



MEDINA COUNTY DRUG ABUSE COMMISSION (MCDAC)

Minutes of April 7, 2008

■ ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Evelyn Czyz – Townships' Alternate Representative
Laura Dean – Medina Representative
Roger Ingraham – Commissioners' Representative
Michael Jervis – Villages' Alt. Representative
Jerry Klue – Commissioners' Alternate Representative

Cliff Nowak – Brunswick Representative
Kent Patterson – Police Chiefs' Representative
Wally Schaedel – Medina Alternate Representative
Gary Searle – School Districts' Alternate Representative (excused)
Jeff Vogel – Townships' Representative

Guests Present

Pat Geissman – Commissioners' Liaison
Ed Kinney – Medina City Police Department
Greg Mason – Medina City Police Department

Brian Nowak – MCDAC Director
Dawn Rist – Solutions Behavioral Healthcare

Absent

Tom Acklin – Police Chiefs' Alternate Representative
James Bigam – Commissioners' Representative
Mike Jervis – Villages Alternate Representative
William Koran – School Districts' Representative (excused)

Leslie Miller – Villages Representative (excused)
Gary Oliver – Wadsworth Alternate Representative
Ellen Stark – Wadsworth Representative

■ CALL TO ORDER

Kent Patterson called the regular meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. in the lower conference room of the Professional Services Building located at 124 West Washington Street, Medina. A quorum was established and everyone introduced themselves.

■ REVIEW OF MINUTES

Minutes of March 3 were e-mailed in advance. Kent Patterson noted that in the third paragraph of page 4 "Culvert" should be "Calvert". Brian Nowak noted that in the third line of page 3, "Glen Bay" should be spelled "Glenbeigh". Cliff Nowak moved to approve the corrected minutes; the motion was seconded by Wally Schaedel. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

• PRESENTATION

Brian Nowak noted that Chief Hanwell was out of town. He introduced Greg Mason and Ed Kenney (narcotics officer) of the Medina City Police Department.

Ed Kenney noted that the Medina City Police Department received funding from MCDAC in September. The following equipment was purchased:

- ~ Vehicle lease, fuel and insurance (used by undercover and is unmarked)
- ~ One-watt transmitter with built-in digital recorder (worn by informant or undercover officer)
- ~ One cell phone with disguised cellular antenna
- ~ One cell phone (for undercover use)
- ~ Covert cellular phone battery transmitter/recorder (for undercover buys)
- ~ Bird Dog GPS tracker (tracks in "real time" where vehicle is located – used on traffickers and informant vehicles). They are using this to work with the Drug Task Force on a large case.
- ~ Cannon digital camera surveillance system with case (has 200 mil zoom lens for surveillance at a distance)
- ~ Cannon digital video camera with case
- ~ One elastic midriff holder and one elastic ankle holder

Ed stated that the day they received the GPS tracker, it was installed on a suspect's vehicle; within three days, a shipment was intercepted from Cleveland that was on its way to be sold in Medina. Two or three days later, the vehicle went to Cleveland again and brought marijuana to Medina. Currently, the dealer is facing two possession charges and a trafficking charge.

Ed reported on the arrests and seizures from June/July 2007 through April 2008:

Jun/Jul	Arrest – F3 (female) possession and F2 (male) of crystal methamphetamine – record seizure for Medina County and possible northeast Ohio. RV subject to forfeiture. Both convicted.
Jul	Arrest – (female) deception to obtain F4 (pharmaceutical diversion)
Aug	Arrest – (female) deception to obtain F4 (pharmaceutical diversion)
	Arrest – (male) possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia; arrested after executing an arrest warrant for a MPD trafficking case (cocaine and ecstasy). \$336 seized for forfeiture.
Sep	Arrest – F4 (male) at Medina General Hospital for illegal possession of drug documents. (Presented false name to ER staff and responding officers to receive drugs)
	Buy – F5 (male) crack cocaine
	Assist – (2 males) "Knock and Talk" assist with MCDTF. Found grow in woods. Tracked to several males in Springfield apartments.
	Buy – (male) F5 crack cocaine
	Buy – (male) F5 crack cocaine
Oct	Buy – (male) F5 crack cocaine
	Buy – (male) F5 marijuana
	Buy – (2 males) F5 crack cocaine; (male) F5 permitting drug abuse
	Buy – (male) F5 marijuana
Nov	Search warrant – Seized one pound of marijuana and \$1,220 in cash to be forfeited
	Arrest – (2 males) – Purchase of Vicodin and Percocet
	Buy – (male) F5 marijuana
	Buy – (male) F5 marijuana
Jan	Arrest – (male) M1 marijuana possession and M4 drug paraphernalia possession (follow up interview for drug trafficker)
Feb	Arrest – (female registered nurse) F4 deception to obtain
	Buy – (male) F5 marijuana

Mar Arrest (4 males) – Drugs and paraphernalia (Resulted from a complaint of in and out traffic and noise; investigated and found enough probable cause for search warrant)
 Buy – (male) F5 marijuana
 Buy – (male) F5 marijuana
 Assist – MCDTF with Montville Township marijuana grow; investigation continues
 Buy – (female) F5 crack cocaine
 Buy – (male) F5 crack cocaine
 Buy – (2 males) F5 marijuana
 Buy – (male) F4 powder cocaine (with juvenile)

Apr Buy – (male) F5 crack cocaine
 Buy – (male) F5 marijuana
 Buy – (2 males) F2 robbery. Informant wasn't able to purchase, but was robbed. Case being presented to grand jury.

He noted that the above does not include active investigations and citizen complaints of drug activity. Drug statistics include:

Controlled purchases	21	Closed investigations	30
Arrests	38	Vehicles subject to forfeiture	3
Charges		Degrees of charges filed	
Permitting drug abuse	2	F5	24
Trafficking in drugs	22	F4	5
Possession of drugs	9	F3	1
Possession of drug paraphernalia	6	F2	3
Illegal processing of drug documents	1	M1	6
Deception to obtain drugs	3	M4	6
Robbery	2		
Total charges		Search warrants	2
Felony	33	Consent searches	3
Misdemeanor	12		

MedWay DEA	8
Cleveland Police Department	1
Montville Police Department	1
Adult Parole	2
MCDTF	2

Ed noted that the drug enforcement program, to date, has maintained a 100% conviction rate and that the fourth year of the program just concluded. He has participated in the creation of the first opiate addiction treatment program in Medina. The program is run by Dr. Arceneaux; the program uses the drug Suboxone in conjunction with counseling to treat opiate addiction. He works closely with the doctor in combating drug seekers. Many of the prescription fraud cases originate from the doctor due to her being the sole provider of pain management in Medina.

In answer to some questions, Ed stated that they don't work more with the Drug Task Force on every-day buys, but in "bleed over" investigations into the county. Cooperation with DTF has improved. With the exception of GPS, new equipment doesn't increase statistics; new equipment makes the job safer. Wires and surveillance equipment makes it easier to prosecute cases. Forfeited vehicles usually have high mileage and low quality; therefore, they are not useable. However, if they could be used, they would be. Comparing the Medina City Police Department to department of similar size, they are in a fairly good position now for equipment; however, they lack manpower and that impacts safety. Regarding the opiate addiction treatment program, many times it's effective for the first-time offender if ordered by the court. However, the offender needs to want the program and many don't. The program isn't offered to drug traffickers.

Regarding age of drug users, Ed stated that it ranges from juveniles to the elderly (70-80). The social status range is wide, depending on their drug of choice. In subsidized housing, they find crack. Marijuana use is mostly the 18-20 year-old range from affluent families.

Lt. Mason said that the department is grateful for the MCDAC funding. Currently, only one man does drug buys and more is needed. Due to MCDAC's funding, the job is safer and statistics are great. He stated that proper up-to-date equipment is needed in this line of work and he enjoys supervising Ed. Drug arrests are going down because fewer people are selling here because they know about the 100% conviction rate so they stay away. He agreed that the County lacks treatment programs. Some of the comments from Commission members included that the money is well spent and the officers are doing effective work in a dangerous environment.

■ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Brian Nowak noted that he attended Mayo Clinic's tobacco cessation specialist training. The training was intense and worthwhile.

He thanked Home and Flower Show participants. Every half-hour, there was a raffle of restaurant certificates and games on Sunday. The announcements made were good publicity for MCDAC. Dr. Waddell took photos and they've been sent along with thank you letters. The location of the booth was good and lots of people visited.

• OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

■ NEW BUSINESS

Solutions Proposal to Carryover Funds

Brian Nowak stated that funds awarded to an organization have never been carried over into the new fiscal year. He introduced Dawn Rist to explain Solutions Behavioral Healthcare's request. Dawn reported that Sandra Caperton will be awarded her Masters Degree in May. When Sandra was hired, money that was budgeted for her benefits wasn't used because Ms. Caperton doesn't need benefits; this resulted in approximately \$13,000 in unused funds.

Solutions Behavioral Healthcare would like to hold a workshop in 2008. The workshop would be conducted by Terence T. Gorski, an internationally-recognized expert on substance abuse, mental health, violence, and crime. Currently, Solutions uses the CENAPS Model, one of the top three best known and most respected treatment approaches in the United States, but staff needs more training. The model enables organizations to treat clients with less money and is researched-based and known to improve treatment outcomes. The three-day training would be open to community and mental health providers throughout the state.

Mr. Gorski charges \$3500/per day, plus travel, hotel and food; the total amount is estimated to be approximately \$13,000. There will also be marketing expenses (about \$13,000) which Mr. Gorski will help direct. Since 100-120 seminar participants are expected, it is anticipated that income would be in the \$22,000-23,000 range. The fee per attendee would be about \$420 and would include lunches. It might also be possible that people could attend for only one day at a fee of \$180. CEU's will also be awarded. While some of the money would be expended money now for a fall presentation, perhaps excess proceeds could go back to MCDAC.

There was discussion about holding the seminar at a central location (such as Fairlawn) as opposed to holding it in Medina County. Ms. Rist said that they must use caution when choosing a location because a central location is necessary to increase attendance. Also, the possibility of charging less for Medina County participants was discussed.

Brian Nowak reported that he had heard Mr. Gorski speak and has read his work. He is well-known and this is a wonderful opportunity. Ms. Rist said if the holding over of funds is approved, Mr. Gorski will need to be booked now for a fall program. She has spoken with others about the program and they seem very excited. Mr. Gorski reported to her that there are no other sessions booked in this area or part of the country.

Roger Ingraham moved that Solutions Behavioral Healthcare be permitted to expend the funds by June 30; the payback expended shall occur after the seminar. Cliff Nowak seconded the motion. Wally Schaedel noted that this should not set precedence. Kent Patterson noted that the \$13,000 is unused funds. Gary Searle asked that consideration be given to holding the seminar in conjunction with MCDAC. Dawn Rist stated that she is hopeful that a portion of the revenue will be used to hire the part-time person on a full-time basis.

There was no further discussion. All in attendance voted aye.

Drug Task Force Operating Board Discussion

Mr. Nowak noted that a transfer is needed to transfer \$22,152 from DTF from salaries and benefits to purchased services and supplies/materials. This is because the fifth agent wasn't hired. Jerry Klue moved to approve the transfer; the motion was seconded by Jeff Vogel. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Review of Semi-Annual Reports

On May 5, the Commission will start reviewing grant applications. The deadline is April 18. Semi-annual reports were distributed at the March 3 meeting and given to those who were not in attendance. Those organizations

seeking grants will receive a copy of the logic model (a new form) showing activities being planned, outputs and outcomes. Another meeting will be needed. After discussion, the meeting will be held May 12 (at the Administration Building's Conference Room B on the third floor).

■ **TUPCF TOBACCO UPDATE**

Brian Nowak noted that the governor will use tobacco settlement agreement money, taking \$230 million from \$270 million. Originally, the money was to be used for prevention and cessation programs. The “raiding” of the settlement money seals the fate of the foundation. Dr. Waddell received an e-mail informing him that award notifications won't be made until May 15. It's possible that no money will be received.

• **COMMISSION MEMBERS GO AROUND**

Roger Ingraham stated that the Commission members had never discussed that money would come back to MCDAC from forfeitures. Kent Patterson said that perhaps that can't be done; legally, the money must be used for specific things.

Mrs. Geissman stated that she found the statistics from the Medina Police Department very interesting. DTF has small statistics compared to other departments. Originally it was intended that there be one drug task force in Medina County. She was to hold a meeting with law enforcement agencies tomorrow; however, it had to be rescheduled. She noted the need to get the “best bang” for the money.

■ **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one from the public was present.

■ **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, Gary Searle moved to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Cliff Nowak. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

■ **NEXT MEETING**

The next MCDAC meeting will be Monday, May 5, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. in the lower level conference room of the Professional Services Building. Grant applications will be reviewed.

■ **FUTURE MEETINGS**

All meetings are held on the first Monday of the month in the lower level conference room of the Professional Services Building unless noted otherwise. Meetings are not scheduled in January, July or August. The 2008 meetings are scheduled for:

May 5	October 6
May 12 (at the Administration Building)	November 3
June 2	December 1
September 8	

Minutes taken and prepared by Peggy Folk CPS
Assistant Clerk to the Medina County Board of Commissioners