hand smoke and/or teaching kids to stay away from tobacco

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products. With the Ohio's financial position, they decided use those monies elsewhere. It was a loosely structured master settlement agreement by intent by a lot of states and the tobacco companies. Therefore, the Tobacco Foundation is taking the monies that they have and living off the interest somewhat and making about a 10 or 15% cut in their operating budget. They are staying with existing programming, no new money, and no new projects. At the end of this year they will look closely at those organizations that are doing good work and consider funding them for possibly a decade out of the existing monies. Medina County's tobacco program will be scrutinized December 31<sup>st</sup> and they will wait and see what happens. As an outcome, Medina General Hospital and the Cleveland Clinic have gone entirely smoke free so, although sometimes frustrating, it is an initiative that has some potential. MCDAC, with its focus on alcohol and other drugs (nicotine being a drug), Karl said maybe this fits into some of their mission in the future.

**Commissioner Members – Go Around**

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pam Vereb, Secretary

**NEXT MCDAC MEETING – MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2005 AT 6:00 P.M.**