



MEDINA COUNTY DRUG ABUSE COMMISSION (MCDAC) Minutes of October 5, 2009

◆ ATTENDANCE

• Members Present

James Bigam – Commissioners Rep.
Evelyn Czyz – Township Rep.
Kim Grieco – School District Alt. Rep.
Roger Ingraham – Commissioners Rep.
Will Koran – School District Rep.
David Linderman – Brunswick Alt. Rep.

Cliff Nowak – Brunswick Rep.
Kent Patterson – Police Chiefs Assoc. Rep.
Chuck Potter – Wadsworth Alt. Rep.
Wally Schaedel – Medina Alt. Rep.
Jeffrey Vogel – Commissioners Alt. Rep.

• Absent

Tom Acklin – Police Chiefs Assoc. Alt. Rep.
Michael Jervis – Village Alt. Rep.
Jerry Klue – Commissioners Alt. Rep.
Ellen Stark – Wadsworth Rep.

Katherine Stetson – Township Alt. Rep. (excused)
Laura Todia – Medina Rep. (excused)
Village Representative

• Others Present

Deputy Sharon Centner – Highland Local Schools
Steve Hambley – Medina County Commissioner
Claudia Johnson – Highland Local Schools

Brian Nowak – MCDAC Executive Director
Craig Tasker – Highland Local Schools

◆ 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.

◆ PRESENTATION

Brian Nowak introduced Claudia Johnson, Craig Tasker, and Deputy Sharon Centner from the Highland Local School District. Ms. Johnson introduced students Joe Ryan, Kyle McLaughlin, and Mallory Kathe; she continued by presenting a PowerPoint presentation that had also been presented to the Highland Board of Education members. Students in the 10-12 grades are selected through a competitive application process, a teacher recommendation must be received, and the selection committee interviews candidates. She noted that when they miss classes, they must be able to make up their work.

Student Joe Ryan was introduced as being part of a premier program, the Peer Leader Program (also known as HUDDLE). He applied to participate in the program when he was a freshman and participated by shadowing a group. He has continued to participate in the program for the remainder of his high school years. He's a third grade peer leader. There is a set lesson plan with corresponding activities and visits are made to the classroom once a month starting in October. Reviewed are bullying, peer pressure, alcohol and other substance abuse, and tobacco prevention. There is also a sixth grade program. Peer leaders sign a contract saying they commit to remain drug-, alcohol- and tobacco-free during the duration of the program. He noted that students are encouraged to submit written questions and they can talk about it as a group or, in the case of bullying, confront the student personally. He's been touched by how the third graders look up to him; he fondly remembered his peer leaders and the effect it had on him. At the end of the year, there will be graduation for the students.

Kyle McLaughlin stated that he enjoys speaking to students and to see the effects. Affecting just one student is worth it. Mallory Kathe noted that she has personally helped students who were having difficulty making friends and commented how the younger students look up to those in the Peer Leader Program.

Kyle stated that he is a senior at Highland High School and is the second year president of SADD, Students Against Destructive Decisions. Anyone can join who wants to be supportive. They encourage students to sign a poster committing to be drug free and they're given a red ribbon; this is held during Red Ribbon Week. Last year, AGST (Achieve Greatness; Stay True) was held; they spoke with middle school students, performed leadership and anti-drug activities, and visited with them after school. They've also held Coats for Kids fundraisers. Kyle noted that he also participates in the Student Leadership Council (part of northeast Ohio's SADD program); leadership workshops

have been held. Last year, they participated in a program with the Cavs, and a woman who was disabled by a drunk driver was a featured speaker. Prom Promise included a mock car accident.

Mallory Kathe indicated that she's a peer role model. DARE role models speak to younger students. One activity is making posters and hanging them in the middle schools. They assist students as they enter middle school and high school.

Sharon Centner noted that they also participated in Skate Night and Bowling Night. Skate Night is for fifth through seventh grade students; last year, 197 students participated at the Brunswick Skate Station. Wadsworth bowling alley was completely full last year with fifth through seventh grade students. Of 265 students, 242 were present for their DARE graduation; DARE role models organized the event. She thanked MCDAC for the funding that makes all of the programs so successful.

Highland School Counselor Craig Tasker stated that the activities are only as strong as the student leaders and they are strong role models who impact students. He noted that, thanks to the support of the MCDAC Board and school administration, Claudia Johnson was hired as a full-time chemical dependency coordinator. She interacts with students and school administration, providing more immediate follow-up with families and students.

Claudia Johnson thanked MCDAC for the role they play including Medina County Share Cluster and After Prom (a drug-free event supported by parents). She reviewed some of the initiatives, teacher in-services, Bionic (Believe It Or Not I Care) Night, health curriculum, community speakers, parent meetings, DARE program, interventions, Extreme Challenge, expulsion alternatives, GSAT (Get Smart About Tobacco), and peer mediation/conflict management.

◆ **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

Minutes of September 14, 2009 were emailed in advance. Wally Schaedel moved to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded by Cliff Nowak. There was no discussion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

◆ **OLD BUSINESS**

Brian Nowak noted that he received notification that they are continuing to search for a Village Representative.

◆ **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Brian Nowak reported that Red Ribbon will be celebrated October 23-31. All of the school districts are planning special assemblies and events. MCDAC will have a special Red Ribbon section in the Gazette on Saturday, October 24. Michael Salamone, Medina County Director of Transportation, has offered to place red ribbons on all of the buses. The ribbons will be supplied by MCDAC, as well as Red Ribbon lapel pins to be worn by bus drivers. MCDAC will attend the Community Health Fair to be held Saturday, October 24, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Highland High School.

Grantee site visits are being scheduled and Mr. Nowak plans to complete these by the middle of November.

The Drug Task Force is in the final steps of hiring a director and an agent. This should be completed next month.

◆ **NEW BUSINESS**

Brian Nowak reported that Chris Jakab attempting to determine whether a replacement, renewal, or renewal with an increase anti-drug levy should be placed on the November 2010 ballot. Mr. Jakab will present a five-year analysis from the start of the next levy. Mr. Nowak will consider present and possible future programs. Will Koran noted that in either May or November of 2010, every school district (including MRDD but not the Career Center) will probably be on the ballot. The status of Brunswick School District wasn't known; if Medina and Highland School Districts pass their levies this November, they won't be on the ballot next year. Therefore, there will be competition in 2010. There will need to be discussion about possibly putting the MCDAC levy on the ballot in May and if it fails, try again in November.

◆ **GO AROUND**

Wally Schaedel reported that new MCDAC member Katherine Stetson is recuperating from extensive cancer surgery.

◆ **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Jim Bigam moved to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Wally Schaedel. There was no discussion and by unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

◆ **NEXT MEETING/FUTURE MEETINGS**

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

November 2

December 7

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