



MEDINA COUNTY DRUG ABUSE COMMISSION (MCDAC) Minutes of February 2, 2009

▪ ATTENDANCE

Members Present

James Bigam – Commissioners' Representative
Evelyn Czyz – Townships' Alternate Representative
Laura Dean Todia – Medina Representative
Roger Ingraham – Commissioners' Representative
Will Koran – School Districts' Representative

Kent Patterson – Police Chiefs' Representative
Wally Schaedel – Medina Alternate Representative
Gary Searle – School Districts' Alternate Representative
Jeff Vogel – Townships' Alternate Representative

Absent

Tom Acklin – Police Chiefs' Alternate Representative
Michael Jervis – Villages' Alternate Representative
Jerry Klue – Commissioners' Alternate Representative (excused)

Leslie Miller – Villages Representative (excused)
Cliff Nowak – Brunswick Representative (excused)
Gary Oliver – Wadsworth Alternate Representative
Ellen Stark – Wadsworth Representative

Others Present

Steve Hambley – Medina County Commissioner

Brian Nowak – MCDAC Executive Director

▪ CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was held in the lower conference room of the Professional Services Building located at 124 West Washington Street, Medina. Chair Will Koran called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. There was roll call and a quorum was declared.

▪ REVIEW OF MINUTES

Minutes of December 1, 2008 were e-mailed in advance. Roger Ingraham moved to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded by Evelyn Czyz. There was no discussion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

▪ PRESENTATION

Debbie Marshall and Kathy Fulkerson of Brunswick City Schools made a presentation (attached). They thanked the MCDAC Board for the funds that are given to Brunswick City Schools that provides lots of programming that wouldn't be possible otherwise. Kathy is the Secondary Student Assistance Counselor who works at all three middle schools and the high school. Debbie works at the seven elementary schools and some programs at the middle schools and the high school. Their major focus is prevention and most of what they do takes place in the classroom. Brandon Chokowitz, a high school student who is involved in "Extreme Challenge", talked about the program and the positive outcomes it's had for him. After the presentation, there was a question and answer session.

• OLD BUSINESS

One Drug Taskforce Progress

Brian Nowak distributed four letters from Commissioners Pat Geissman and Steve Hambley. Also distributed from Mr. Nowak was a chronological list of the drug enforcement meetings and the participants, a letter from the Brunswick Police Chief Carl DeForest, and a letter from Director of Public Safety Matthew Hiscock and Chief of Police David Singleton of Wadsworth.

Mr. Nowak noted that he had kept the MCDAC members informed of the meetings that began on April 3, 2008. The meetings were opportunities to hear from the cities of Brunswick, Medina and Wadsworth what their drug enforcement concerns were either with MedWay or the Medina County Drug Task Force. The goal was to have one drug taskforce or creating something completely new and different. It was an opportunity for them to share their concerns. At the meeting on October 6, Mr. Zienkowski asked for a proposal; that seemed to have ignited some concerns. Based on the information that he and Commissioner had, the one drug force was the Medina County Drug Task Force – it was only a proposal. Commissioner Hambley's letter of December 16 indicates that he was not aware of the meetings and wasn't approving. Because Commissioner Geissman was the liaison for MCDAC, all of Mr. Nowak's conversations were with her. He did not feel that it was his responsibility to inform Commissioners Ray and Hambley of the meetings. After the December 15 meeting, Brunswick Chief DeForest and Wadsworth Chief

Singleton wrote letters expressing concerns. Roger Ingraham noted that at the December MCDAC meeting, it didn't sound like there were any concerns.

There will be a COG meeting on Wednesday, February 4. He believed that all of the commissioners will attend, as well as all of the members of the COG Board. He received an email that Chief DeForest asked the Operating Board of the Medina County Drug Task Force to also attend.

Mr. Koran noted that Steve Hambley is now MCDAC's liaison. He said that MCDAC has concerns regarding getting the "best bag for the buck" and that people are at risk being we're unable to fund an appropriate amount. Mr. Nowak reported that Pat Geissman's approach was that you don't talk to the people who are actually providing the service. There was openness throughout the process. There was never anything negative said about the Drug Task Force. The idea behind the closed door meetings was so that people would feel more free to express their views. The manhours from MedWay didn't show the Drug Task Force being in that city more or working casing more than MedWay; clarification was requested, but not received. Based on that, it was suggested that an extra officer be placed on the Drug Task Force and provide 2,040 additional hours of service – that wasn't well received.

Roger Ingraham said that his understanding was that Pat Geissman was representing the commissioners. Mr. Nowak said that was correct and that Mrs. Geissman continues to feel that way. She stated that she had spoken with both of the other commissioners and received their acknowledgement and/or approval. Mr. Nowak said that he was in Mrs. Geissman's office with Chief Osiecki on April 3 when Mrs. Geissman returned to the office and said that the other two commissioners were "on board" with her pursuing the one drug taskforce. At the COG meeting, it was very clear when they reviewed the budget in April; Mike said they were \$60,000 short. When you looked at the money that was given to MedWay, it would have more than covered the shortfall. When they then met with Chief Osiecki (who was head of the Operating Board at that time), he didn't have any reservations that the Drug Task Force could handle it. Mr. Nowak said that it makes sense, operationally and fiscally, to have one drug task force serving the county as opposed to bringing in another agency to do it.

It was unknown whether the February 4 meeting would be an open meeting, a COG meeting, or if it would go into Executive Session. Mr. Searle suggested that Brian Nowak talk to Steve Hambley to explain MCDAC's position and concerns. Mr. Nowak said that his best hope is that there would be better accountability from MedWay and the Drug Task Force. It's not known how often they work in Medina, how many cases they work, or how much time they spend. Then there would be statistics for discussion. He stated that it concerns him to see the Task Force in Brunswick more than MedWay when MedWay receives \$95,000 which pays for an officer, a vehicle, and the equipment they need to be there on a full-time basis.

Mr. Nowak will keep everyone informed.

• **NEW BUSINESS**

Election of Officers

Mr. Koran opened the floor for nominations of the Chairman and Vice Chairman. Jim Bigam nominated Will Koran as the Chairman and Kent Patterson as the Vice Chairman for 2009; the motion was seconded by Evelyn Czyz. There were no other nominations.

Wally Schaedel moved to close nominations; the motion was seconded by Jeff Vogel. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

There was no discussion regarding nominations and the motion passed unanimously.

Needed Appointments

It was noted that a Township Alternate and a Brunswick Alternate is still needed.

Budget Revision – Wadsworth Schools

Mr. Nowak noted that Wadsworth Schools is requesting a budget revision of \$500 from professional development to supplies. The professional development was for training for one prevention specialist and they were unable to attend. The additional supplies will be used for instructional aids for STAMP lessons in the high school. Mr. Patterson moved to approve the revision; the motion was seconded by Mr. Bigam. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

▪ **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Brian Nowak stated that the Chili Challenge went well. He thanked those that made monetary donations and Wally and Jeff for assisting. They also talked about the anti-drug levy and MCDAC. The chili didn't win, but he will try again next year.

Mr. Nowak stated that the semi-annual reports have been submitted. He will write a brief synopsis in preparation for the next round of grant requests that will include a list of their achievements.

He also taped a program for the Brunswick Educational Television in December; it's still being shown. MCDAC will be participating in the Home and Flower Show to be held at the Community Center. He'll also be attending the County Fair.

• **GO AROUND**

Jim Bigam thanked Brian Nowak for preparing the chili.

Laura Dean noted that she married Russ Todia in November and has two stepchildren.

Evelyn Czyz's mother passed away New Years Eve and her husband had a total knee replacement.

▪ **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

▪ **NEXT MEETING/FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next MCDAC meeting will be Monday, March 2, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. in the lower level conference room of the Professional Services Building. Meetings are not scheduled in January, July or August.

March 2
April 6
May 4

June 1
September 14 (exception due to
September 7 holiday)

October 5
November 2
December 7

*Minutes prepared by Peggy Folk CAP
Assistant Clerk to the Medina County Board of Commissioners*