



## MEDINA COUNTY DRUG ABUSE COMMISSION (MCDAC) Minutes of June 2, 2008

### ▪ **ATTENDANCE**

#### Members Present

James Bigam – Commissioners' Representative  
Evelyn Czyz – Townships' Alternate Representative  
Roger Ingraham – Commissioners' Representative  
Jerry Klue – Commissioners' Alternate Representative  
William Koran – School Districts' Representative  
Leslie Miller – Villages Representative

Cliff Nowak – Brunswick Representative  
Kent Patterson – Police Chiefs' Representative  
Wally Schaedel – Medina Alternate Representative  
Gary Searle – School Districts' Alternate Representative  
Ellen Stark – Wadsworth Representative

#### Absent

Tom Acklin – Police Chiefs' Alternate Representative  
Laura Dean – Medina Representative

Michael Jervis – Villages' Alt. Representative  
Jeff Vogel – Townships' Representative

#### Others Present

Brian Nowak – MCDAC Director

John Waddell – Tobacco Coordinator

### ▪ **CALL TO ORDER**

Will Koran called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the lower conference room of the Professional Services Building located at 124 West Washington Street, Medina. There was roll call and a quorum was established.

### ▪ **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

Minutes of May 5 were e-mailed in advance. Leslie Miller moved to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded by Kent Patterson. Brian Nowak noted a correction on page two; "ODJFS" should be "OCJS" in the second line under "Medina County Drug Task Force". There was no further discussion. The members voted unanimously to approve the corrected minutes.

### ▪ **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Brian Nowak reported that the 2007-08 fiscal year grant awards were approved by the commissioners and letters of awards were sent. The annual performance review and budget is due on August 1. Will Koran thanked Mr. Nowak for the presentation made to the commissioners; he also expressed his appreciation for the work Brian prepared in advance and presented to the MCDAC members.

Mr. Nowak noted that Mrs. Geissman continues to meet with representatives to discuss how there can be one drug enforcement task force in Medina County. This has been an ongoing issue. The citizens' report in 1986 indicated that they also struggled with the drug enforcement agency issue. Research shows that there needs to be a 50/50 split (perhaps heavier on demand) in funding between demand and supply. Currently, money is being spent on preventing drugs from coming into the country. The question that needs to be answered is what type of drug enforcement is needed in Medina County. Cliff Nowak stated that he has always stated that there needs to be one drug task force. Will Koran said that the decision isn't made yet. Wally Schaedel stated that he felt that MCDAC should make a motion that they are encouraging one task force; Will Koran noted that this was done last month. Mr. Schaedel stated that MCDAC still hasn't committed which agency should be used. Brian Nowak will continue to keep everyone informed throughout the summer months (when MCDAC won't be meeting).

Brian Nowak also noted that the current grantees could be doing a better job noting anti-drug levy and MCDAC support. On a positive note, they all have MCDAC links on their websites, although some are a little difficult to find. Brian attended a DARE graduation and the anti-drug levy support was never mentioned; it would have been a good opportunity. He will work with all grantees to make it second nature to mention MCDAC and the anti-drug levy support helping to make good things happen.

- **TUPCF TOBACCO UPDATE**

John Waddell reported that he received the official certified letter from the Ohio Department of Health that they have officially rescinded the grant; therefore, they are officially out of business. Medina County Tobacco Coalition is now incorporated (“Inc.” after their name) and they are now ready to petition the IRS to become a 501c3; the IRS takes several months to process the request. Six people have agreed to serve on the Board of Directors; he would like a total of seven to nine people. Mr. Ingraham asked why there was an incorporation. Dr. Waddell answered that he would like for some type of program to continue in Medina County and once they obtain tax exempt status, they would be able to do whatever is desired provided there is funding, perhaps from another foundation.

Dr. Waddell stated that he started in August 2004 and his employment will cease the end of June. He hopes to stay employed in Medina County and will try to help Brian Nowak. He noted that it has been a pleasure working with MCDAC.

A survey is under way of 400 Medina County residents by a Kent State University researcher to help with identifying attitudes and social norms of tobacco use. They found money for a marketing budget so that when the research is done, ads and targeted mailing to “thought” leaders can be done with a call to action.

Will Koran spoke for the group and thanked Dr. Waddell for everything he’s done regarding tobacco programs and for filling in before Brian Nowak was hired. Brian stated that it was his hope that Dr. Waddell stays in the area and continues to work on tobacco issues. It is a tribute to Dr. Waddell’s work that when the funding issue went through the legislature, Senator Amstutz and Representative Batchelder voted against it.

- **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

Will Koran stated that he believed the grantee presentations were excellent and he asked that they continue starting in September. Brian Nowak will schedule those, focusing on schools.

Jim Bigam provided details that were in the citizens’ report from September 29, 1986. There were three tasks: (1) determine whether there was a serious drug problem in Medina County; (2) recommend most effective and efficient agency or method to provide drug enforcement in Medina County; and (3) recommend a method for funding for such an agency. The report showed the methodology used and the interviews conducted. The police chiefs and others throughout the county were interviewed to discover the extent of the drug problem. In 1975, Wayne and Medina County Sheriff Departments joined to form Medway. In 1983, the mayor and city manager of Brunswick City suggested to county commissioners that the county rejoin Medway and pay its 1984 dues of \$75,000. In early 1984, after numerous meetings with Wayne County commissioners and Medway officials, it was decided that in order to keep Medway, Medina County would need to provide \$50,000 in operating money to Medway. Both counties placed a 2.5 mil levy on the ballot; it was rejected. Brunswick City still continued to participate in Medway. Medina County, Medina City, and Wadsworth City did not participate in any way in 1984. In 1985, Medina County again placed a 2.5 mil levy on the ballot for the purpose of funding a drug unit. At the same time, Brunswick City placed a continuing levy on the ballot for specific purposes of funding Medway operations in their city. The county-wide levy was defeated and soundly defeated in Brunswick City; however, the Brunswick City residents voted to support their own levy. Part of the reason the county-wide levy was defeated was because the voters recognized a lack of communication between the Medway director and Medina County police chiefs.

Mr. Bigam stated that he provided the details because this was how and why the drug unit started in Medina County. Brunswick City was light-years ahead by continuing to back a drug levy and by asking the county to continue to put it on the ballot even though it had failed previously. In some ways, it has become a more political issue than necessary. The Drug Task Force has gone through its own metamorphous and has gone after big buyers. Police departments provide local enforcement, an important task. It may be time that the drug unit not disband but refocus their efforts to do more locally, but not ignoring major things. He felt that it was important to keep politics out of it as much as possible; however, he agreed that all three county commissioners be involved and that unity is important. Everyone’s goal is to keep drugs out of Medina County and fight drugs at every level; the information must be shared. It’s important that there be a refocusing of efforts; it’s not a condemnation of any agency and person, just a change that has to happen.

Kent Patterson thanked Mr. Bigam for providing the important history.

▪ **COMMISSION MEMBERS GO AROUND**

Roger Ingraham stated that he remembers when Medway came into existence. At that time, Medway was looking for the “big guy” because local enforcement felt they could handle the rest. Things evolved and he looks forward to the commissioners’ report.

Peggy Folk noted that she will miss John Waddell and that he has been very kind. Evelyn Czyz and Wally Schaedel wished him good luck as well.

Leslie Miller noted that her nephew was one of the 972 men and women who graduated from the West Point Military Academy on May 31.

▪ **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, John Waddell was given the opportunity to move to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Cliff Nowak. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

▪ **NEXT MEETING**

The next MCDAC meeting will be Monday, September 8, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. in the lower level conference room of the Professional Services Building.

▪ **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:

September 8	October 6	November 3	December 1
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Minutes prepared by Peggy Folk CAP  
Assistant Clerk to the Medina County Board of Commissioners