

MHADA Board Minutes  
Cape May County  
March 14, 2023

In Attendance:

Membership:	Judy Kunec – Chair	Interested Parties:	Patrick Miller	Terri Mascione
	Dave Gusemeyer		Amy Dindak	Jennifer Zoyak
	Rev. Tom Dawson		Pat Devaney	Kelly Benigno
	Barry Keefe		Peter Belasco	Tonia Ahern
	Majken Mechling		Katie Faldetta	Amy Villano
	Joe Landis		Michelle Myles	

**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 February meeting was made by Majken Mechling, seconded by B. Keefe. Motion carried.

**Reports and Correspondence**

Mental Health: Amy reported on several RFPs that are out now: Open Access to Medication in Shelters and Recovery Check-up System (see attached). She also reported that she asked JFS if they would serve Cape May clients in their new LBGTQA+ program.

Addiction Services: No report.

GACADA: The Dennis Township Alliance submitted two budget modifications. The first modification moved \$500 in DEDR and \$400.75 in Cash Match in unspent funds in the Youth Healthy Choices program, which is not being implemented this year due to unforeseen staffing issues, to the Drug Free Healthy Me program to booster activities to support the parent/student presentations. This budget modification was approved on March 1, 2023. The second budget modification moves \$300 of the Peer Leadership money in Strengthening Youth initiative from the Consultant line to the Other Direct Cost line since the Consultant already had funding to implement the program. These funds will go towards supporting programs under the Strengthening Youth initiative. This budget modification was approved on March 7, 2023. Both budget modifications were approved by CASS Chair – G. Speed and P. Devaney per GCADA and County guidelines. M. Mechling made a motion for the MHADA Board to accept both Budget modifications and B. Keefe seconded. Motion carried.

**Old Business**

Membership: Pat reminded the Board that new members are needed.

## **Heroin Issue Update:**

Joe Landis reported that Hope One is very busy and is still looking into the second vehicle through the Helping Hands grant. The Task Force has been busy with high level dealers. In one raid they confiscated 16 pounds of meth. Joe gave a report from the DMI regarding the amount of fentanyl in street drugs. A copy will be included in the minutes. Dave Grusemeyer asked if there were meth labs in Cape May County. Joe replied that they are not many, like in other places. Patrick Miler reported for OORP/Recovery center and reported that a few of the recent overdoses appear to be suicides and that it is a disturbing trend. He then described the services available at the Recovery Center for February. Katie reported that the Recovery High School has 11 students, 7 from Cape May County and 2 are expected to graduate in June. Kelly reported for the OFRT and described a response to the high number of overdoses in one location that would be targeted for community outreach to provide opportunities for those impacted by the overdoses (and others) to seek help. She also spoke about SUD respite booklets that are being printed for distribution. Pat stated that the Center of Excellence came to the CMC Correctional Center for a training and was impressed with the protocols that have been developed by staff. There are routinely 9 inmates on methadone and 25 on suboxone.

## **Outpatient Wait-Time and EISS Dashboard**

Bridget gave a detailed explanation of the dashboard and the data points that are contained within it to measure capacity and staff availability. Psychiatry for adults continues to be a challenge. Barry Keefe asked about availability of psychiatry in screening and was told that the dashboard does not address screening, but the availability of psychiatry continues as in the past. Michelle Myles reported on the EISS. The walk-in numbers doubled from January to February and currently there are 23 active cases. They are getting people who in the past would have gone to screening. Terri from the Branches complimented Michelle on the service and how useful it is to their agency.

## **New Business**

### **The Branches Presentation**

Terri Mascione from the Branches Outreach Center described the services that are offered to the homeless and marginalized populations in Cape May County. They serve approximately 45 people per day: food, clothing, showers, furniture, employment opportunities, etc. The Branches also operates under extended hours whenever there is a Code Blue so the homeless have a place to go at 6AM. Terri announced that a fundraiser will be held at the Mud Hen, Poppy's and the Dogtooth Grill on 3/21 and 3/22. 30% of the revenue will be donated to the Branches if their name is mentioned when ordering. She closed by inviting the Board to come and see the operation and volunteer if they are interested.

### **Waiver Letter**

Pat referenced the copy of the waiver letter for the Emergency Screening program that is in the packet. The Board will take action at the May meeting.

### **Site Visit Reports: County and Contracted Providers**

Peter reviewed the site visit reports that were completed on all contracted services in the grant. There were no citations in any program so no plan of corrections is needed. Pat reported that the state did its evaluation of the County contract and there was no plan of correction needed.

### **988 Mobile Response RFP**

Pat stated that the RFP for Mobile Response (someone to come) Program for 988 is close to publication. It is likely that the counties will be asked for input into the proposals. Given the fact that the Board does not meet until May, Pat asked Majken and Judy and whomever else on the Board would like to participate to be available in April should the timing require a review during that month.

### **Public Response**

Bridget reported that Acenda was awarded the NJ4S funding for Atlantic-Cape May and Gloucester-Salem and Cumberland. Acenda will start communicating with agency partners in the near future.

Rev. Tom Dawson reported that the Coalition for a Safe Community was at Woodbine Elementary on 2/22 for a Health and Hygiene giveaway to celebrate Health month. They gave away 240 hygiene bags. The SOAR Church will be having its Autism Walk on the Wildwood Boardwalk this year. The FBI day is scheduled for May 24th. Students will be visiting the FBI headquarters in Newark to be exposed to the FBI's purpose and processes. Also, Unity in the Community planning is underway.

Tonia Ahern spoke about the future screening of the documentary regarding families experiencing SUD within their family and the NARCAN documentary which features the Cape May fishing industry in the fall.

### **Adjournment**

Chairperson Judy Kunec adjourned the meeting at 6:16pm.