

MHADA Board Minutes
Cape May County
October 8, 2019

In Attendance:

Judy Kunec	Mary Dozier	Tom Maletto	Deb Lukens	Frank Garcia
Katie Faldetta	Pat Devaney	Laura Auble	Majken Mechling	Greg Speed
Amy Dindak	Robert Johnson	Michael Logsdon	Deanna Elpichan	Rev. Tom Dawson
Sue Conrad	Joe Landis	Jennifer Zoyac	David Grusemeyer	Anthony DiFabio
Tonia Ahern	Sharon Modzelewski			

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Frank Garcia at 5:10PM. Round table introductions followed.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the September meeting was made by Tom Maletto and seconded by Joe Landis. Motion carried.

Reports and Correspondence

Mental Health: Amy Dindak reported: a) DMHAS RFP information: 1) Designated Screening Services for the counties of Gloucester, Hudson, and Ocean. Total annualized funding, subject to state appropriations, was awarded as follows: Gloucester - \$1,496,624 – Acenda Integrated Health; Hudson- \$2,353,840 – Jersey City Medical Center; Ocean- \$2,488,796- Monmouth Medical Center 2) Services for Deaf and/or Hard of Hearing, NOFA post on 10/2/19, Bidders Conference on 10/11/19, Proposals due 11/8/19.

b) Staffing Update: Susannah Combs, County Program Analyst for Monmouth/Middlesex accepted a new position with DHS in July 2019. Ron Roebuck and Dave Helfand will cover the counties until a replacement is identified. Melinda Harriman is the new Program Analyst for Cumberland and Salem Counties.

c) Fiscal Update: FY20 Appropriations Act allocated \$500,000 to the DMHAS to support mental health and substance use disorder community providers that were previously sustained via deficit-funded contracts who are now operating under the fee-for-service reimbursement system. Agencies will be allocated a pro rata share of the funds based on gaps in revenues in FY20 compared to the previous deficit funded contracts.

d) Other information: Steve Fishbein of DMHAS will be providing mental health education to new Municipal Court Judges October 28, 2019.

Addiction Services: No report

GCADA: No report

Old Business

Membership: Pat reported that there are three people present at the meeting who are interested in participating on the MHADA Board. They are Majken Mechling, Michael Logsdon and Rev. Tom Dawson. Each prospective member described their background and interest in serving. The Board welcomed everyone. It was proposed that they attend one more meeting to determine if the business of the Board is a “fit” for them and then the process would continue.

Heroin Issue Update: Joe Landis reported on the recent data inconsistencies regarding overdoses and fatalities. The state report numbers use “suspected” fatalities and the county uses “confirmed”. In 2017 the state said we had 59 fatalities, in 2019 we were at 47 and as of July 2019 we are at 18. The Prosecutor’s office reports in 2018 there were 161 overdoses and 21 fatalities, so far in 2019 there are 106 overdoses and 12 fatalities. There has been

a change in the process of reporting NARCAN deployments. The Prosecutor's office does not automatically receive the numbers from the local first responders, however Joe was able to determine that from January 2019 through March of 2019 there were 56 NARCAN deployments and 13 refusals to go to the hospital. Joe also reported that the training date for the school nurses to be trained in NARCAN is October 15th at Special Services School. Some discussion followed regarding school policy addressing the purchase of NARCAN only by the schools or provided by an outside agency.

Recovery High School: Katie reported that there has been no grant for the current school year coming forward from DOE yet. There are three youth enrolled with the potential of 3 more in process. The school is operating now on left over funding from the previous year which will run out as of January.

Jail Program: Pat reported on the progress of the Jail's grant to provide MAT in the CMC Correctional Center. At first there will be an effort to provide suboxone to those who are admitted and disclose that they are using opiates (drug test to follow to confirm). Due to Bail Reform, it is expected that release will be fairly quick so the inmate will leave the Jail with a preventative dose and a script for three more doses with a connection to a medical office providing suboxone. In addition, there will be continuity of care provided to the people admitted to the Jail who are already on methadone or suboxone in order to keep them on track during their stay at the Jail. Induction is a more complicated process and will be decided later.

RFP Schedule & Review: Pat stated that there are 4 RFPs out at the present time with the due date of October 16th. They are withdrawal management, short term residential, halfway house and Life Skills. She is hoping that Judy Kunec and Frank Garcia will participate in the review process with the date of review October 22nd. Judy and Frank agreed. The two other programs are the Recovery Resource Program which has the RFP in development and the recovery high school recovery support and summer program which is also in development once state funding is assured. A motion was made by Joe Landis and seconded by Deborah Lukens to allow the Committee to make the decision on the allocation and advise the Freeholders if needed due to the MHADA schedule. Motion carried.

Performance Based Benchmarks for ACENDA: The benchmarks have been provided to ACENDA and they will respond to their system's ability to capture the data points.

Awards: The Board discussed possible agencies/people for the 2019 awards. A final decision will occur via email.

New Business

ACENDA Presentation: Dr. Anthony DiFabio, CEO of the newly formed agency ACENDA presented information to the Board regarding the vision and values of the new agency. ACENDA has recently received a 3+ million dollar grant to provide service to children who have parents who are in treatment for SUD for Ocean, Cape May and Atlantic Counties. The first year will be a planning year and then service development. There were only five (5) awards given for the whole country and ACENDA was one of them. ACENDA also is working on the lack of qualified manpower for mental health and addictions throughout the region, but more specifically for Cape May County. They have approached the medical school at Rowan to improve the course offerings for undergraduate and graduate students in this area and are increasing the number of student interns. They are engaging the university to sponsor a reach fair that will bring the academic folks together with agency personnel to learn more about best practices in the field and how to implement them. They have analyzed the salaries across the three agencies and have adjusted salaries to assure parity within the organization and they are planning for infrastructure improvements in the future. Comments from the Board focused on the desperate need for more qualified staff, increased services for pregnant women with SUD and the needs of the elderly population. Frank Garcia, Board

Chairperson, thanked Dr. DiFabio for his presentation and the expectation of a close working relationship in the future.

CASS Minutes

CASS Minutes and FY 2021 Allocations were distributed. A motion to approve the minutes and allocations was made by Judy Kunec and seconded by David Grusemeyer. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Joe Landis and seconded by Robert Johnson to empower MHADA representatives to vote on the new grant cycle plan at the January CASS meeting since there is no MHADA Meeting in January.

Public Response

None

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.