

MHADA Board Minutes
Cape May County
February 8, 2022

In Attendance:

Membership: Judy Kunec – Chair
Frank Garcia
Mary Dozier
Rev. Thomas Dawson
Joe Landis
David Grusemeyer
Majken Meching

Interested Parties: SueAnne Agger
Amy Dindak
Pat Devaney
Peter Belasco
Katie Faldetta
Jen Zoyac
Bridget Deficcio
Renee Pettit

Call to Order

A virtual meeting was held due to COVID -19.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Judy Kunec at 5:00 P.M.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the December meeting was made by F. Garcia and seconded by J. Landis Motion carried.

Reports and Correspondence

Mental Health: Amy Dindak report attached.

Addiction Services: No report.

GACADA: No Report.

Old Business

Membership: The MHADA Board is up to 12 members presently, two terms expire in June 2022, so recruitment efforts are still underway. In addition, P. Devaney reported that MHADA member, Deborah Lukens, has moved and resigned from the Board. D. Lukens contributions as a private mental health professional will be missed and the Board should make every effort to replace them with another private practitioner. F. Garcia reported that he knows a doctor that lives in Wildwood that may be interested in joining the Board.

Heroin Issue Update:

Hope One Van: J. Landis reported that the Hope One van is seeing continuing success and they have recently purchased the machine to make temporary IDs for any individual that lacks the proper identification to access treatment. The machine was purchased through Operation Helping Hands grant funds. J. Landis reported that he has developed policies and protocols to prevent individuals from obtaining an ID under a false name. To apply for an ID there will be a link on the Hope One Van's website. While every effort will be made to create an ID for an individual by the next business day, J. Landis asked that referring organizations use greater coordination if an individual needs an ID on Friday Afternoons or over the weekend because Hope One still needs to run its safety protocols to ensure no

fraudulent IDs are issued. J. Landis also reported that they are readying another round of Helping Hands bags to distribute. The Helping Hands bags are backpacks filled with various hygiene products, activity booklets, and informational packets on where to access services.

Overdoses: J. Landis reported that there have been 12 suspected fatal overdoses in the county since the beginning of the year. The majority of the overdoses occurred in Lower Township and the victims have been mostly males.

OORP: S. Agger reported that the year end service report for the OORP program is included in the meeting packet. S. Agger announced that starting next week AA/NA meetings will return to in-person meetings at the Recovery Center. Also, she announced that Cape Regional CARES submitted a proposal to DMHAS's RFP for \$100,000 start-up funds for a Community Peer Recovery Center, awards will be announced on 3/4/2022.

OFRT: P. Devaney reported that the OFRT continues to face the same the barrier of insufficient data to effectively make conclusive decisions on what would be a solution or an effective change in policy to prevent more overdoses from occurring.

Recovery High School: Katie reported that they are now serving 14 students total, 9-10 students are from Cape May County.

Jail MAT: P. Devaney reported that the Jail is currently serving 70 people on MAT and 232 have been released with follow up. From 7/1/20-6/30/21, the Jail served 180 individuals with medications for opioid use disorder, more individuals utilized buprenorphine than methadone.

Community Pop-up Resource Centers:

iComWell: B. Deficcio reported that Acenda is continuing to move forward with its implementation of their SAMSHA grant-funded iComWell program, which stands for Initiative for Community Wellness, but have encountered some unexpected impediments, such as permitting, which has impacted their anticipated start dates in Cape May County. The Board discussed some alternate locations and implementation models. A. Dindak suggested that Acenda use the Point-In-Time count from years prior as a reference to identify locations that would have the greatest impact for their target populations.

New Business

State RFPs:

The State awarded the Community Support RFP to Jewish Family Services, Cape May County will have four community support slots available to for its residents. No action is required of the Board regarding this RFP. The State has an RFP for Early Intervention Support Services out and the Board will need to review the proposals and submit its input by 3/18 in advance of the State's award date of 3/29. P. Devaney will reach out for volunteers to review the proposals before the next meeting on 3/8.

2021 Expenditure Report:

P.Devaney noted the meeting packet included the 2021 AREF funds' Expenditure Report. The administration funds were underspent, but these funds have not been expended since the A&D Director position went vacant in 2009. Now that P. Belasco was hired in 2021, these funds are expected to be near fully expended in 2022. AEREF funds dedicated to the provision of services continue to not be fully

expended due to most individuals being Medicaid eligible. The 2022 expenditures will be monitored and if the same trend continues the Board can discuss reallocation options in May or June.

Review – CMC Treatment Utilization [NJSAMS] 2018-2020:

2022 is the planning year for Cape May County's 2024-2027 Comprehensive Plan for the Organization and Delivery of Alcohol and Drug Services. To begin the planning process the Board reviewed the NJSAMs treatment admissions from 2018 – 2020. Of note, the number of individuals admitted to treatment who were IV users went down from 42% to 36% of total annual admissions, individuals in methadone treatment went down, individuals using vivitrol remained flat, and individuals in buprenorphine treatment went up. [see attached report]

The Board discussed the DOH's methodology to calculate access to treatment and how Cape May County's small population inflates their calculations and results in Cape May County being labeled the County with the best access to treatment, while that might not be necessarily true,

CASS Minutes:

P. Belasco advised the Board that there were corrections to the CASS minutes in the MHADA meeting packet: the date was changed to reflect the correct meeting date and the meeting participants were corrected to reflect the members that attended the zoom meeting. Additionally, K. Faldetta requested that the minutes be updated to reflect that Atlantic County – We Check's venue [in-person vs. virtual] has not been definitively decided.

FY23 GCADA Renewal Application:

P. Belasco reported that the FY23 GACADA Renewal application is the same allocation and distribution amounts as last year [FY22]. None of the municipal alliances submitted any programmatic or budgetary changes. [Note: If an alliance chooses to make any programmatic or budgetary changes in FY23, they can and that would be facilitated via the normal budget modification process.] P. Belasco reported that the only modifications from the FY 22 County Plan to the FY23 County Plan are the following: updated County Budget Form to include the name of the new Coordinator, lowered the amount in the salary and other direct costs columns with the resulting balance put into the fringe column, demographic information from the 2020 Census added to the demographic page, and the CASS membership list was updated by replacing Michael McNight with Adrienne Breinger to represent the Super Intendent of School's Office and Katie Trivelis was added to represent the business sector.

A motion to approve and submit the plan to County Commissioners was made by M. Majken and seconded by F. Garcia. Katie Faldetta abstained. Motion carried.

Public Response

SOAR: Pastor Dawson reported that the Coalition for a Safe Community partnered with the Cape May County Health Department in distributing free COVID-19 Home Test Kits. They distributed 1,000 kits throughout the county at 5 locations. There is also a Black History Programs scheduled for Tuesday

February 15th at 6:30 on zoom. Roslyn Daniels will speak on Health and Wellness. Pastor Dawson will forward a flyer to P. Devaney for distribution.

Cape Assist: K. Faldetta reported that their group treatment services are scheduled to return to in-person in March because they are conducted by CADC interns who are not covered under the expansion of Telehealth services in NJ.

Harm Reduction Centers: P. Devaney reported that the Governor signed into law an amendment to the original syringe access program law that renamed them Harm Reduction Centers and removed the provision in the original law that required a municipality's approval to operate. Now anyone can make an application to the Dept of Health to open a Harm Reduction Center in any municipality so long as it conforms to the municipality's zoning ordinances and DOH regulations.

Partial-Hospitalization Program: The Board discussed the partial-hospitalization program that Cape Regional in partnership with the Center for Family Guidance has proposed to implement in the Special Services School. Members noted that the Center for Family Guidance has successfully partnered with other health systems, e.g. Inspira, in other counties. Members brought up concerns about the size of CMC's youth population versus other counties. P. Devaney reported that there will be a presentation on 2/14/2022 and she will report new information.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:53 pm by Chairperson Judy Kunec.