

MHADA Board Minutes
Cape May County
August 11, 2020

In Attendance:

Frank Garcia	Thomas Dawson	Judy Kunec	Renee Petit	Donna Groome
Pat Devaney	Majken Mechling	Barry Keefe	Katie Faldetta	Bridget DeFiccio
Amy Dindak	Greg Speed	Joe Landis	Tonia Ahern	Sueanne Agger
Deseree Moore	Mary Dozier	Sharon Modzelewski		

Call to Order

A virtual meeting was held due to COVID -19. Announcement of such was published in the Herald and announced on the County website.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Frank Garcia at 5:04PM.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the May meeting was made by Barry Keefe and seconded by Judy Kunec. Motion carried.

Reports and Correspondence

Mental Health: Amy Dindak reported: 1) Budget hearings will be held in September; she will keep the board informed of the outcomes. 2) The bulk of the NJ Mental Health and Addiction Services' staff will work remotely through the end of the year; but most of her work takes place on site at the office. 3) Dover Wood boarding home, located in Toms River, is closing on 8/31. The home has 120 beds and services individuals who need various types of assistance.

Addiction Services: No report

GCADA: Sharon Modzelewski reported: 1) The State of New Jersey extended Fiscal Year 2020 by three months, July 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020. During the extension period, the freeze on program funds continues but county and municipal administration costs will be funded. The freeze on program funds was effective 3/23 due to a reduction in Drug Enforcement Demand Reduction (DEDR) fines applied to driving while intoxicated convictions. The fines are the sole source of revenue for the Municipal Alliance program. 2) The DEDR reduction also impacts the nine-month FY 2021 grant. Funding for the Municipal Alliances/County-Wide programs was reduced by 42%, from \$83,009 to \$34,650. The decreases should last through FY 2022. A joint letter was sent by the MHADA Board Chair and CASS Chair to the First District Legislatures regarding the funding issues to request assistance for a more sustainable funding mechanism.

Old Business

Membership: Pat reminded the Board that there is always an interest in new members, so please try to recruit new members.

Heroin Issue Update:

Sueanne Agger report is attached.

Joe Landis reported 1) Hope One van is operational starting 8/12 and will be at the Recovery Center. A schedule is available for August through November which he will send out. The van needs Narcan supplies. Amy reported that the State is considering another free Narcan give-away program. Members asked if the county can have input into the location of the pharmacy sites and have more advance notice of the date. 2) The Prosecutor's Office, using the Helping Hand Grant, will distribute 400 bags to individuals living with substance abuse that include AA/NA Books, journals, personal hygiene supplies. Bags will be distributed to sober living homes, drug court participants, treatment providers, etc. 3) As of 8/8, a total of 108 overdoses occurred in the county which compares to 109 at the same time last year. Eleven individuals died from overdose thus far in 2020. Sueanne noted that 8 individuals came to the hospital during the past weekend for overdoses. 4) An uptick in Meth use in the county.

Jail Grant: Pat reported that the county received another \$150,000 from DHS for the expansion of the Jail MAT until December 2020. Approximately 100 inmates have been served. There was a slow down when inmates were released due to COVID, but numbers are increasing now. There is a good relationship between the Jail and CARES for follow up care for inmates on MAT.

Innovation Grant (Recovery Center): see report above

Recovery High School: Four students will return this fall; another student is possible, and one student graduated in the spring. Students live in Villas, Galloway, Hammonton. At this time, classes will be held in-person four days a week and one day will be virtual. All students are eager to attend in-person. The summer program will consist of "touch points" where staff will connect to the students to keep up the communication and contact with the program.

New Business

Elections: Frank Garcia presented a slate of officers for the MHADA Board. He recommended Judy Kunec as Chairperson and Barry Keefe as Vice Chairperson. A motion was made by Majken Mechling and seconded by Joe Landis to approve the recommendation. Motion carried. Frank was thanked for his great work as the past Chairperson.

CASS Meeting Minutes

Minutes were distributed for review. A motion was made by Judy Kunec and seconded by Renee Petit to accept the minutes and the following matters: 1) revised FY 2021 allocation; 2) empower the allocation subcommittee to decide further grant distributions if additional funds become available prior to the next CASS meeting; 3) approve the County to submit the revised FY 2021 documents to GCADA without a second review with the understanding that no new programs will be added. Motion carried.

PACADA Minutes: PACADA minutes were distributed for informational purposes.

Overdose Fatality Review Team (OFRT) Grant: Pat reported that a team of providers, including Greg Speed, Katie Faldetta, Sueanne Agger and others assisted the CMC Health Department to submit a proposal to have an OFRT in Cape May County. The Team's purpose will be to review fatalities and see if there are policies or practices that can be implemented which may prevent overdose deaths in the future. The announcement from the state is expected mid-August.

COVID Impact on Local Agencies

Katie Faldetta reported that Cape Assist staff works a hybrid schedule of in-office and remote. All counseling is available virtually; and testing is completed on-site. Clients have experienced financial issues, food insecurity, and connectiveness issues. Parents need respite services. Community partners have been generous with contributions for the clients.

In July the agency was very involved with remote resiliency trainings. About 650 unduplicated individuals attended the trainings; some participants were from other countries.

The staff participated in a training to earn a certificate in Applied Educational Neuroscience which is 9 master's degree credits from Butler University.

Bridget DeFiccio reported that Acenda programs continue with both in-person and telehealth venues. The 24/7 programs are operational (i.e. residential, crisis screening, PACT, ICMS, etc.). Youth and Adult partial care programs are back on-site in a staggered design. The Batterers and Anger Management programs are face to face. It is a team effort to ensure the safety of staff and consumers which includes distribution of PPE supplies and following health protocols (i.e. temp checks, cleanings, etc.). If needed, the agency is prepared for another lock down. Data indicates that OP/IOP, Recovery, and ICM participation numbers show an increase over pre-covid numbers. Members discussed that telehealth makes it easier for some populations to access services and eliminates the transportation issues.

Possible Grant Modification: Pat reported that the SA grant may need a modification for the year 2020. If so and if the decision needs to be made before the next MHADA meeting, she would like volunteers to assist in reviewing the modification. Majken and Judy agreed to assist. A motion was made by J. Landis, seconded by M. Dozier to allow the two MHADA Board members to act on behalf of the Board if necessary. Motion carried.

Public Response

Pastor Dawson reported that the Coalition for Safe Community will distribute 3,000 masks on 8/12 throughout the county and will distribute 400-500 book bags on 8/26. Pat suggested the US Census forms be included in the book bag giveaway.

Sueanne Agger reported that Cape Regional CARES will have an event on 8/31 in recognition of Overdose Awareness Day. The event will be held at the Cape May-Lewes Ferry grounds and include guest speakers, Naloxone training, and a Drive-In movie (*Ben is Back*). The event is free, but registration is required. Participation is limited to 105 cars.

Tonia Ahern reported that NCADD and the Recovery Center will offer a statewide educational event to teach people in recovery about ACEs/Trauma.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm by Chairperson Frank Garcia.

NON-OPIOID DATA

January 2020 to August 2020

- 198 individuals served

OPIOID DATA

- 120 individuals served
- Type of Call:
 - o 70 Overdoses (58%)
 - o 50 non-overdose opioid related (42%)
- Demographics:
 - o Male: 86 (71%)
 - o Female: 35 (29%)
 - o Race/Ethnicity
 - White: 100 (83%)
 - Hispanic: 16 (13%)
 - Black: 4 (3%)

SUDRRP

- 11 individuals served
- Demographics:
 - o Female: 6 (55%)
 - o Male: 5 (45%)
- Types of Services
 - o Bus passes: 8
 - o Sober Living: 3
- Funding Utilized:
 - o Bus Passes: \$568 (\$5,937 remaining)
 - o Sober Living: \$1,580 (\$18,570 remaining)

Recovery Center

o Visitors

July

- 119 unduplicated visitors
- 282 duplicated visitors

August

- 24 unduplicated visitors
- 106 duplicated visitors

Total

- **143 unduplicated visitors**
- **388 duplicated visitors**
- o Members: 26 Members
- o Volunteers: 16 Volunteers

Meetings:

Total January (in person)	395
Total February (in person)	339
Total March (in person + zoom)	390
Total April (zoom)	667
Total May (zoom)	699
Total June (zoom/hybrid)	488
Total July (zoom/hybrid)	431
Total Meeting Attendees	3409