

MHADA Board Minutes
Cape May County
June 13 , 2023

In Attendance:

Membership:	Judy Kunec – Chair	Interested Parties:	Lisa Shaffer	Terri Mascione
	Frank Garcia		Amy Dindak	Jennifer Zoyak
	Mary Dozier		Pat Devaney	Kelly Benigno
	Barry Keefe		Peter Belasco	Jennifer Areneberg
	Majken Mechling		Beth Weiss	Bridget DeFiccio
	Joe Landis		Michelle Myles	Lisa Shaffer
			Sue Anne Agger	Christine Jackey
			Jen Zoyac	Katie Faldetta

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 March meeting was made by Majken Mechling, seconded by Frank Garcia. Motion carried.

Reports and Correspondence

Mental Health:

Addiction Services: No report.

GCADA: P. Belasco reported that Four budget modifications were presented to the MHADA Board for DEDR-funded municipal alliance programs.

Middle Township: The budget modification proposes to move \$278.25 in Cash Match from the Community Awareness initiative to the Law Enforcement initiative Cash Match* This budget modification request is caused by the increase in refreshments for LEAD Graduation.

Dennis Township: Dennis MAC's budget modification request to move \$350 within their Community Awareness Form 7 from its consultant line to the ODC line. The request is being made because the presenter at this year's Dennis MAC's parent education and recruitment event is the CMC Prosecutor's Office so therefore there will not be any consultant costs associated with this presentation and the MAC requests that some of the originally budgeted consultant funds (\$350) be moved to the ODC line to cover the costs of food.

County-wide: After three years of virtual presentations, the county-wide We Check for 21 training returned to in-person and the fraudulent ID specialist - Joe Vasil increased the in-person presentation fee from \$750 to \$1,100. There are adequate funds in the ODC line from extra supplies accumulated over the years that the We Check for 21 event was virtual, so this request is to increase the total budget for the consultant line by \$350, from \$750 to \$1,100, and reducing the ODC line from \$4,510 to \$4,160.

Upper-Ocean:

Justification: Modification is to transfer all funds associated with the Friday With Friends event, which is \$680.47 – DEDR: Consultant and \$227.00 - Cash Match: Consultant to the OCHS Afterprom's DEDR and Cash Match Consultant Line. This occurred last year, and the funds remain in the same Budget

Umbrella and serve the same demographics. FWF program was not active this past year to use the reserved funds.

Old Business

Membership: Pat thanked Judy Kunec for her time on the Board and her leadership during the past few years. Lisa Shaffer was also in attendance and may join the Board later.

Heroin Issue Update:

Joe Landis reported that Hope One is very busy and the second vehicle has been purchased. He noted that Hope One distributed 94 NARCAN kits in 2021, 272 in 2022 and as June 13th, 2023 559 kits have been distributed. The Prosecutor's camp will be held next month and this camp targets at risk youth and is staffed by Cape Assist and volunteers from the Prosecutor's office... Sueanne gave her report on OORP and the Recovery Center (see attached report). The Recovery Center has really increased its attendance. In May alone there were 392 unduplicated visitors and 523 duplicated which shows that people are coming back to the Center. More data is available in the report. Katie revealed that the Recovery High School (Coastal Prep) will be graduating one student on the 14th. The student spent 3 years with Coastal Prep and now is looking at the future with a car and a job. Seven youth are returning next year. Katie did ask about methadone guest dosing. MORE LATER . Kelly reported on OFRT activities. They have distributed over 500 doses of NARCAN and over 100 doses were picked up by people who attended the We Check for 21 Training. Other activities have been the development of a Summer Tool Kit for seasonal businesses, Fentanyl test strip procurement, NARCAN vending machines and other areas. She noted that the last four overdose fatality cases that were reviewed by OFRT had xylazine involved. Pat reported that the County Jail is still providing MAT and the usual count is 10 people on methadone and 15 people on Suboxone.

EISS, NJSSS and Arrive Together

These reports are deferred to a later agenda item.

Settlement Funds

Pat reported that the County's Settlement allocation is up to \$600,000. Some activities may need to occur before the next meeting and Pat may be reaching out to Board members to participate.

New Business

Acenda Report on Deficit Funded Mental Health Programs

Bridget presented a power point regarding the deficit funded programs in the agency. (report is available by calling 609 465-1055) . These programs include: Screening, (\$780,912), EISS (1 million) PATH - Homeless Case management (\$40,685) Intensive Family Support and Acute Family Support (\$ 227,001), Intensive Outpatient Treatment Support Services (\$254,659) , and Involuntary Outpatient Commitment (300,515) . The level of service for the programs ranged from 0% (no staff) to 82%. The low level of service attained was primarily due to staffing vacancies and the difficulties filling positions. Majken Mechling asked for the number of people served in each program (unduplicated) and Bridget agreed to provide it at the next meeting. A discussion regarding the lack of service availability to county residents

ensued with the Board's frustration becoming evident. Acenda did state that they had hired a recruiter to focus on attracting staff and was hopeful that the level of service would improve in the next year. Amy Didak did provide information regarding the RFP process used to establish the programs and the inability to divert funds to other areas if there were no staff. After much discussion an motion was made by Frank Garcia, seconded by Joe Landis to recommend the continuation of the programs at the level of funding described above. Motion carried with Majken Mechling abstaining.

FY 24 Municipal Alliance Plan/Application and Youth Leadership Application

Elections

Frank Garcia reported that Majken Mechling has agreed to become the Chairperson of MHADA and Barry Keefe will continue as Vice Chair. Hearing no other recommendations, Frank made the motion to approve the slate, Joe Landis seconded. Motion carried.

RFPs

Pat explained that there are 8 RFPs to review in the coming months and that she had asked Judy and Majken to review the IDRC one which is due tomorrow. She asked for other Board members to consider volunteering for some of the remaining ones.

Collaborative Support Programs

Pat asked Jen Zoyak if her presentation on the CSP Recovery Center could be delayed until August due to the time. Jen agreed.

Public Response

Acenda: Bridget reported that NJ4SS has begun to form an advisory board and is actively recruiting staff. Beth Weiss reported on the Healthy Hearts and Minds Program which has served 191 families so far (109 Atlantic, 32 Cape May and 51 Ocean). Two new staff have been hired.

Cape Assist: Katie talked about that 5 youth/police camps will be operating this summer. She also explained the educational series that Cape Assist is running for educators. She added that the 4H Fair and a Woodbine project are scheduled for July 21st and 22nd.

Coalition for a Safe Community: Katie stated that Unity in the Community is scheduled for late August at the County Park. More info will follow.

Adjournment

Chairperson Judy Kunec adjourned the meeting at 6:45pm.

