

MEDINA COUNTY DRUG ABUSE COMMISSION (MCDAC) MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2007

■ ATTENDANCE

Members Present

James Bigam – Commissioners' Representative

Laura Dean – Medina Representative

Jack Higgins – School Districts' Alternate Representative

Roger Ingraham – Commissioners' Alternate Representative

Michael Jervis – Villages' Representative

William Koran – School Districts' Representative

Rosemary Lempke – Commissioners' Alternate Representative

Cliff Nowak – Brunswick Alternate Representative

Wally Schaedel – Medina Alternate Representative

Ellen Stark – Wadsworth Representative

Jeff Vogel – Townships' Representative

Guests Present

Pat Geissman, Commissioners' Liaison

Dennis Hanwell – Medina City Police Department

Ed Kinney – Medina City Police Department

Greg Mason – Medina City Police Department

Brian Nowak – MCDAC Director

Absent

Tom Acklin – Police Chiefs' Alternate Representative

Evelyn Czyz – Townships' Alternate Representative

Antony Kibogo – Commissioners' Alternate Representative

Gary Oliver – Wadsworth Alternate Representative

Kent Patterson – Police Chiefs' Representative

■ CALL TO ORDER

Chair Will Koran called the special meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. The meeting was held in Balcony Room B of the Administration Building.

■ NEW BUSINESS

Medina City Police Department – Presentation by Chief Dennis Hanwell

Mr. Koran stated that Chief Dennis Hanwell was asked to speak to MCDAC members regarding his application for the Medina City Police Department. A presentation was made at the May 14 meeting by Ed Kinney. Several MCDAC members had met with Chief Hanwell and officers from the Police Department and they had asked for a special meeting to discuss their grant request.

Chief Hanwell stated that he was not present at the previous meeting due to attending the Medina City Council meeting. He stated that he hoped to answer any questions the members had regarding the grant. One clarification is that the proposal refers to a narcotics unit; however, it's really a narcotics officer. A narcotics unit will not be built and the grant will assist in supplementing the existing officer.

Chief Hanwell reviewed the city's community policing philosophy that started in the mid 1990's. Initially, the police officers, council members, and mayor (along with media) went door-to-door in the two highest call-generating

areas of the city (subsidized apartment complexes; one had 106 units and one had 88) and asked every resident what they saw as the problems, what could the police department do to assist with those problems, and how the residents could assist the police. Overwhelmingly, the residents reported quality of life issues, many that were directly related to drugs. People reported not being able to leave their apartments without passing drug activity in other apartments and parking lots. A plan was put together to have officers assigned full-time in those apartment complexes to deal with the drug, drinking, loud parties, and loud music issues – anything that affected the quality of life for those residents. If they were visitors and a charge was established, management banned them from the property. If they were residents and there was a charge that was in violation of their lease (violation of Ohio Revised Code Chapter 2925/drug offenses), management evicted the offender. He noted that if someone living in Section 8 housing is evicted because they violated Ohio Revised Code Chapter 2925 and a search warrant was issued, they are ineligible for Section 8 housing statewide.

Because of the successes in those apartment complexes, the plan was implemented throughout the city. Every officer practices community policing by speaking to groups, talking to residents, and discovering their problems. Just last month, residents were complaining about not being able to use Mallet Park because groups were congregating. Officers made their presence known and drug dogs walked around the cars in the parking lot; today, the park can be used by residents.

They have also focused on education of maintenance personnel, management of apartments, and parents. They showed them what drugs and drug paraphernalia look like. If they notice something, the police are notified and the police work to eradicate the problem. Calls are down substantially in the complexes.

Chief Hanwell reviewed their relationship with MCDAC. Not taking any MCDAC funds previously was a conscience effort by himself. He has been chief for 11 years and served as chairman of the Operating Board for the Medina County Drug Task Force for 8 years. He knew the Task Force was applying for funds and that MCDAC was trying to do many other things with the money. They've gone 12-14 years without asking for any funds from MCDAC. They started with a federal grant and continued to operate with city funds. There has been a full-time school resource officer at the high school for the last ten years, a full-time school resource officer at the Career Center (paid by a federal grant applied for by the police department and matched by the school), and until the grant ran out, there was a full-time school resource officer at the middle schools. DARE at St. Francis with either city money or state grants. Lastly, for the last three years (from March 2004-present), Officer Kinney has been funded (full-time salary, benefits, etc.) by the city. Statistics have proven that it works and is exceeding the numbers generated by Medway and DTF. Officer Kinney is supplemented by patrol officers and the detective staff.

Prosecutor Holman provided Chief Hanwell with cases that were referred for charges to the Medina County Prosecutor's Office. Statistics show:

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Medway	15	1	24	Unknown
DTF	8	34	40	Unknown
Medina PD	43	74	64	31

Cases may or may not have resulted in indictments by the grand jury and some cases may have produced multiple indictments. Of the cases from the Medina P.D., they were completed and filed with the prosecutors and resulted in at least one charge and numerous cases resulted in multiple charges. Officer Kinney began drug investigations full-time in March of 2004; therefore, the 2004 statistics are for 9½ months only.

Chief Hanwell reviewed the difference of philosophies between the Medina City Police Department (MCPD) and the Medina County Drug Task Force (DTF). DTF is looking at long-term investigations and taking part in federal investigations. Due to the nature of their long-term investigations, DTF spends more per arrest than MCPD. In addition to operating with money from MCDAC, DTF is able to utilize money gained by asset forfeiture. MCPD acts immediately to eradicate the problem (drugs) from the neighborhood through arrest, eviction, fire code or building code violations, etc. They don't wait to build a big case, particularly in apartment complexes. They work to be sure that children don't see illegal activity happening and then assume that it's the accepted way to conduct their lives. Community policing works effectively. Residents have reported that police don't see what they see – that's correct. About 80% of the Bronson Street residents signed permission slips so that police personnel could be in or around their homes to perform investigations. Today, there are no drug sales on Bronson Street because the permission slips are still active; the police officer can pull up that permission information on their car computers and immediately start an investigation and charges are filed immediately.

Chief Hanwell stated that he had met with Will Koran and Kent Patterson late last week and they talked about cooperation between the MCPD and the DTF. The MCPD is willing, and has always been willing, to cooperate with DTF. They've loaned personnel to other task forces, including the local one, loaned equipment, and assisted them in search warrants with the drug dogs. He couldn't recall a time when someone asked for assistance and they hadn't provided it. Investigative strategies, philosophies, and handling of cases are distinct. Even though the MCPD is doing their own cases, it doesn't mean they aren't cooperative with the DTF. The DTF sets up cases for a higher-level investigation for dealers.

The grant request of \$35,000 was not an inflated amount and is modest, especially considering that the MCPD was not funded by MCDAC 12-14 years. The residents of Medina City pay \$213,000 a year for the MCDAC levy. As a county seat (like Wooster), Medina joins other county seats in having a higher crime rate, including drug problems. Wooster has Medway, two patrol officers, and two drug officers. Medina City continues to fund the school resource officers and DARE programs that MCDAC funds for other organizations. He noted that city residents support the city and MCDAC; it's time to support the citizens of Medina City with MCDAC dollars.

Chief Hanwell understood that there was a question regarding using MCDAC funds for undercover buy money. He stated that wherever the money is taken from, it's tax dollars, whether it's from the city or county. If MCDAC would feel better by not funding that issue, give the money and use it for salary or benefit purposes.

Lastly, Chief Hanwell reviewed the information with the mayor, safety director, and city council and they feel as strongly, if not stronger, than he does. The mayor had commented that if the \$213,000 (that Medina residents pay a year toward the MCDAC levy) were used by the city, two officers could be hired.

Discussion & Recommendations

Jim Bigam reported that he met with Chief Hanwell and agrees with his philosophy. The city has developed a good strategy for their community and he supports their endeavor.

Mr. Bigam motioned that MCDAC give the City of Medina \$35,000 and reduce the Sheriff's allocation by \$15,000 and alter the allocation of the dollars from the Drug Task Force and make it a direct payment to the City of Medina. The motion was seconded by Cliff Nowak.

Brian Nowak reported that he reviewed the amounts that three cities receive between the schools and the police departments. (The following amounts are for 2007-08.) Medina City Schools are funded with \$1.88/resident

(\$79,005); the DTF money brings that amount to approximately \$6.00/resident. Brunswick Medway is funded \$5.32/resident and Wadsworth is about \$7.55/resident (\$150,695.00). Therefore, there is no question that Medina City in terms of funding is receiving proportionately less currently.

Will Koran stated the following:

	<u>Population</u>	<u>Medway</u>	<u>Schools</u>	<u>FACT</u>	<u>Office for Older Adults</u>	<u>Total</u>
Brunswick	35,000	\$94,000	\$71,000	\$20,000		\$186,909
Wadsworth	19,900	\$50,000	\$77,000		\$23,000	\$150,000
Medina	26,400		\$79,000			\$ 79,000

Medina also receives some of the county-wide money from DTF. After examining the above, his opinion is that he agrees with Jim Bigam and more support needs to be given to Medina City. He supports the motion.

Cliff Nowak noted that Medina City has a large shopping area that attracts numerous people from outside of Medina. That's another avenue for drugs being brought in. Medina should have additional funding.

Jack Higgins told Chief Hanwell that, in general, the concern of the commission was the perception of the lack of collaboration and cooperation between the DTF and the MCPD. He asked if it was incorrect. Chief Hanwell stated that there are always ways to improve collaboration and cooperation. After meeting with Will Koran and Kent Patterson with Mike Barnhardt present, he and Mike and Lt. Mason met to discuss some methods to improve communication. It's not only the communication and sharing of information, but there's also serious concern regarding trust and credibility issues (the Operating Board can address that). He noted that trust is critical to the safety of officers. When suspects know more about what's going on than the officers, it's of great concern.

Mike Jervis stated that he personally has a problem with supplying funds for buy money. He understands that levy money is for education, prevention and enforcement. Chief Hanwell answered that officers can't work investigations without buy money. Jim Bigam noted that MCDAC doesn't break it out with any other organization they support; DTF uses buy money and possibly Medway. Mr. Jervis stated that he was under a misconception because he thought that other groups were asked for specifics.

Wally Schaedel stated that his concern may be more for the Counsel of Governments (COG) than for this group or Chief Hanwell. Mr. Schaedel stated that he has a copy of the bylaws of COG and it states that the Medina Council of Governments on drug enforcement herein referred to as the Council is established to provide additional police protection for the citizens of Medina County to reduce the influence of illegal drug trafficking activities into and within Medina County. He asked where the COG allowed the Task Force to pursue traffickers more than the local pushers. Chief Hanwell said that when MCDAC funds them, they say what goals are to be achieved and they report back whether they're achieving them or not. Mr. Schaedel said that he thinks what happened was is that the Medina County COG was established by the MCDAC levy. Will Koran said that there are two different levels. The COG is the funding and legal source that covers everything. Then there is the Operating Board that is part of COG that does the administrative side of overseeing the day-to-day operations of the DTF; therefore, it would be a separate entity. Mr. Schaedel said that the bylaws also state that the Medina Council of Governments on Drug Enforcement will have two sides – the governing board and the operating board. Therefore, the bylaws apply to both. Mr. Koran stated that the COG is the legal entity to receive the funding source; then the Operating Board oversees the operations. Mr. Schaedel said that he feels it should be the Operating Board or the COG coming to

MCDAC requesting funds for the DTF, not the DTF. Mr. Bigam stated that a grantee should not be witnessing this discussion; likewise, we shouldn't have allowed other people to remain in the meeting room last week. Will Koran noted that the meetings are open public meetings and they could remain in the room.

Will Koran stated that there was a motion on the floor and discussion should relate to the motion.

Commissioner Pat Geissman stated that she was confirming what Chief Hanwell said regarding the lack of cooperation with the DTF. She had discovered this problem about two years ago when considering having a DTF for the entire county. After discussions, the mayor felt that the DTF and the city worked well together. However, a few days later, two MCPD officers met with her that the mayor wasn't aware of some of the problems and wanted to make sure that Mrs. Geissman knew about the problems. She thought that with a new director, the problems were corrected. There is a large population in Medina City and when Medina, Brunswick and Wadsworth are considered together, that's more than half of the county's population. If money is going to be used from one of the other areas, she opined that it would come from the DTF rather than one of the other ones since the DTF, for several years, has less to do because of the MCPD activities.

There was further discussion. It was suggested by Brian Nowak that in order to award the Medina City Police Department the \$15,000 additional money (for a total of \$35,000) that the DTF and the Sheriff's Department awards be reduced \$7,500 each.

Mr. Nowak withdrew his second to the original motion; Mr. Bigam withdrew his original motion.

Jim Bigam moved that the Medina City Police Department be awarded a total of \$35,000 and that the DTF and the Sheriff's Department awards be reduced by \$7,500 each (as approved at the May 14 meeting); the motion was seconded by Cliff Nowak.

Wally Schaedel asked Chief Hanwell if he would ask for more equipment next year. Chief Hanwell said he had no way of knowing the answer at the present time. Mrs. Geissman asked why equipment isn't borrowed. Chief Hanwell explained that sometimes the equipment isn't available; if it is available, sometimes it must be returned earlier than planned. Because of the MCPD's immediate need for the equipment, it's best to have their own. He noted that they would be willing to share their equipment with other departments.

There was no further discussion. The vote on the motion was unanimous.

The amounts to be recommended to the Medina County Commissioners are:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>2007-08 Request</u>	<u>2006-07 Award</u>	<u>Increase Amount</u>	<u>Recommen- dation</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Black River	\$ 29,500.00	\$ 29,500.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 29,500.00	\$ 0.00
Brunswick Schools	\$ 78,278.40	\$ 69,344.00	\$ 8,934.40	\$ 71,488.00	\$ 2,144.00
Buckeye Schools	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 39,816.00	\$ 3,184.00	\$ 41,010.00	\$ 1,194.00
Cloverleaf Schools	\$ 71,000.00	\$ 66,080.00	\$ 4,920.00	\$ 68,362.00	\$ 2,282.00
FACT Brunswick	\$ 20,600.00	\$ 20,600.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 20,600.00	\$ 0.00
Highland Schools	\$ 62,577.00	\$ 57,609.00	\$ 4,968.00	\$ 59,337.00	\$ 1,728.00
Medina City Schools	\$ 88,873.50	\$ 77,346.00	\$ 11,527.50	\$ 79,005.00	\$ 1,659.00
M.C. Share Cluster	\$ 16,385.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 4,385.00	\$ 15,860.00	\$ 3,860.00
Wadsworth/Medway	\$ 50,485.00	\$ 50,485.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 50,485.00	\$ 0.00
Wadsworth Older Adults	\$ 24,916.00	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 1,916.00	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 0.00

Wadsworth City Schools	\$ 83,303.00	\$ 75,730.00	\$ 7,573.00	\$ 77,210.00	\$ 1,480.00
M.C. Sheriff's Office	\$ 261,832.00	\$ 124,200.00	\$137,632.00	\$ 137,500.00	\$ 13,300.00
M.C. Career Center	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 37,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
M.C. Juvenile Drug Court	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Medina City Police Department	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
Solutions Behavioral Healthcare	\$ 60,242.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 60,242.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
FACT Spencer	\$ 11,900.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 5,900.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
M.C. Drug Task Force	\$ 487,115.00	\$ 443,512.00	\$ 43,603.00	\$ 456,500.00	\$ 12,988.00
TOTALS	\$ 1,545,006.90	\$ 1,170,222.00	\$374,784.90	\$ 1,301,857.00	\$131,635.00

Wally Schaedel asked that the month's MCDAC agenda include the COG and their responsibility to the county. Will Koran stated that he will investigate if that's under MCDAC's authority. Mrs. Geissman stated that the COG must approve MCDAC's budget. The DTF director always presents the request. Mr. Schaedel said even though that's been the history, it may not be the right process to follow. Mrs. Geissman will ask the prosecutor to look into the matter.

Chief Hanwell noted that when there are credibility issues, sometimes time is the greatest healer. Many suggestions have been made and the MCPD will continue to work with other departments.

■ **ADJOURNMENT**

There was no further business. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

■ **NEXT MEETING**

The next MCDAC meeting will be Monday, June 4, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. in the lower level conference room of the Professional Building.

■ **FUTURE MEETINGS**

All meetings are held in the lower level conference room of the Professional Services Building unless noted otherwise.

June 4	October 1	November 5	December 3
September 10			

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Folk CPS
Assistant Clerk to the Medina County Board of Commissioners