



MEDINA COUNTY DRUG ABUSE COMMISSION (MCDAC) Minutes of September 14, 2009

▪ ATTENDANCE

Members Present

David Linderman – Brunswick Alt. Rep.
Jeffery Vogel – Commissioners Alt. Rep.
Cliff Nowak – Brunswick Rep.
Kent Patterson – Police Chiefs Assoc. Rep. (V. Chair)
Evelyn Czyz – Township Rep.

Jerry Klue – Commissioners Alt. Rep.
Kim Grieco – School District Alt. Rep.
Katherine Stetson – Township Alt. Rep.

Absent

James Bigam – Commissioners Rep.
Roger Ingraham – Commissioners Rep.
Laura Todia – Medina Rep.
Will Koran – School District Rep.
Ellen Stark – Wadsworth Rep.

Wally Schaedel – Medina Alt. Rep.
Tom Acklin – Police Chiefs Assoc. Alt. Rep.
Michael Jervis – Village Alt. Rep.
Chuck Potter – Wadsworth Alt. Rep.

Others Present

Michael Barnhardt – Medina County Drug Task
Force Director

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 Kent Patterson called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. There was roll call and a quorum was declared.

▪ PRESENTATION

Brian Nowak introduced Deb Bican and Brandy Miracle from Cloverleaf School District. Cloverleaf has the largest geographic area in the county for a school district. Transportation is an issue because it impacts the involvement with school programs. The Cloverleaf School District includes Chippewa Lake, Gloria Glens, Seville, Lodi, Chatham Township, Lafayette Township, Westfield Township and Westfield Center. Lodi is one of the lowest economic areas, therefore, school is one of the only places where they are going to get their needs met as a whole. Information about each program was handed out at the meeting.

Jay Jackman is a senior from Cloverleaf and a four year veteran of Huddle. Huddle is a high school peer group that speaks in classrooms about smoking and tobacco use and their effects. Jay sited a particular case where a student's dad stopped smoking because some literature was passed out from this group. Ms. Bican talked about how important Huddle/Shuddle is for the students involved and that many students want to be a part of this organization. There are several opportunities to receive scholarship because of the involvement with this program.

Megan Todd spoke to MCDAC about a girls' group called Chatter. It is a mentoring group of high school students that go to the middle school and prepare the girls for high school and the real world. This group helps guide girls to make the right decisions with different lessons they present. They have a self defense lesson which is hands on, a tea party, stress/organization, nutrition, internet safety, and several other programs. They mirrored this program after a national program called Girl Talk.

Brandy Miracle spoke to the group about SADD/SRU (Students Rise Up) and their motto is: "Stand for something or you will fall for anything." Dare Officer Deputy Kulbis does the Jail Fundraiser where he goes around at lunch with DUI goggles and hands out tickets so the students can see how much it would cost if they got a DUI and what it would be like if they were impaired. He also attends their Reality Store Day at the middle school for all the eighth graders. This is collaboration with OSU Extension. There are 15 tables setup with different economic areas of life. Each student is given a salary, career or job, and a family size. They have to "make do" with the money they have been given. They go around and use their money to buy housing, transportation and childcare. It's like a monopoly game where there are chances to draw and they could get a DUI ticket. It is an eye opener for the youth to make right choices. The social studies teachers really like this new program. They really stress prevention in everything they do. The Red Ribbon Program is mostly done at the middle school level. They had an essay contest, "Why I

Choose to Live an Alcohol and Drug Free Lifestyle". Ms. Miracle also talked about Relay for Life and the fight against cancer. Ms. Miracle talked about how they focused on cancers that were commonly a direct result of tobacco use. They also did an Activity Fair which was designed to provide information to the eighth graders coming to high school. Booths were set up and all the activities were presented and the eighth graders could sign up before entering high school. Several community organizations also attended such as Chippewa Yacht Club, Chippewa Ski Team, Boys Scouts and Explorers. They want students to be involved in these programs so they are less likely to be involved in drugs and alcohol.

Ms. Miracle and Ms. Bican wanted to give a special thanks to MCDAC for the funding. Through this funding they are able to offer many programs for students.

The question was asked why there is a limit on the number of students that are able to participate in Huddle/Shuddle. There are a number of reasons for the limited number of Huddle/Shuddle students and some of those are that, classroom activities are mandated by the schools and the Prevention Department is not aware of these until school starts. Ms. Bican said that the best way to learn is when students teach something that they have learned.

Mr. Patterson asked the Cloverleaf Prevention Department to play an active role in helping promote the levy because its passing is critical for them. Ms. Miracle stated that the levy information is put in the newsletters that go home with the students.

▪ **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

Minutes of June 1, 2009 were emailed in advance. Cliff Nowak moved to approve the minutes as written; the motion was seconded by Evelyn Cxyz. There was no discussion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

• **OLD BUSINESS**

It was noted that there are still vacancies for a Village Representative, but the Township Alternative Representative has been filled. Brian Nowak will continue to work with Evelyn Cxyz on this.

▪ **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Brian Nowak reported that Mr. Patterson mentioned the Anti-Drug Levy which will be on the ballot in November of 2010. He will be meeting with Commissioner Hambley and Will Koran to form a committee and create a timeline. The Drug Enforcement update reported no change. Meetings were held, but Brunswick and Wadsworth chose to remain with Medway. Since Brunswick and Wadsworth chose to remain with Medway, there are discussions about Medway providing drug enforcement for the entire county. That also brings up some issues with the sheriff because they are not in favor and neither is the Prosecutor's Office and members of the Council of Governments. Drug Task Force is looking for a fulltime director and another agent. Medina County Fair was successful and Mr. Nowak wanted to thank all the board members who helped. They also had a good response from the grantees; it's a lot of hours, 10 hours a day for 7 days. Next year Mr. Nowak stated they will be bigger and better. MCDAC registered for the Highland Community Health Fair at the Highland High School on Saturday October 24. Mr. Nowak also had a meeting with Andrew Node from Armstrong Cable. Mr. Node has agreed to produce a three part series on MCDAC. The series would include a segment on law enforcement prevention, and treatment. A group of treatment providers lead by Cornerstone Wellness is meeting to plan activities and events countywide. Activities and events for National Recovery Month which will be September 2010 and MCDAC will be part of the events. Also, Mr. Nowak will be presenting a workshop tomorrow on Tobacco Use and Mental Illness at the Roads to Recovery Conference in Cleveland sponsored by the ADAMH Board of Cuyahoga County. The Smoking Cessation Program at the Health Department is going well and referrals have increased after the Gazette and The Post agreed to place an announcement in their respective papers. The Gazette agreed to write a story in the near future and interview people who have quit tobacco use after completing the program.

•**NEW BUSINESS**

Mike Barnhardt provided budget transfer request copies for everyone. The budget transfer request is from the surplus salaries and benefits for the first quarter of this year because they were short two agent positions which gives them a surplus close to \$25,000. Last year, they returned approximately \$54,000 to MCDAC. This year, being the first year fully funded, they are looking at director interviews this Friday and agent interviews to follow next week. These two positions should be filled by November. They are making strides to be fully staffed, that will allow them to do their jobs more effectively. They are looking at the operations and equipment in the office. They have had ongoing computer problems. He understands that computers are a prohibited item, so he brought it to the Operating Board and discussed how the computer problems are taking a lot of man hours in the office, preventing them from going out into the field. He stated that they try to spend fewer hours in the office and more in the field. Mr. Barnhardt is taking the first step to bring it before this board to utilize their surplus salary funds for computer equipment upgrades. They need to purchase nine computer workstations. They could use funds from outside MCDAC monies, they could use asset forfeiture money, or they have some money in a general revenue fund left

over from a couple of years ago. There are some areas of concern with using the general revenue funds even though they are carried over from year to year. They want to hold on to these funds to act as a cushion in between grant allocation. They don't know what future years will bring for the Drug Task Force, so they would like to keep the asset forfeiture funds for backup should the levy not pass in 2010. Currently, they are at \$209,000 in their asset forfeiture. Cliff Nowak asked how many employees are in the office. Mr. Barnhardt stated there are six employees. Mr. Nowak asked where the other three computers will go. Mr. Barnhardt stated there are six fulltime employees and they have a person from Medina City in their office. They have an extra computer in the evidence room for tracking and for secure location. They have one extra computer which is a community computer because of the one user program that is not networked. They would use this computer if someone came from DEA, BCI or ATF, which they normally have someone come in from the state or federal, which increases their manpower and builds relations. Mr. Barnhardt stated the computers are about six years old. They purchased the surveillance platform and high stream video, but they can't watch it currently on their laptop's without increasing the memory, which is cost prohibited. With respect to the other grantees and this being a prohibited item and not wanting everybody to want new computers, he respects the board's decisions if they don't want to move forward with this; they will look for alternative financing. They do have other equipment in their evidence room that could be upgraded if they can't get the computers. They have been extremely busy in the last three weeks. Cleveland Metro Parks only has a small section in Medina County in The Hinckley Reservation. They are talking about having their special operations unit (which consist three detectives) coming out and working with them on a rotational basis two days a week in order to teach and train them in ways of working narcotics. He has been in contact with Paul Thomas at Channel 3, who lives in Medina County. He will be happy to give a good word for MCDAC at levy time.

Mike Barnhardt reported that there is a surplus of money in salaries and PERS (benefits) accounts. He requested that the Commission approve the transfer of \$15,000 to computer equipment:

Salaries	\$13,000	Computer Workstations	15,000
PERS (benefits)	2,000		

Cliff Nowak moved to approve the allocation of money; in the amount of \$15,000, (\$13,000 from salaries and \$2,000 from PERS). The Commission has determined the equipment, i.e. computers, is necessary to achieve the stated goals and objectives of the program. Jeff Vogel seconded the motion and it was stated in the discussion by the Commission that this was a cases by case basis. The motion was passed unanimously.

• **GO AROUND**

Steve Hambley stated that the soonest they will be able to go on the levy is 2010. The Commission will need to gather a committee to start financial planning as to whether it will be a renewal or replacement. They need to take a look at property values to make that determination.

Jerry Klue advised the Commission that the Medina County Safety News Program is having their annual awards for police, fire and EMS on September 25. Mr. Klue stated he would send an email. It will be held at the Weymouth Country Club at 8:00am and the keynote speaker is the Assistant Director of Public Safety from the Department of Public Safety and the administrator from the Ohio Traffic Safety Office.

▪ **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Evelyn Czyz moved to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Jerry Klue. There was no discussion and by unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

▪ **NEXT MEETING/FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next MCDAC meeting will be Monday, October 5, 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.

October 5	December 7
November 2	

*Minutes prepared by Brenda Brei
Temporary Assistant Clerk to the Medina County Board of Commissioners*