

MHADA Board Minutes
Cape May County
September 13, 2022

In Attendance:

Membership: Judy Kunec – Chair
Dave Grusemeyer
Mary Dozier
Rev. Thomas Dawson
Majken Mechling
Robert Johnson
Frank Garcia
Jennifer Wolfson
Joe Landis

Interested Parties: SueAnne Agger
Amy Dindak
Pat Devaney
Peter Belasco
Katie Faldetta
Greg Speed
Jennifer Arenberg
Jen Plews
Tonia Ahern

Call to Order

The virtual meeting was called to order by Judy Kunec at 5:04.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the August meeting with the correction of the meeting date was made by F. Garcia and seconded by Joe Landis. Motion carried.

Reports and Correspondence

Mental Health: Amy Dindak report attached.

Addiction Services: No report.

GACADA: No report

Old Business

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

Heroin Issue Update:

Joe Landis reported that Hope One was doing well. The Prosecutor's office is looking into buying a car for the Knock and Talk so it is not so intimidating for the public. The ID cards are increasing and are now up to at least 1 per day. Fentanyl strips are able to be purchased and distributed. Katie and Sueanne expressed interest in receiving some. Sueanne reported that Overdose Awareness Day was a huge success and a very moving ceremony with several "lived" experience speakers. Sueanne credited the peer recovery specialists for all of their hard work in putting the program together. In August the Recovery Center saw 195 unduplicated individuals and 270 duplicated. A concern is the number of people who do not go to the ER after an overdose- out of 160 only 54 went to Cape Regional. Katie stated that the Recovery High School has 7 students: 6 are Cape May County. The last meeting of the OFRT focused on

data and gaps in the system. More data is needed. The JAIL MAT program is continuing to serve approximately 35 inmates.

EISS - Acenda

Jen Plews 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. Jen will be presenting to the Chief’s of Police in the near future. RAC cards are being developed for publication. The program will have peer recovery specialists and will be located on Crest Haven Road.

Modification Update::

Pat reported that the modification that was submitted to DMHAS has been approved. This mod will move 9900 into New Hope’s withdrawal and short term residential contract. It also allows 22,500 to be spent on Prevention.

RFP Process and Review Members:

The Board discussed the programmatic options for the prevention funding and after review of the plan, a motion was made by F. Garcia and seconded by D. Grusemeyer that the Strengthening Families Program was the best choice if a proposal for such was submitted. Motion carried.

Majken Mechling, Judy Kunec and Frank Garcia will be the review members of MHADA for the RFP

Settlement Update

Pat reported that the county has signed up on the portal and expects the first payment in October. meeting. More input regarding programming is needed.

New Business

2023 SUD Grant Budget

Pat reported that the county has received it 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 Board reviewed the proposed allocation plan and a motion was made by Frank Garcia, seconded by D. Grusemeyer to approve the allocation plan and submit to DHMAS. Motion carried.

AWARDS

The Board continued its discussion of recipients for the 2022 recognition awards.

Public Response

Coalition for a Safe Community

Pastor Dawson reported on the various events that were held in Middle, Wildwood , Woodbine and Unity in the Community during August. Altogether 1000 book bags were given away. More events are planned for the fall.

Mental Health Association

Tonia Ahern expressed increasing concerns regarding youth and mental health needs. More prevention is needed to reduce the growing numbers. Katie spoke about Youth to Youth Mental Health First Aid as an option if funding becomes available.

Adjournment:

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