



## MEDINA COUNTY DRUG ABUSE COMMISSION (MCDAC) Minutes of March 2, 2009

### ▪ ATTENDANCE

#### Members Present

James Bigam – Commissioners' Representative  
Evelyn Czyz – Townships' Alternate Representative  
Laura Dean Todia – Medina Representative  
Roger Ingraham – Commissioners' Representative  
Jerry Klue – Commissioners' Alternate Representative

Will Koran – School Districts' Representative  
Cliff Nowak – Brunswick Representative  
Kent Patterson – Police Chiefs' Representative  
Wally Schaedel – Medina Alternate Representative  
Jeff Vogel – Townships' Alternate Representative

#### Absent

Tom Acklin – Police Chiefs' Alternate Representative  
Michael Jervis – Villages' Alternate Representative  
Gary Oliver – Wadsworth Alternate Representative

Gary Searle – School Districts' Alternate Representative  
Ellen Stark – Wadsworth Representative

#### Others Present

Carolyn Collins, Prevention Coordinator, Wadsworth Schools  
Dan Cooper, 12<sup>th</sup> grade student, Wadsworth High School  
Beth Ebersole, Elementary Prevention Specialist, Wadsworth Schools

Elliot Georgiadis, 10<sup>th</sup> grade student, Wadsworth High School  
Steve Hambley – Medina County Commissioner  
Brian Nowak – MCDAC Executive Director  
Claire Vanfleet, 10<sup>th</sup> grade student, Wadsworth High School

### ▪ CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was held in the lower conference room of the Professional Services Building located at 124 West Washington Street, Medina. Chair Will Koran called the regular meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. There was roll call and a quorum was declared.

### ▪ REVIEW OF MINUTES

Minutes of February 2, 2009 were e-mailed in advance. Cliff Nowak moved to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded by Roger Ingraham. There was no discussion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

### ▪ PRESENTATION

Carolyn Collins, Prevention Coordinator of Wadsworth Schools, introduced Beth Ebersole. Three students – Elliot Georgiadis (10<sup>th</sup> grade student) Claire Vanfleet (10<sup>th</sup> grade student), and Dan Cooper (12<sup>th</sup> grade student) – spoke about their involvement in the following student-to-student prevention programs:

- "Project Love", a program advised by Carolyn Collins. Seventh and eighth grade students are chosen by their peers, are trained and monitored to teach bullying prevention to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student and to plan and implement a positive climate.
- "STAMP" (Staying Tobacco-Free Advocacy/Mentoring Program), program advised by Carolyn Collins. Ninth and tenth grade students are trained and monitored to teach tobacco use prevention to 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, and present the four lessons from the American Cancer Society's STAMP curriculum.
- "STAND", a program advised by Carolyn Collins. The program is available to all high school students who teach and model tobacco-free living to 6<sup>th</sup> grade students and advocate tobacco-free living to high school students
- "Huddle", a program advised by Carolyn Collins and co-advised by Beth Ebersole. Eleventh and twelfth grade students are chosen by interview and staff evaluations and are trained and monitored to teach life skill issues and drug-free living to 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Teams of two or three teach eight lessons during the school year.

Ms. Ebersole further explained that each program that builds on each other. The programs serve 2100 students in a year. Next year, improvements will be made so that the timeframes don't interfere with state and local testing times

and so that they include internet safety and cyber bullying. She noted that there is always an advisor in the room when a student is presenting and teachers provide feedback that's shared with the students. She said that the students love to teach and they are permitted to be creative. The students are the winners. MCDAC was thanked for their financial and community support. After the presentation, there was a question and answer session.

- **OLD BUSINESS**

- One Drug Task Force

- Steve Hambley provided an update on one drug task force. Sharon Ray and he (Pat Geissman was on vacation) had met with the Operating Board and presented a proposal and asked that they look, with speed, at coordinating their grant requests to the MCDAC Board and any other sources and to do what the COG was originally intended to do – coordinate the drug enforcement activities – and get away from the divisive nature of focusing on one drug task force. That has pitted community against community (MEDWAY vs. Drug Task Force). We also have to deal with the issues that were presented the last couple of years from the City of Medina where they asked for additional funds for dealing with street-level drugs. We also have the potential this year of grants coming from the Sheriff's Department for Lodi. The best venue for this is with the Operating Board so that they can coordinate it. If they need more money, they need to go to the COG who will deal with the issues. As Operating Board Chairman Carl DeForest said, they have county-wide enforcement, not one county-wide agency. When Chief Singleton made his presentation about two months ago (when there was a much larger meeting of the COG), he indicated that if there is communication and coordination, there isn't duplication of services. The emphasis should be at the Operating Board for that coordination – both operation and funding. The recommendations should come from the chiefs who are closest and can evaluate the resources that are required to deal with the problem.

The Prosecutor's office needs to research the bylaws that were created to oversee the Drug Task Force. There is a paragraph that says that they're obligated to coordinate drug enforcement activity. They could also indicate which groups that should be funded. The issues of the Drug Task Force spending too much time in Brunswick and not spending time in Medina or elsewhere should be resolved there. MCDAC will still have a legal obligation to provide separate funding to Brunswick for their Medway because their contract/resolution stands outside all of this.

Jim Bigam commented that the proposal is well put together and thanked him for all of his work. Will Koran stated that most MCDAC members aren't law enforcement people and shouldn't be designating what those law enforcements are. Laura Todia stated that MCDAC members should know that the tax dollars are being well-spent because it's up to MCDAC members to "sell" the levy; that is a dilemma for her. She eagerly supported the last levy even though she knew that the services were disjointed and, perhaps, not delivered in the most cost-effective way (for political reasons). She still felt that the community benefited even if there were a few dollars wasted here and there because people didn't want to share certain activities or equipment. She now admits that she feels differently. She would have to be certain that this is the most cost-effective way of administering the dollars before she could go to the citizens to ask for them to renew the levy. She will personally still vote for the levy because it's still a good deal. Mr. Hambley said that everyone is working on the issues now and everything should be resolved by the end of April when the grants are due. Everyone is cooperating, communicating and coordinating now more than they ever have. Mr. Hambley said that it's his opinion that we've under-funded drug enforcement in the county and "walked away" from the reduction that came from the state and federal levels. They've been using asset forfeiture money and there isn't that much left. Various issues have made it complicated and the COG needs to address them. Brian Nowak stated that the MCDAC members need to be aware that they may have to decrease funding of prevention and treatment.

- Appointments Needed

- There are still vacancies for the Brunswick Representative-Alternate and the Township Representative-Alternate. Also Leslie Miller, Villages Representative, resigned this week. Mr. Hambley said that Chief DeForest and Bob Zienkowski are aware of Brunswick's vacancy. He will contact John Dean regarding the two representatives needed for the Villages.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

- Brian Nowak read a request from the Drug Task Force to transfer \$3,252 from the hospitalization account and \$7,560 from salary and \$10,812 to the rent account to cover lease and utilities for April, May and June expenditures. The surplus in the hospitalization account and salary account was the result of being understaffed by one agent position. Jerry Klue moved to approve the request; the motion was seconded by Evelyn Czyz. Will Koran asked if they knew what their rent obligation was when the put in their original request; it's a fixed amount. He opined that there wasn't enough information to vote this evening. Cliff Nowak moved to table the vote until the next meeting pending more information; the motion was seconded by Laura Todia. All members voted aye.

▪ **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Brian Nowak reported that Deb Bican, Cloverleaf Prevention Specialist, gave a presentation to the Seville United Methodist Women. They made a donation of \$613.60 to MCDAC; it's been set aside. Brian is working with Deb and some of the Prevention Specialists in that area to see how to best use the funds.

Mr. Nowak noted that he will be contributing six hours a week (Tuesday and Thursday evenings 4:30-7:30) to the Health Department to offer tobacco cessation counseling. It's an opportunity to help people stop using tobacco; more importantly, it's a good opportunity to do hands-on collaboration so that at the next grant cycle, we'll be in a better place to apply for additional funding. It's good public relations for MCDAC as well.

• **GO AROUND**

Roger Ingraham stated that it's good to have the youth talk about their experiences and to see their positive side. Cliff Nowak stated that the presentation prepared for Brunswick Cable was very good; perhaps it could be shown at the Home and Flower Show. Jeff Vogel thanked Steve Hambley for his efforts in building consensus.

▪ **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Evelyn Czyz moved to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Cliff Nowak. Everyone voted aye and the meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

▪ **NEXT MEETING/FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next MCDAC meeting will be Monday, April 6, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. in the lower level conference room of the Professional Services Building. Meetings are not scheduled in January, July or August.

April 6	September 14 (exception due to	November 2
May 4	September 7 holiday)	December 7
June 1	October 5	

*Minutes prepared by Peggy Folk CAP  
Assistant Clerk to the Medina County Board of Commissioners*