

**MEDINA COUNTY DRUG ABUSE COMMISSION (MCDAC) MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2002**

Roll Call

Chairman Wally Schaedel called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Present: Joseph Destro (Brunswick City Representative), James Bigam (Commissioners' Representative), Wally Schaedel (Medina City Representative), Kent Patterson (Police Chiefs' Representative), Jeffrey Vogel (Townships' Representative), Lawrence Hering (Villages' Representative), Ralph Copley (Wadsworth City Representative), and Cliff Nowak (Brunswick City Alternate Representative).

Absent: Sharon Danko (Medical Society's Representative), William Koran (Schools' Representative), Julie Reeves (Medical Society Alternate Representative), Rick Schmidt (Police Chiefs' Alternate Representative), Bill Young (Wadsworth City Alternate Representative), and Joe Lewandowski (Townships' Alternate Representative).

Also Present: MCDAC Executive Director Kathy Yuzwa.

Board Member Resignations

Ms. Yuzwa received a resignation letter dated June 15th for Emil Stecki from Brunswick City, who he represented on the MCDAC Board. Paul Williams, Commissioners' Alternate Representative, sent his letter of resignation dated June 6th, which he asked to be effective June 30th. Ms. Yuzwa stated that Mr. Williams was presented a certificate and publicly thanked by the Commissioners at the June 24th Commissioners' meeting. He will now dedicate his time to serve as Secretary to the Drug Free Workplace.

Mr. Destro moved to accept both Mr. Stecki and Mr. Williams's resignations. Seconded by Mr. Copley. There was no discussion. All voted AYE and the resignations were accepted. Mr. Schaedel volunteered to meet with Mr. Bigam to look into how they want to go about thanking Mr. Williams for his many years of service to MCDAC.

New Board Member

Mr. Schaedel welcomed and introduced Joe Destro, the new Board member for the City of Brunswick. He asked Mr. Destro to tell the group a little bit about himself. Mr. Destro said that he and his family have lived in Brunswick for 15 years. He and his wife are the owners of Brunswick Tax Service. He is a Kent State University graduate where he took business management, accounting, and marketing. Former jobs included sales representative for a window manufacturer, a general manager for a candy company, and an owner of candy stores. He is looking forward to working on the MCDAC Board.

Approval of Minutes – MAY

Mr. Schaedel asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from May 6, 2002. There being none, Mr. Destro made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Hering seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted AYE and the minutes were approved as written.

Review of Medway-Wadsworth Information

Ms. Yuzwa had mailed copies to the Board of what she received from Wadsworth Medway in response to her letter that the Board was holding their grant money in reserve. The Board did not feel what Medway provided for the May grant review meetings had met their reporting requirements so they asked Ms. Yuzwa to request more information. Upon review, the Board did not see any new information than what was provided at the January review meeting but decided to accept the generalized accountability since their funds go into a pool with other counties.

Mr. Copley motioned to accept Wadsworth Medway's grant as resubmitted and recommended funding them at \$50,485. Mr. Vogel seconded the motion. Ms. Yuzwa said that she would present the resolution with the Board's recommendation at next Monday's Commissioners' meeting. There was no further discussion. All voted AYE and the motion carried.

July & August Meetings

Kent Patterson arrived at this time. After a short discussion the Board decided to omit the July and August MCDAC meetings. *Mr. Bigam made a motion to dispense with the July and August regular Board meetings and Mr. Copley seconded the motion. Ms. Yuzwa said they would reconvene on Tuesday, September 3, 2002 since Monday is a holiday. All voted AYE and the motion carried.*

Board Member Comments Received from Grantee Applicants

Comments of dismay and agitation from some school districts were discussed as well as expressions of gratitude from some grantees. Ms. Yuzwa passed out the letter of appreciation from Fred Wolk, the Director of the Drug Task Force. Grantees had requested about \$400,000 more than the Board had to give out, consequently there were disappointments. It was the Board's objective to provide more accountability to this levy's voters and monitor funding, promote self-sufficiency where possible, encourage new and creative programs, and educate the grantees. MCDAC provided grantee informational packets plus they will be holding a grant-writing workshop this year to assist grantees to meet the new requirements.

Ms. Yuzwa praised the Board for their long hours, diligence, and thoroughness with the grant process this year. Mr. Patterson pointed out that there are no guarantees with grants and Mr. Schaedel said that money cannot be given out just because it had been the custom of a previous Board. The Board thanked her for her hard work and said they were very appreciative for her grant expertise.

Upon questioning, Ms. Yuzwa said that the grantees letters of acceptance were due in to the Board by Friday, June 28th. Mr. Bigam arrived at this time. Mr. Patterson commented that some residents had questioned the necessity for the approximately \$100,000 contingency fund that the Board agreed to set up. Mr. Nowak explained for the new member that the Board realized the need for a 10% "hold back" to ensure adequate coverage for the fifth year of the levy and have funds for new programs.

Other

In other business, the group discussed the June 20, 2002 letter from Chief Patrick Beyer on behalf of the Family Assistance Coalition Team (FACT). FACT applied for a MCDAC grant for \$30,000. MCDAC awarded them the same as last year at \$15,000. Some reasons cited at the grant discussions for not increasing the award were; a quote in the newspaper saying that they did not need an increase; only a small percentage (6.02%) dedicated to substance abuse issues; possible duplication of Brunswick City Schools Project's services; no explanation of expansion plans; no hours, no set number of counselors and where they are coming from, and no fee structure for the \$30,000 worth of counseling services; no figures as to how much they are paying to contract with Northland Counseling, ADDS, and Catholic Charities; no figures for administration costs if MCDAC funds would be paying for them; and no details such as how much time a student spends at what level and how many students quit at intake. MCDAC requested more documentation and did not receive it. Chief Beyer's letter stated that the City of Brunswick does not utilize direct services from the Drug Task Force. Brunswick does have the option to work directly with the DTF and benefits regardless, when they remove drugs and drug dealers from the county. Many Brunswick City's students attend the Career Center whose anti-drug program is funded by MCDAC.

Chief Beyer's letter was critical of the MCDAC full time staff and all in attendance said they wanted to discuss the situation with Commissioners. They said that Ms. Yuzwa facilitated the grant discussions very well and provided ample amounts of knowledge and information to the process. *Mr. Copley made a motion that the Board meets with the Commissioners as soon as possible to discuss the letter from Chief Beyer from the Brunswick Police Department regarding FACT. Mr. Patterson seconded the motion. Mr. Copley said that the missing Board members would be sent a copy of the letter and when the meeting is scheduled so they have a good turnout. There was no further discussion. All voted AYE and the motion carried.*

Mr. Destro stressed the importance of educating children early on to the mentality that Police Officers are not their enemies but their friends and to be looked up to. He suggested a baseball trading card program that some other areas have used to develop this friendship, familiarity, and respect. By putting the local Police Officers' pictures and stats on baseball cards, kids can collect them in various ways and have fun with it in a positive way. The group will discuss this further at the MCDAC retreat. Mr. Patterson said that he would bring it up at the Police Chiefs' Association meeting this week as "food for thought". They will discuss it with the schools' MCDAC representative, Will Koran, as well, since it would be a large expense. Mr. Destro said they could possibly work out an in-kind donation or discounted rate with a local photographer.

Jeff Vogel made a motion to formally thank Kathy Yuzwa, the MCDAC Executive Director, for the excellent job she has done in facilitating the grant process. He said in light of the recent letter, they want to make it absolutely clear she has their gratitude and support. Mr. Patterson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted AYE and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Vereb