

MEDINA COUNTY DRUG ABUSE COMMISSION (MCDAC) MINUTES MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2002

Roll Call

Chair Wally Schaedel called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Present: James Bigam (Commissioners' Representative), Sharon Danko (Medical Society's Representative), Wally Schaedel (Medina City Representative), Kent Patterson (Police Chiefs' Representative), Lawrence Hering (Villages' Representative), William Koran (Schools' Representative), and Joe Destro (Brunswick City Representative).

Absent: Jeffrey Vogel (Townships' Representative), Ralph Copley (Wadsworth City Representative), Rick Schmidt (Police Chiefs Alternate Representative), Julie Reeves (Medical Society Alternate Representative), Joe Lewandowski (Townships' Alternate Representative), and Cliff Novak (Brunswick City Alternate Representative).

Also Present: Commissioner Steve Hambley and MCDAC Executive Director Kathy Yuzwa.

Review Minutes

Mr. Schaedel asked if there were any questions or additions to the minutes of June 24, 2002 and there were none. Joe Destro moved to approve the June 24th minutes and Kent Patterson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted AYE and the minutes were approved as written.

Old Business

Hands Across Medina County Foundation

Mr. Schaedel stated that the Hands Across Medina County Foundation petitioned for a hearing with MCDAC to discuss the grant amount they received that was recommended by MCDAC and approved by the Board of Commissioners for the "Making Prevention Work; For Older Americans Project". The Commissioners received a letter from Cindy Schneider saying that their Board of Directors made the decision to withdraw the grant submission, so that issue has been put to rest. Mr. Schaedel thanked Commissioner Hambley for his letter to the foundation.

Mr. Hambley explained the situation that led up to the foundation's decision to withdraw the grant submission. He said that one of the problems that was evident in this process was a lack of communication. He believes that this grantee tried to circumvent the MCDAC Director. They failed on numerous occasions to directly correspond with her even though they are in the same building. They continued to direct correspondence to him and originally invited only him to their meeting, although he did take the MCDAC Director. Even copies of e-mail to another county employee indicated that he and Ms. Yuzwa were stalling. He feels that MCDAC followed the grant guidelines and, if anything, they were quite lenient in the application of these guidelines. At this late date to be put in the position as to what they will do with the \$16,300, was not the intent of the process. If they do not take the funds, the process should have been to hear back from the grantee in a short period of time to enable MCDAC to redistribute the funds to another grantee very quickly. Now they are in a situation where they are, essentially three

months later, looking at what to do with the \$16,300 and whether another program they considered, such as the End Nicotine Dependency Program, could pick it up this late date. Mr. Hambley wanted to make sure that it was on the record that MCDAC responded in a timely fashion. The Hands Foundation was not timely at all; whether it was by intent or perhaps just the inability of the three groups that were involved in this proposal, to coordinate amongst themselves. Ms. Yuzwa did everything she could to communicate between the parties. Some Hands Foundation Board members originally called him on July 11th to discuss the option of not appealing and still taking the grant money. Then in the stipulated timeline they would propose to MCDAC how they were going to redistribute that \$16,300 amongst the three groups to get a program started since they did not get the full amount requested. He said the MCDAC Board would certainly have considered that option. A day or two later Mr. Hambley received a fax indicating that the Board of Directors would be willing to do that, but were holding out the right to object and appeal if they did not like what the response was. Since that was the case, all three Commissioners wrote a letter stating that The Hands Across Medina County would have to go through the appeal process.

Mr. Hambley said that the timeliness of applications and the failure of a grantee to respond as directed are issues that the MCDAC Board should address at the retreat. They need to be able to quickly move and pass it on to the next applicant that was denied. He told the Board about his experiences with funding issues with roads. He said that there are a lot more road projects than there is money. They have what is called an Issue 2 and they have projects lined up and stipulated that if this one does not take the award by a certain date, it automatically goes to the next grantee the same day.

Mr. Koran said they might also want to discuss a penalty of not being eligible to apply for a grant for another year if they miss the deadline. Once grantees are given the announcement of the award they should say whether they are going to accept it or not.

Ms. Danko said that it is disappointing that The Hand Foundation did not do a portion of the program for that segment of the population with the funds they received. Ms. Yuzwa said that they could have but it was their choice not to do anything even with alternatives proposed to support the Hands Project.

Mr. Schaedel asked if there is any requirement by the MCDAC Board to put the money back in and if all of the grantees needed to be notified.

Mr. Hambley said that it is up to the MCDAC Board whether to award it to a new program that they had reviewed, put it back, or modify it.

Board Member Recognition

There was a short discussion about how MCDAC Board should recognize and thank board members that have resigned. Some suggestions were proclamations, plaques, gift certificates to a restaurant, or leaving it up to the Board of Commissioners to decide. Commissioners have historically presented Resolutions of Commendation to Board members when they step down until this year they gave Certificates of Appreciation. Ms. Yuzwa asked if they want to do two

things since the Commissioners are already taking care of it. The Board is continually changing: some not finishing terms and some finishing several terms. Mr. Hering said if they let the Commissioners do it on their own, that would save the MCDAC Board from having to worry about it. He feels that they should leave it up to the Commissioners since they are under them anyway. MCDAC can make suggestions to the Commissioners. Ms. Danko said that she thinks anybody that served on the Board, no matter how long, should get recognized and Mr. Hambley agreed. Some of the group questioned if this would be sufficient for Board members that served many terms so Ms. Yuzwa suggested that they look at it next meeting and the group agreed.

MCDAC Retreat November 9, 2002, Saturday

Ms. Yuzwa said that the retreat would begin at 8:30 a.m. and last until 4:00 p.m. at the Medina General Hospital Conference Room. The facilitators will be Peggy Spraggins and Nancy Jacobson. The first half will cover MCDAC procedures and the other half will cover funding issues. She said that it is very important for everyone to attend.

New Business

Red Ribbon Week – October 21st – 31st

Ms. Yuzwa said that she is working with Diane Dockerill on Red Ribbon Week. They are taking a different approach this year by approaching businesses to be more involved since the schools are already into it due to their Prevention Programs. They put together a letter to businesses asking them to purchase a banner for display and also advertise in the Gazette's Red Ribbon insert.

Upon questioning, Sharon Danko explained what Red Ribbon Week is. She said that it is a national week against drugs. Schools and Prevention Counselors have contests and slogans against drugs. Large red banners that read "Say No to Drugs" are displayed on the Health Department and Administration Building. School kids wear red ribbons with slogans all week. The Gazette has a tab that highlights Red Ribbon Week that includes things like programs, resources, articles, and it lists MCDAC Board members. The more ads they solicit--the bigger the tab. This used to be tied into the Family Awareness Festival, which was cancelled due to 9/11 and never restarted.

Ms. Yuzwa said that they set up something with the Office for Older Adults this year, which is new as well. They will plant red tulip bulbs around the building in honor of Red Ribbon Week. This will bring in another influence of the population to drug awareness.

Executive Director Report

FACT Grant Update

Ms. Yuzwa said that the response to the grant award letters went out and FACT has accepted their award at \$15,000.

Ms. Danko asked about the issue regarding the FACT letter that was degrading to the director and Mr. Hambley said that he responded to it. There has been no further acknowledgement.

DFWP – October 9, 2002 - 1/2 Day Seminar – Medina Hospital

Ms. Yuzwa said that this seminar would focus on small businesses of 25 or under. It will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end with lunch. She said Brad Williams is easy to work with and will be a great asset for that agency.

Redistribution of Grant Dollars - \$16,300

Ms. Danko said that three new grants were being considered at the hearings, but MCDAC ran out of money and time for the third one. The next one in line was the Health Department's "Ending Nicotine Dependency". Someone else at the Health Department runs it so there would not be a conflict.

Mr. Hambley passed around part of e-mail about a parent whose 16-year-old son was caught smoking and the school fined him as punishment. She thought his being fined was a joke. She feels that there needs to be a program to deal with teen tobacco dependency so she e-mailed Mr. Hambley and Senator Amstutz and asked if there was any funding.

Ms. Yuzwa read part of a research journal that was about drugs, but she said it also pertains to tobacco. It said that recently, the Bush administration has been urging school administrators to treat and council high school students found using drugs rather than punishing them. A recent Supreme Court Decision is to allow schools to randomly test students for drugs. The goal of such testing is not to trap or punish students who use drugs. It is in fact, counterproductive to punish students without altering their behavior. Caution against expelling and punishing students without treating them contradicts the policies of many school districts. Ms. Yuzwa said that if we are going to tell kids that it is illegal for them to smoke but not give them something to help them quit smoking, is counterproductive.

Ms. Yuzwa said they could look at funding the next applicant that was denied, the Ending Nicotine Dependency Program, with the \$8,300 that they had originally looked at giving them. It is her understanding of this program that they could still work quickly to get the first group going or extend the last session into the last month of school. She asked the group's opinion about this and said that that would leave \$8,000 if they did that.

Mr. Bigam made a motion to fund the Health Department's "Ending Nicotine Dependency Program" with \$8,300. Mr. Patterson seconded the motion. Upon questioning, Ms. Yuzwa said that it is a countywide initiative for students who want to quit smoking. Mr. Destro asked if it was geared to students that come in and say they want to quit smoking, or if it is geared to the prevention of kids smoking and encouraging kids to quit smoking. Ms. Danko said that it is a program for kids who are caught smoking. The Health Department receives referrals from the Athletic Directors, Coaches, and Prevention Counselors. If a student comes to them and says they got caught smoking, they know it's not good for them so they want to quit, but they don't know where to turn--they can enroll. If a student in an athletic program is caught smoking: they have the option to go through the short Cessation Course one time and can stay on the team. If a parent calls up and says that their child wants to quit smoking but they have no program--they can sign up. Mr. Koran added that the first time a kid is caught smoking at Highland High School, they receive a three-day in-school suspension. If they take a Cessation Course it is

reduced down to a one-day in-school suspension. Ms. Danko said that there are a lot of programs in schools that do tobacco awareness, but most schools do not have an ongoing six or eight week program of cessation like the "Ending Nicotine Dependency Program". Kids need a week after week reinforcement and encouragement to continue and know other people are going through the same thing. The average person takes seven times to quit smoking. These kids may not quit smoking right away, but coming to the program is a step in the right direction. This may be step one or two of seven down the road. Mr. Destro asked if these funds would be used for payroll. Ms. Danko said that the Health Department hired a person full time in anticipation of getting a grant to cover some of the cost. Mr. Destro said that he has a concern about temporary funds like this and asked what the Health Department would do next year if they do not get funding to pay that payroll. Ms. Danko said that the Health Department applied for tobacco dollars but they need to have a coalition, which they are in the process of doing. If that works, they could get funding for two more years, so MCDAC's grant would be seed money. There was no further discussion. All voted AYE and the motion carried. Mr. Patterson left at this time.

The group discussed the \$8,000 left over from the \$16,300. Some suggestions were to hold the dollars in reserve for mini-grants, fund another new program, giving \$1,000 to each of the eight schools for their After Prom Committee, funding part of the Office for Older Adults research for the older population, publicity in school yearbooks and sports programs, advertising with the Chambers of Commerce, sponsoring a countywide grant writing workshop, and a salary range adjustment for the Executive Director.

Mr. Destro made a motion to schedule an Executive Session for next meeting to discuss personnel compensation. Mr. Koran seconded the motion. Mr. Schaedel asked if he wanted to leave it at that or add in the discussion about the funds. Ms. Yuzwa suggested that they have the discussion about funds during the November meeting. All agreed to put the funds in reserve at this point in time. There was no further discussion. All voted AYE and the motion carried.

Commission Members – Go Around

NEX MCDAC BOARD MEETING October 7, 2002 @ 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Vereb, Secretary