

MHADA Board Minutes
Cape May County
May 10, 2022

In Attendance:

Membership: Judy Kunec – Chair
Frank Garcia
Mary Dozier
Barry Keefe
Joe Landis
David Grusemeyer

Interested Parties: SueAnne Agger
Amy Dindak
Pat Devaney
Peter Belasco
Katie Faldetta
Jen Zoyac
Bridget Deficcio
Jennifer Plews
Greg Speed

Call to Order

The virtual meeting was called to order by Chairperson Judy Kunec at 5:03 P.M.

Approval of Minutes

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

Reports and Correspondence

Mental Health: Amy Dindak report attached. She will forward the 988 power point to Pat for distribution.

Addiction Services: No report.

GACADA: No Report. See new business

Old Business

Membership: Tom Maletto will not be reappointed as he has reached his term limit. He has been a very valuable addition to the Board over the years. Renee Petit has agreed to come back to the Board and Mary Dozier will be reappointed in July. More members are needed.

Heroin Issue Update:

Hope One Van: J. Landis reported that the Hope One van is seeing continued success and they have been doing quite a bit of NARCAN trainings lately. Joe showed a new “coin” he developed which he gives to recovering people for them to give to a person who is seeking treatment. The coin identifies Hope One and the phone number for help. Joe has received several coins back since he started. He is still pursuing a better definition regarding overdose fatalities as different entities have different criteria. Sueanne reported on OORP and the Recovery Center. See attached report. Katie reported that there are 13 youth involved in the Recovery High School and 4 are graduating. She explained that the cost of transportation and the distance (1 youth lives in Deptford and costs 60,000 per year) really impact the budget and Cape Assist has found that they need to reach out for additional funding for next year’s program. Pat explained that the Overdose Fatality Review Team has a new coordinator and the next meeting is May 17th. She also

reported that the Jail MAT grant has been successful however there are issues getting the invoices from the providers.

Community Pop-up Resource Centers:

Jennifer Plews 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. They had a session in Whitesboro in March and returned in May. Both sessions went fairly well even with a low turnout. May was supposed to be at the Branches but their building is not yet ready. Woodbine is scheduled for the summer.

New Business

We Check For 21:

P. Belasco presented the status update [see attached] of the FY22 We Check for 21 initiative. P. Belasco outlined that this year's We Check for 21 initiative will be virtual and hosted on the front page of the County's website, where a link will be embedded to J. Vasil's presentation on how to identify fraudulent IDs used to purchase alcohol or to gain entry into an establishment that serves alcohol. The County has purchased and received tote bags that will be filled with a fraudulent ID reference book [donated by Harrison Beverages], a window sticker that outlines the potential consequences individuals who use fraudulent IDs may face, a black light, and Cape Assist's rack card on how to identify signs of employee drug or alcohol misuse.

Youth Leadership Grants:

P. Belasco announced that on 3/28/22 GCADA sent a Letter of Intent for a new 3-year \$12,491.00 grant opportunity, the DMHAS-funded Youth Leadership grant. A handout was distributed as part of the MHADA meeting packet with the details of the grant including the timeframes associated with each grant year, the proposed funding formula, and a synopsis of each Municipal Alliance's proposed program. P. Belasco noted that the funding formula is based on the FY23 Municipal Alliance grant distribution model, so that the DMHAS-funded Youth Leadership grant would be proportional to the amounts distributed in the FY23 Municipal Alliance plan and renewal application. The County is not taking any monies for grant coordination nor the 5% maximum for a county-wide initiative.

P. Belasco noted that there was one programmatic change in the Youth Leadership plan sent out to the Board members prior to the meeting. The Upper-Ocean Municipal Alliance resubmitted their application and changed their intervention to a marijuana and vaping education program for 9th Grade Ocean City High School students to be implemented by Cape Assist.

Afterwards, F. Garcia made a motion to approve Cape May County's FY23 DMHAS-funded Youth Leadership grant amended plan and application to GCADA. J. Landis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Screening Waiver Request:

Jennifer Plews presented the waiver request by Acenda for screening. The two waivers that have been requested since screening was established in Cape May County are 1. A 24 hour holding bed and 2.

Psychiatric in person coverage 24/7. Although psychiatric consultations are available by phone, there is not proper funding to have the psychiatrist come into the hospital.

Jennifer has sent the waiver request to consumer groups and affiliated parties with a 30 day comment period. The Board will meet on June 14th to review any comments and make the final decision regarding communication about the waivers with DMHAS.

Acenda Contract Review- Deficit funded programs

Jennifer Plews described the review process for programs that are not fee for service. They are Involuntary Outpatient Commitment (IOC) , Case management for the Homeless (PATH), Intensive Family Support Services (IFSS), Mental Health Intensive Outpatient Program (MHIOP) and Screening. Jen explained the impact of COVID had on operations- especially staff. The programs were severely challenged and services to Cape May County residents were limited in scope.

With a goal of 70% achievement of the level of service, this is the outcome by program:

Screening 70-80%

IOC 40%

MHIOP 27%

PATH 5%

IFSS 75%

Acute Care Family Support 0%

Acenda and DMHAS will discuss FY23 funding and level of service in the near future.

Jennifer also mentioned that the job market is starting to get back on track and applications are coming in. However, with new programs coming into the county staffing will still remain an issue. Pat will forward the dashboard that was created when the merger occurred. Acenda can complete it and it will measure current wait period, staffing levels etc. With the new EISS program, the dashboard can serve as a base line for the 2022 year.

Early Intervention Support Services (EISS)

Jennifer Plews reported that Acenda received word that it was awarded the EISS program in late March for 1 million dollars. Since that time the agency has been analyzing possible sites, developing a roll out info campaign and advertising for staff. The program is referred to as an “Acute Care MH” and its purpose is to deflect people from the ER when they are experiencing a mental health crisis to assess if inpatient treatment is necessary.

The program is to be operational within six weeks and will be staffed by a prescriber, 2 clinicians, 2 peer specialists and admin personnel.

CASS Minutes:

P. Belasco reported that the April CASS meeting minutes were sent out in advance of the meeting and requested a unified motion to approve both the minutes and the 5 budget modifications outlined in the minutes. J. Landis so motioned, F. Garcia seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Elections

June is when the Board usually has elections. Judy requested Frank and Mary to be a nominating committee and to present a slate for consideration at the next meeting. They agreed

Public Response

Cape Assist: K. Faldetta noted a community event that will be sponsored by the Coalition for a Safe Community on May 17th at the Housing Authority. It is a family cook out and will feature prizes and activities for adults and children. She also noted that the PRIDE survey which measures utilization, and attitudes of students in the 7th, 9th, 11th and 12th grades towards substances, violence etc. has been completed and the results shared with the schools. This year ,due to a new law, there was considerably more participation so it can serve as a good base line for future trends. She will send it to Pat who will get it out to the Board.

Tonia Ahern spoke about a documentary she is involved with regarding opiates and the fishing industry. The film was shot in 2 days and will have Cape May, as well as other places in the country. In cooperation with the Recovery Center Tonia and Sueanne are working on a program in Cape May called DockMate which is trying to connect local fishermen with treatment and other social services supports where there is a need.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm by Chairperson Judy Kunec.