



## MEDINA COUNTY DRUG ABUSE COMMISSION (MCDAC)

Minutes of February 4, 2008

### ■ ATTENDANCE

#### Members Present

James Bigam – Commissioners' Representative  
Evelyn Czyz – Townships' Alternate Representative  
Laura Dean – Medina Representative  
Roger Ingraham – Commissioners' Representative  
Michael Jervis – Villages' Alt. Representative  
William Koran – School Districts' Representative

Cliff Nowak – Brunswick Representative  
Kent Patterson – Police Chiefs' Representative  
Wally Schaedel – Medina Alternate Representative  
Gary Searle – School Districts' Alternate Representative  
Ellen Stark – Wadsworth Representative

#### Guests Present

Brian Nowak – MCDAC Director

Rebecca Rak – Brunswick Police, Spencer Police

#### Absent

Tom Acklin – Police Chiefs' Alternate Representative  
Antony Kibogo – Commissioners' Alternate Representative  
Jerry Klue – Commissioners' Alternate Representative (Excused)

Leslie Miller – Villages Representative (Excused)  
Gary Oliver – Wadsworth Alternate Representative  
Jeff Vogel – Townships' Representative

### ■ CALL TO ORDER

Will Koran called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the lower conference room of the Professional Services Building located at 124 West Washington Street, Medina. A quorum was established.

### ■ REVIEW OF MINUTES

Minutes of December 3 were e-mailed in advance. Wally Schaedel noted the following corrections:

- In the first full paragraph of page two, "four" deputies should be "three" deputies.
- Under Good of the Order, "she" should be inserted between "that" and "became".
- Under Adjournment, "Vogel" should be deleted.

There was no further discussion. Roger Ingraham moved to approve the corrected minutes and the motion was seconded by Cliff Nowak. The corrected minutes were approved.

### • ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Nominations for Chairperson were opened. Kent Patterson moved to nominate Will Koran as Chairperson for 2008; the motion was seconded by Jim Bigam. There were no other nominations and nominations were closed. Mr. Koran accepted the nomination and the motion carried unanimously.

Nominations for Vice-Chairperson were opened. Evelyn Czyz moved to nominate Kent Patterson as Vice-Chairperson for 2008; the motion was seconded by Mike Jervis. There were no other nominations and nominations were closed. Mr. Patterson accepted the nomination and the motion carried unanimously.

• **PRESENTATION**

Brian Nowak introduced Rebecca Rak of the Brunswick and Spencer Police Departments who made a presentation about FACT Brunswick and FACT Spencer.

Ms. Rak reviewed the history of FACT (Family Assistance Coalition Team) that started in Brunswick in 1988 with the school liaison program and started placing counselors from mental health agencies in 1994 in schools. In 2004, Spencer Police Department inquired about the FACT program. In Brunswick, the program was started in the community and then worked into the schools; in Spencer, it was started the opposite way.

Communities served include Brunswick, Brunswick Hills, Chatham, Chippewa, Hinckley, Homerville, Lafayette, Litchfield, Lodi, Spencer, Valley City, Westfield, and York. The free services available include classroom prevention presentations, school assemblies, individual student support sessions, educational groups during school, youth development groups after school, individual family support sessions, family support groups, and adolescent drug and alcohol assessments. There were 9,578 contacts from July 1-December 31, 2007, they worked with approximately 170 youth in individual student support sessions, and 864 individual sessions were held by mental health professionals (dealing with anger management, depression, grief, and any issue interfering with the child succeeding in school). One hundred eleven different educational groups were held during the last half of the grant, focusing on healthy relationships and drug and alcohol prevention (including using the DUI goggles). Different activities were offered in the family support groups, resulting in 874 contacts with parents; this number is much higher than in the first half year of the grant.

Only nine drug and alcohol assessments have been done. Parents are now being proactive than they were at first. In the beginning, they used the service because they didn't want to put their child into treatment. The process is that the assessment is done and the parent is told if their child is at high-risk and, if so, they need to obtain services. They need to go out-of-county to obtain services and need to be re-tested because they won't accept an assessment from another agency. Now, the parents are being referred and are given the two options; most go directly to treatment services. They track how many youth are known or are suspected of using drugs and alcohol. The numbers from counselors show that of the 170 they are working with, 32% were and 16% have a family member involved in drugs and/or alcohol. Those numbers are from October and November and only part of December and the numbers will likely increase the second half of the grant as teachers and administrators get to know the students better. They've started tracking the number of students and families being referred for services; during the first half of the grant, 28 students were referred out. It isn't known how many actually followed through, because of confidentiality issues. Of the students involved in ongoing services, an average of 58% showed improvement based on treatment goals set by mental health professionals. At the end of the year, school administrators will submit their improvement numbers.

Community partners have grown from six and three law enforcement departments to include:

Law Enforcement

Brunswick Division of Police  
Brunswick Hills Police Department  
Hinckley Police Department  
Spencer Police Department

Local Schools

Brunswick High School  
Black River Middle School  
Buckeye Middle School  
Edwards Middle School

Visintainer Middle School	<u>Community Service Providers</u>	Juvenile & Probate Court
Black River Elementary	Battered Women's Shelter	Kids Town Preschool
Lodi Elementary	Brunswick Recreation Center	Oaks Family Care center
Seville Elementary	Catholic Charities Services	Office for Older Adults
Westfield Upper Elementary	Children's Rights Council	OSU Extension Services
St. Ambrose	Domestic Relations	Rape Crisis
St. Marks	Gatekeepers	Solutions Behavioral Healthcare
	Job & Family Services	Southwest General Healthcare

In Southern Medina County, some families are closer to services outside of the county. A list is being created of counseling (especially private) agencies that don't require county residency.

It was asked what percentage of parents show resistance. Ms. Rak stated that if it's a "cold call", there is about 100% resistance. If someone from the school has already contacted them, it may take two or three conversations before they initiate services with the school or outside counseling agency. She noted that although schools are a good starting point, high-risk youth need to be in outside services also. Utilizing outside services means that it's private pay, which is difficult for some families.

Ms. Rak noted that Chief Rice of the Spencer Police Department has been very supportive. This month, a committee meeting was held and they've seen areas of improvement. Chief Rice has been sending an officer every week to the after-school program and he has made arrangements for monthly meetings instead of quarterly meetings. He has also agreed that Hailey McClean will be the FACT coordinator.

The list of FACT goals, objectives, and expected outcomes for Northern and Southern Medina County were shared.

<u>Northern Medina County</u>		<u>Southern Medina County</u>	
Contacts:	2,172	Contacts:	3,800
Parent Sessions:	95	Parent Sessions:	825
Individual Sessions:	604	Individual Sessions:	172

It was noted that the cost of contracted services is kept very reasonable. In over ten years, Catholic Charities has never asked for an increase. Solutions and Oaks Family Care Center have extremely low rates. Ms. Rak is a hard negotiator because funding is limited and organizations agree because they care about the youth. The Children's Rights Council is a national organization but new to Medina County. They are a legal administrative firm that has access to attorneys (who work pro bono) who deal with child custody, visitation, and support issues.

Partner agencies are able to join when they partner with an agency and they do programming together to see how they fit together and that they are complimentary, not competitive.

Jim Bigam noted that he is impressed by FACT's growth and for the leadership, commitment and devotion of Ms. Rak. Cliff Nowak noted that he is pleased that non-parochial schools are participating in the program.

Ms. Rak noted that when they went to New Orleans, she had three other municipalities entrusted – they are located in California, New York, and Florida. She had to start from scratch with them, partly because they don't know what's available in their communities. Mentoring them is difficult because of their physical location.

The Office for Older Adults is her “gateway” into adult protective services. If she speaks with an adult family member regarding elder abuse and frauds and scams, she sends them to the Office for Older Adults before sending them to Adult Protective Services. She sends them to Adult Protective Services only if the family doesn’t obtain other help. The Officer for Older Adults also delivers meals in the area except in Lodi because the hospital delivers meals (for a fee). Gatekeepers is used if someone reports concern for an elderly person; they send a nurse out, trying two times at the door. If she is really worried about the elderly person, she can send an officer or go herself. Once Gatekeepers goes into the home, they talk to the person under the guise of talking about available services and can note if the house is the correct temperature, if there’s food in the house, if they understand their prescriptions, if the house is kept, if they’re isolated, if caregivers are in place, etc. Gatekeepers and the Office for Older Adults work together.

Project Lifesaver, an international organization, was also reviewed. The program is used when people (autistic, elderly, etc.) are at risk for leaving the house. The person’s photo is taken so that when the person is found, they have the information available to an officer. The program is funded by the Alzheimer’s Foundation, Giant Eagle, Eagle’s Club, and other organizations. There are approximately 30 families now being served with bracelets. A Citizen’s Academy volunteer changes batteries (\$15 a month or free) and follows up with the family monthly.

Ms. Rak noted that FACT meetings are held the second Thursday of every month in Brunswick at 9:00 AM at the Police Department and the last Wednesday of every month (pending approval from principals) at Black River School.

Jim Bigam stated that MCDAC should have some type of award for agencies that really stand out and that cause a “domino” effect with other agencies. FACT seems to touch people of different ages and families.

## ■ NEW BUSINESS

### Future Presenters

Brian Nowak stated that Solutions Behavioral Healthcare will report in March and Medina City Police are scheduled for April.

### Banner

Mr. Koran commented that the new banner was very professional. Brian noted that the Tobacco Coalition also has one and the banners will be used for other events (Home and Flower Show, etc.)

## ■ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

### Chili Cook-Off

Mr. Koran congratulated Brian Nowak and John Waddell for representing MCDAC so well at the Chili Cook-Off. Brian showed pictures that were taken by Dr. Waddell and distributed copies of the Commissioners’ Newsletter that showed the MCDAC display. Brian stated that while it was a lot of work and lots of chili, it was a lot of fun. The event started at 4:30 with 18 quarts of chili and by 6:45 the chili was gone. Seventeen other agencies were present.

When Mr. Nowak made his report at the Commissioners’ meeting, he mentioned the MCDAC website. The website was also mentioned in the Commissioners’ Newsletter.

### Home and Flower Show

There will be a total of three tables to make a bigger impact at the March 14-16 event. The Drug Task Force, the Tobacco Coalition, and MCDAC will have tables. The focus of MCDAC will be on families and prevention. MCDAC

members signed up to help. Brian would like to have a family-type raffle basket. Studies show that families who spend time together (meals, playing, etc.), the less likely the child is to abuse drugs and alcohol. Parents are the greatest source for prevention. Area businesses will be solicited for donations.

#### Upcoming Community Events

A Family Affair will be held in April. Senior Citizens Day is held in May. The Local Government Expo for Leadership Medina is held in December. Other opportunities come up throughout the year.

#### Semi-Annual Reports

The semi-annual reports that were due January 31 were received from everyone and all were on time. After reviewing the report, he asked for needed clarifications. The information will be consolidated (goals, accomplishments, budget, personnel, etc.) and given to MCDAC members in March. Grant proposals will be reviewed at the meeting in May.

#### Third Grade Poster Contest

Peg Kitchen, the prevention counselor for the Medina elementary schools, has invited MCDAC members to view the anti-drug third grade poster contest displayed at Medina City Hall. The Medina City Hall is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The poster will be on display the month of February.

### ■ OLD BUSINESS

#### Website

Mr. Nowak stated that personal data is still needed for some MCDAC members and distributed an example from another agency.

#### Name Badges

Mr. Nowak is still working on this task. Some contact suggestions were made.

### ■ TUPCF TOBACCO UPDATE

Brian Nowak reported that the three-year grant that was due December 12 was submitted. Results won't be known until April. It is hoped that adult cessation services will be offered, focusing on people who don't have the ability to pay for the service. The program is called "Freedom from Smoking" and certified tobacco treatment specialists will administer the program, offering participants nicotine replacement therapy. Dr. Waddell has been working with people from Pfizer to offer Chantix, a medication to help with smoking cessation. They also hope to offer prevention services in the schools again. The program is a best practice program; it is unique because it uses those increasing preventive factors, helping the students make better choices and also focuses on marijuana, inhalants and alcohol. The program will be offered in six of the ten middle schools in Medina County. Those schools have been identified as having the highest rate of tobacco use and they are located in the lowest socio-economic areas of the county.

Mr. Nowak noted that the grant has targets. For instance, in the cessation program, 25% of the participants need to remain tobacco free. The percentage is very high. At the present time, Case Western University has been contracted to prepare all of the statistics, using information gathered from participants.

In the grant, they needed to be specific regarding Dr. Waddell's position and who would assume his responsibilities should Dr. Waddell leave. Therefore, Brian will be attending training at the Mayo Clinic in March so he can become a Tobacco Cessation Specialist. This training needs to be completed before April.

Because Brian won't be in attendance at the March meeting, Roger Ingraham expressed concern about the review of the semi-annual reports. Mr. Nowak stated that the reports will be distributed in March for review at the April meeting.

■ **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one from the public was present.

■ **COMMISSION MEMBERS GO AROUND**

There was nothing.

■ **ADJOURNMENT**

There was no further business to discuss. Wally Schaedel moved to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Jim Bigam. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

■ **NEXT MEETING**

The next MCDAC meeting will be Monday, March 3, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. in the lower level conference room of the Professional Services Building.

■ **FUTURE MEETINGS**

All meetings are held on the first Monday of the month in the lower level conference room of the Professional Services Building unless noted otherwise. Meetings are not scheduled in January, July or August.

The 2008 meetings are scheduled for:

March 3	May 5	September 8	November 3
April 7	June 2	October 6	December 1

Minutes prepared by Peggy Folk CPS  
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