

MHADA Board Minutes
Cape May County
June 14, 2022

In Attendance:

Membership: Judy Kunec – Chair
Jennifer Wolfson
Mary Dozier
Barry Keefe
Joe Landis
Majken Mechling
Rob Johnson
Rev Tom Dawson

Interested Parties: SueAnne Agger
Amy Dindak
Pat Devaney
Peter Belasco
Katie Faldetta
Beth Weiss
Jennifer Arenberg
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 May meeting was made by B. Keefe and seconded by M. Dozier
Motion carried.

Reports and Correspondence

Mental Health: Amy Dindak report attached.

Addiction Services: No report.

GACADA: No Report. See new business

Old Business

Membership: Renee Leaming has expressed an interest in returning to the Board. Upon agreement of Board members, Pat will send a request to the Commissioner's office for the appointment starting July 1 , 2022.

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 commercial that he developed about addiction and the Hope One van. He used local people and the message was very powerful. Joe has requested that the Helping Hands grant operated by the Prosecutors' offices be allowed to fund the summer camp that was started last summer. He has received verbal approval but nothing in writing yet. Sue Anne was having computer issues and will forward her report for the next meeting. Katie reported on the Recovery High School which is graduating four students on Thursday the 16th. Ten are returning and there is a wait list. The state will continue its allocation of 500,000 however transportation has consumed

almost half of the funding. The program is in need of a PT CADC to assist with the youth, funding for prosocial activities and school year transportation. Katie also described the array of activities that are scheduled for the summer, including five summer camps and three resiliency oriented trainings. Majken asked if the trauma informed classroom training would be available to community entities as well and described a situation where staff of this one agency could have benefited from the training. Katie responded that she would be happy to look at the availability. Pat reported that the OFRT team continues to review cases and the 2 most recent were 2021 cases. They are also looking at some type of grief booklet that would be available for families who experience an unexpected death. Also the JAIL MAT 2023 grant is being developed . Currently the Jail has about 10 daily methadone inmates and 26 on suboxone.

Acenda

Screening Waiver

Jennifer Plews reported that Acenda has not received any comments regarding the request for the 2 waivers and Pat confirmed that her office did not receive any either. The two waivers are for 1. No holding bed and 2. Lack of availability to have a 24/7 psychiatric in person response A motion was made by Joe Landis, seconded by Majken Mechling to recommend to the state that screening center services continue with Acenda and that the 2 waivers be granted by the state. Motion carried.

IComWell

The IComWell program is continuing its outreach efforts in various locations and is taking referrals. Connection to a therapist is occurring fairly quickly.

EISS

Jennifer reported that progress is being made on the EISS program considered by many to be an “urgent care for mental health” . Staff are being hired and the site selection has been made (the OP building at Crest Haven). Once the staff are in place, the program will open. It is expected to work in tandem with the screening center.

988

Pat asked Jennifer to bring the Board up to date on the developments regarding the 988 response line. Jennifer described the effort as “ someone to call; someone to come and somewhere to go”. At this point the someone to call is expected to roll out in mid-July. There was a lot of dialogue in the state regarding the “someone to come” piece. Some people thought an expansion of screening would be preferrable, but others did not. The decision is to RFP the response program, however whether the service will be county based or regional is still in discussion. The “somewhere to go” program is not designed in detail yet. Funding for the pieces is also not secured. She will provide additional information once it is received.

We Check For 21:

P. Belasco reported that the GCADA-funded, county-wide We Check for 21 initiative launched on June 1. County residents can access the online training component of the initiative by visiting the county website and clicking the We Check link on the front page, which will be available throughout the month of June. Also, P. Belasco reported that notices were mailed to all liquor licensee establishments and promotional

bags were distributed. P.Belasco will report on the number of individuals that viewed the online training at the next MHADA Board meeting.

New Business

PACADA Minutes: The minutes were distributed for informational purposes only. No action required.

Youth Leadership Grants:

P. Belasco provided an overview of Cape May County's Youth Leadership grant application to the Board members as follows:

Dennisville Municipal Alliance - Beat the Geek program for Middle School students.

Middle Township Municipal Alliance - Youth leadership training for graduates of their summer camp last year through a train the trainer model.

Lower-Cape Municipal Alliance – Youth leadership training that includes attendance at the Elk's annual Youth Leadership Conference.

Upper-Ocean Municipal Alliance - Beat the Geek program for High School students.

B. Keefe made a motion for the MHADA Board to approve the application and recommend to the Board of County Commissioners submission of Cape May County's FY23 Youth Leadership application to GCADA. R. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MAC Middle Township Modification

P. Belasco reported that the Middle Township MAC submitted two budget modification requests to the CASS. The Middle Township MAC proposed to transfer \$1,100.00 in School-Based High School Healthy Choices program funds to support the School-Based After Prom program due to school staff changes in FY22 and transfer \$165.00 from the Community Awareness initiative to the Law Enforcement Initiatives to accommodate a larger group of 5th graders this school year. CASS recommended that the MHADA Board approve both budget modification requests on 6/14/22 [via email]. J. Landis made a motion to accept the CASS recommendation and approve the budget modifications. M. Mechling seconded. Motion carried.

Settlement Funding

Pat reported that there seems to be some closure coming regarding the funding amount of the J&J settlement and that action may need to be taken during July. She asked for some volunteers to assist in developing the county response. Majken, Joe, Katie, Sueanne agreed. Pat also mentioned Tonia as the family member representative.

Elections

Mary Dozier presented a slate of officers for the year 7/1/22-6/30/23. Both Judy Kunec and Barry Keefe agreed to serve another term as Chair and Vice Chair respectively. Mary made the motion to accept the slate, seconded by Rob Johnson. Motion carried. Both Judy and Barry were thanked by the Board for their past service and future

Public Response

Cape Assist: Planned summer activities were covered under Old Business.

Acenda: Beth Weiss of Healing Hearts and Minds reported that the program (which serves families in Cape May, Atlantic and Ocean Counties) is in Year 3 Qtr 2 and has served 29 families to date (the first year of the grant was a planning grant). The remaining time will be directed at current cases, the recruitment of “comparison families” (see flyer) and the analysis of the outcomes of the program. Healing Hearts and Minds is also recruiting staff and plan to apply for the next round of funding.

Coalition for a Safe Community

Pastor Tom Dawson reported on the community cook out that was held in Wildwood May 17th at the Housing Authority. It was a family cook out and that featured prizes and activities for adults and children. Several hundred people were in attendance. Law enforcement and the Prosecutor’s office did most of the grilling. The Coalition also sponsored an FBI day for the summer camp youth. They went to the headquarters in the morning and learned about FBI trainings and opportunities, In the PM, they attended the American Dream Park. The Unity in the Community event is scheduled for August 22 at the county park. The Coalition is also starting to fund raise for its back to school backpack program in the fall.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm by Chairperson Judy Kunec.