

**MHADA Board Minutes
Cape May County
May 11, 2021**

In Attendance:

Thomas Dawson	Katie Faldetta	Kathy Reeves	Tonia Ahern
Pat Devaney	Majken Mechling	Barry Keefe	Joe Landis
Amy Dindak	Sueanne Agger	Bridget Deficcio	Dave Grusemeyer
Greg Speed	Betty Sue Redman	Judy Kunec	Deb Lukens
Mary Dozier	Sharon Modzelewski		

Call to Order

A virtual meeting was held due to COVID -19.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Judy Kunec at 5:09 P.M.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the March meeting was made by Dave Grusemeyer and seconded by Barry Keefe. Motion carried.

Reports and Correspondence

Mental Health: Amy Dindak's report is attached.

Addiction Services: No Report

GCADA: GCADA is still engaged in discussions with administration to achieve long-term sustainability for the Municipal Alliance program.

Old Business

Screening Issue Update: Kathy Reeves was asked to update the Board on the issue of the shortage of inpatient beds for involuntary commitments. She responded that there has not been an issue yet but the concern is the summer population influx. She and others have been meeting with Atlantic Care to assure that medical clearance issues are being communicated and addressed. They have been productive meetings. Pat stated that she inquired about the issue to the Human Services Directors and only about 5 reported issues. Amy and Bridget both reported a wider span of concern throughout the state. Tonia said that the Mental Health Association is discussing it on Friday. Amy clarified that the issue is really one that rests with the Health Department, not Human Services. The issue impacts the children's inpatient unit as well. The Board asked to be kept up to date on emerging issues.

The Board recognized and thanked Kathy Reeves for her years of excellent service to the agency and the County and wished her well in her retirement.

Membership: Pat reported that Renee Pettit's service to the Board is over as she has been on for 6 years. Barry Keefe, Dave Grusemeyer and Robert Johnson will be reappointed, and Frank Garcia and Jen Wolfson will be appointed to a new term. All appointments will be from 2021 through 2024.

Heroin Issue Update: Hope One, OORP, Recovery Center, Jail MAT, Recovery High School (summer Program) OFRT:

Sueanne gave her report on the broad range of activities being conducted at the OORP program and the Recovery Center. The report is attached.

Sueanne, Joe and Pat reported on the Overdose Fatality Review Team's progress. The Team has reviewed several cases so far but they have been 1917 cases and the system of care has developed significantly since then and it is difficult to draw conclusions about interventions that are already in place in 2021. Joe stated that he is trying to collect candidates from 2019 or sooner but many are still under investigation. The other counties that are doing 2020 cases have a bigger pool of fatalities so some of them are not still in the investigation stage and can therefore be reviewed.

Joe reported on the Hope One van which is now getting out more and attracting more people. They have seen 270 since the last MHADA meeting and have provided 30 NARCAN kits. Referrals to treatment continue. A new development is the arrangement for medical transport to treatment provided by Ocean Inc. There is an income limitation, but the service has been used several times with positive results.

Joe also reported on a new initiative from the Prosecutor's Office regarding a Youth Camp for trauma impacted 5,6, and 7th graders. The target population will be referred through Recovery Court, treatment agencies, DCP&P and schools. Twenty-five youth will be served and will learn life skills, team building and special areas such as photography etc.

Katie reported that the summer program for the Recovery High School is being developed and will be delivered the best way to keep in contact with the youth but not require mandatory meetings.

New Business

Screening Waiver Discussion: Pat referred to the waiver request material in the packet. Acenda is requesting a waiver for 24/7 psychiatric availability and the holding bed. A motion was made by Deborah Lukens, seconded by Dave Grusemeyer to recommend Acenda as the screening entity and approve the waiver request as cited. Motion carried.

CASS Minutes and Modifications: Minutes were distributed for review. A motion was made by Mary Dozier and seconded by Dave Grusemeyer to accept the minutes, the FY 2022 allocations, and the budget modifications. A motion was made by Joe Landis and seconded by Deb Lukens to empower MHADA members to attend the March 26th CASS meeting to vote on the FY 2022 Renewal Plan on behalf of the MHADA Board. Motion carried.

Conflict of Interest Statement: Pat asked that the Board members review and complete the Conflict-of-Interest statement and scan it to the office. The form was in the packet.

Mental Health/LE Task Force: Katie and Bridget gave a substantial description of the work being done by the MH and SUD committees to work out issues, budgets and timeframes. The project is moving along with more meetings being scheduled.

Elections: A motion was made by Deborah Lukens, seconded by Dave Grusemeyer to elect Judy Kunec as chairperson and Barry Keefe as vice chairperson for the year 7/1/21-6/30/22. Motion carried and Judy and Barry were congratulated.

Public Response

Acenda: Bridget reported that Acenda is back to doing in person, hybrid and telehealth services for all programs. Acenda is currently working on a grant that is due May 25th.

Resiliency and Other Trainings: Katie Faldetta reported this summer's resiliency training for school staff and a new cohort for the Butler certification. Pat said she would send out the links so if members wanted to tune in, they would be able to through Zoom.

Safe Community Coalition: Rev. Tom Dawson reported on the events that the Safe Communities Coalition is spearheading in the County. They are 1) Assisting with distribution of the vaccine in Woodbine, Whitesboro, and Wildwood by sponsoring dinners and activities that will draw people in 2) the summer event called Unity in the Community will be held on 8/30 in CMC Park. 3) Safe Surrender will be held in mid-October.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm by Chairperson Judy Kunec.