

MHADA Board Minutes
Cape May County
August 9, 2022

In Attendance:

Membership: Judy Kunec – Chair
Dave Grusemeyer
Mary Dozier
Rev. Thomas Dawson
Majken Mechling

Interested Parties: SueAnne Agger
Amy Dindak
Pat Devaney
Peter Belasco
Katie Faldetta
Beth Weiss
Jennifer Arenberg
Jen Zoyac
Bridget Deficcio

Call to Order

The virtual meeting was called to order by Majken Mechling at 5:04 PM. Judy was having computer trouble and would try to get on by phone. She came into the meeting at 5:10.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the May meeting was made by M. Dozier and seconded by Tom Dawson. Motion carried.

Reports and Correspondence

Mental Health: Amy Dindak report attached.

Addiction Services: No report.

GACADA: The new grant management software, Municipal Alliance Grant System (MAGS), for both the DEDR and DMHAS-funded Youth Leadership grant will go live for the FY24 planning and application process. GCADA has announced a series of mandatory trainings for County Coordinators and learning sessions for Municipal Coordinators and Alliance members starting in September. Also, the Municipal Alliance Volunteer of the Year nominating forms have been distributed to all local Alliances.

Old Business

Membership: Pat reminded Board members that new members are always welcomed.

Heroin Issue Update:

Joe Landis was having computer issues and could not attend to report on Hope One. Sue Anne's report is attached. Overdose Awareness Day is being held on August 31st at Wildwood Convention Center. Katie said the Recovery High School has 7 returning and 4 interviews pending. The summer was mostly social media contacts and the transportation issue does not look as grim as it did several months ago. 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 she will have a summary report at the next meeting. Also, the JAIL MAT 2023 grant was approved. The Jail has RFPd for health services so a new provider may be selected. Currently the Jail has about 10 daily methadone inmates and 26 on suboxone.

EISS - Acenda

Bridget reported that progress is being made on the EISS program considered by many to be an “urgent care for mental health”. The Director has been hired and other staff are being interviewed. The program should open in 3-4 weeks. Bridget also updated the Board on increased capacity in Partial Care and Youth Partial Care, as well as Outpatient and Psychiatric time. The Board discussed the no show rate and Bridget offered to provide information at the next meeting. Sueanne gave an example of a long-term client who really benefited from mental health outpatient services at Acenda.

We Check For 21:

P. Belasco reported that this year’s We Check for 21 initiative was implemented through a virtual presentation by Joe Vasil that was hosted on the County website. The initiative ran for 1 month [June-2022]. The presentation had 394 total views and 239 unduplicated views. In addition to the virtual presentation, the Division of Community and Behavioral Health and Cape Assist filled bags with information on the program, community resources, and a booklet on how to spot fake IDs donated by Harrison Beverage. 103 bags were distributed to liquor serving establishments throughout the County. P. Belasco then highlighted some challenges and lessons learned, which will be examined further at the County Alliance Steering Subcommittee on September 20.

Status of FY 23 GCADA Grants:

P Belasco reported that GCADA has approved all plans and applications for both the DEDR and Youth Leadership grants. GCADA has advised that they are planning to release all documents necessary to execute both awards in the next couple of weeks.

Plan Update

Pat reported that the surveys are out and that activity toward the plan is scheduled for the next few weeks. Reports should be available at the September meeting.

New Business

2022 SUD Grant Expenditures and Modification

The Board reviewed the expenditures to date and the proposed modification of additional funding into Prevention (11,146), New Hope Detox (4950) and a small reduction for NARCAN was discussed. A motion was made by Majken Mechling and seconded by Mary Dozier to request these changes from the state. Motion carried.

Settlement Funds and Process

Pat distributed the \$128,996 allocation, the various areas that are considered eligible expenditures and the composition of the Advisory Board. A question was asked about potential conflict of interest and a processed that is inclusive but not driven by special interests. Pat will send out the 13 pages of eligible programs to those who request it and more plans for the funds will be forthcoming.

Subcommittee for 2023 allocation of SUD grant

Peter reported that the county has received its 2023 allocation and provided the chart for the Board to review. The county allocation is 268,228 which is about 900 more than last year. The application should be prepared by the September meeting.

Public Response

Acenda

Beth Weiss of Healing Hearts and Minds reported that the program which has served 60 families at the halfway mark (the annual level of service is 125 families) is growing. They recently had a three day site visit which looked at data and the next steps for the program. Referrals from DCP&P have increased and Acenda will be applying for the next round of funding. There have been challenges with staffing as licensed clinicians are less accessible than in previous years .

Coalition for a Safe Community

Pastor Tom Dawson reported on the activities planned for August: Unity in the Community is 8/22 at 4PM in the County Park, there is also a backpack give away at Curbside in Woodbine at the elementary school on 8/24 at 11AM and a community cook out at the Wildwood Housing Authority on 8/29 at 5 PM. The Coalition has been very busy organizing these events and other outreaches.

Cape Assist

Katie Faldetta described all of the resiliency activities undertaken by Cape Assist staff this summer., including summer camps for middle school youth and local police. These camps were held in Lower, Middle, Wildwood and Upper (for the first year). The Prosecutor's office also sponsored a camp. The Woodbine State police expressed an interest in developing a camp for Woodbine youth next summer. Rev. Tom Dawson and Katie will get together to see what can be done. Katie also reported on the three different offerings of the resiliency series: Trauma Responsive Classroom, Life Space Crisis Intervention, and Building Resiliency in our Youngest Students

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm by Chairperson Judy Kunec.

