

MHADA Board Minutes  
Cape May County  
January 24, 2023

In Attendance:

Membership:	Judy Kunec – Chair	Interested Parties:	SueAnne Agger	Jennifer Arenberg
	Dave Grusemeyer		Amy Dindak	Tonia Ahern
	Mary Dozier		Pat Devaney	Patrick Miller
	Barry Keefe		Bernadette Moore	Bridget DeFicco
	Majken Mechling		Katie Faldetta	
	Joe Landis		Greg Speed	
	Rev. Tom Dawson		Amy Villano	

**Call to Order**

The virtual meeting was called to order by Judy Kunec at 5:02.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes of the October meeting was made by Joe Landis, seconded by B. Keefe. Motion carried.

**Reports and Correspondence**

Mental Health: See attached. It was noted that the Special Population Service awards did not include the Legacy Proposal for Cape May County for outpatient counseling for the LBGTQIA+ population. Pat reported that as part of the Comprehensive plan she and Peter surveyed 4 SUD OP providers and 3 responded that they were concerned about this population going forward. Amy offered to ask JFS if Cape May County residents could be served by their Atlantic grant but crossing county borders may not be allowed by DMHAS.

Addiction Services: No report.

GACADA: No report

**Old Business**

Membership: Pat reminded Board members that new members are always welcomed, and that one member will be going off the Board in June.

**Heroin Issue Update:**

Joe Landis reported that Hope One is very busy and will be adding a second vehicle to the Prosecutor's office efforts. The second vehicle will be a smaller one which is more appropriate for the Knock and Talk program. He added that the recent drug busts for fentanyl and heroin have involved the more established dealers. He also stated that meth is involved in  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the cases that are in process now. Katie offered that the level of poly drug use is substantial among the Cape Assist programs. Joe replied that Cape May County does not have the degree of meth labs that are present in the mid-west but the drug is taking hold

in Cape May County. Fentanyl strips are being worked on for availability. The OORP/Recovery Center report was not available; however the Recovery Resource Program's final report will be discussed later. Katie reported that the Recovery High School has 10 students: 7 are Cape May County. The students are adjusting well, and space continues to be an issue. The JAIL MAT program is continuing to serve approximately 30 inmates on suboxone and 9 on methadone. The OFRT report was unavailable this month.

### **Substance Use Disorder Plan Submission:**

Pat reported that the draft plan was included in the packet. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Majken Mechling, seconded by Barry Keefe to accept the draft and submit it to DMHAS. Motion carried.

### **EISS Update**

Amy Villano from Acenda reported on the current status. Presently there is a census of 19, 28 have been served, staff vacancies are still an issue for full operation. There have not been many referrals to screening from the program. Walk-ins are being served. There was an additional question regarding appointment capacity for med only clients. More info will follow at the next meeting. Amy also announced that there are openings at Acenda for most of the services such as ICMS, PACT , IOC and SUD IOP/OP.

### **IDRC Update**

Pat reported that the 12 Hour IDRC program will be RFP'd in the coming months.

### **New Business**

#### **Hub and Spoke RFP for the NJ4S program.**

Pat asked Katie to give a description of the RFP. Katie explained that it is a very prescribed program that will offer three tiers of support to the schools ranging from life skills programs like Botvin Life Skills to counseling by licensed professionals. The award for Cape May and Atlantic is 2.6 million when fully operational. The Court Vicinage which involves Cape May and Atlantic County will be the area to be served. Cape May only has 2 schools in the "high risk" section and 1 in the "moderate risk" section. It was explained that Cape Assist and Atlantic Prevention Resources are already in most of the schools and have a strong relationship with them, in part due to the resiliency training that was offered to them over the past 3 years. After discussion, a motion was made by Majken Mechling, seconded by Joe Landis, that the MHADA Board write a letter of support for Cape Assist to be the recipient of the grant. Motion carried.

### **Acenda Dashboard**

Pat reported that Acenda will be sending the dashboard report for discussion at the next meeting. The dashboard report contains information regarding wait times for all programs.

### **Final Reports**

The final reports for the Recovery Resource Program, Botvin Life Skills, and the Recovery Case manager were distributed and discussed.

## **Chamber of Commerce Presentation**

The annual presentation to the Chamber's leadership class will be 2/15 and will have law enforcement, a recovering person, a family member, an EMT representative, and the recovery center on a panel to talk about the status of drug use in the county.

## **Schedule of meetings**

Attached.

## ***Public Response***

Joe Landis discussed several efforts by the Prosecutor's office to reduce stigma. A Stop the Hate session is scheduled for 2/8 at the PAC Center. Pat will send out the flyer.

## **Adjournment**

Chairperson Judy Kunec adjourned the meeting at 6:20pm.