

MHADA Board Minutes
Cape May County
March 12, 2019

In Attendance:

Judy Kunec	Greg Speed	Donna Groome	David Grusemeyer	Renee Pettit
Katie Faldetta	Pat Devaney	Betty Redman	Ron Rosbuck	Tom Malleto
Joe Landis	Barry Keefe	Samantha McManus	Sharon Modzelewski	

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson D. Groome at 5:05PM. Round table introductions followed.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the February meeting was made by Joe Landis and seconded by J. Kunec. Motion carried.

Reports and Correspondence

Mental Health: The issue of Community Support Services still is under review and discussion. The Division is appreciative of any feedback to assist in “right sizing” the rates. Within outpatient services, there was an adjustment in counseling services (a raise of \$10 per sessions) and psychiatric evaluation which went from \$325 to \$438. Greg Speed offered information regarding the rate change for the psychiatric evaluations which although is an appreciable increase is really only about 20% of the service line. The balance (80%) is medication monitoring which did not get an increase. Greg also reported that children’s psychiatric evaluations are also substantially underfunded as they are \$130 per hour. Ron Rosbuck from DMHS remarked that there is a lot of work to do regarding rates. He also announced a new program that is being developed to improve access to mental health services for consumers who are deaf and hard of hearing. He is currently working on developing an RFP and is doing significant research to be sure that the needs of the population are met.

Addiction Services: No Report

GCADA: No Report

Old Business

Membership: Joe Landis stated Pastor Dawson is interested in membership. Joe will send Pat the Pastor’s contact information. Pat will follow up with Rob Johnson.

Heroin Issue Update: Joe Landis reported the following: 19 Overdoses, 2 fatalities, 15 NARCAN (law enforcement) to date. The Prosecutor’s office is following up with NJCAREs to determine why the data sets do not match. The Hope One van project is continuing and was at the North Cape May Acme today, they distributed 7 NARCAN kits and trained staff of one of the stores. Joe reported that the county is seeing an increase in methamphetamines as well as cocaine in its recent activities.

Recovery High School: Katie Faldetta reported that the Recovery High School is temporarily housed at a Church of Christ facility in Middle Township. The Wildwood Zoning Board recently denied use of the Cape Assist facility for the school. The Cape Assist building recently sustained fire damage. It’s anticipated the school will shortly increase enrollment to 8 students (3 from Lower, 1 from Middle, 1 from Wildwood, 2 from Bridgeton, 1 from Hammonton). The students’ parent involvement with the program is progressing well which includes participation of the CMO. There are 3 part time teachers for science, art, physical education and the school administrator is certified in English. There will be a connection to the THRIVE program operated by Families

Matter. The school will not operate in the summer and there is a plan developing to keep those in attendance engaged.

New Business

CCS Merger and Rate Changes: Greg Speed gave an overview of the plan for Cape Counseling Services to merge with two other agencies to create a broader system of care. He outlined some of the reassigned staff and reported that the main office will now be based in Glassboro. Most of the staff will be retained. More information will be forthcoming once the state process has been completed. Greg also reported that the CCS case management program received an award from the Mental Health Corporation of America. This award is based on performance, efficiency and customer evaluations. He added that on April 1st CCS will offer telepsychiatry for adults and perhaps children. Greg last spoke of the increase in clients seen in the Involuntary Outpatient Commitment program. The caseload will go from 32 to 42. The program has demonstrated very positive outcomes for the clients involved.

Mental Health First Aid: County Division of Community & Behavioral Health is interested in facilitating a training session with the LCMR trainers. Session to be held in the next few months. Interested parties should contact the office at 609-465-6839 (see flyer). Cost is \$30 for the 8-hour session. Cape Counseling will assist with the cost.

Code Blue Information: Donna reported on the Code Blue program which is a state law requiring the development of municipal warming centers when the temperature reaches a certain temperature. Middle has established a warming center in the Cape Community Church operated by Cape Hope, Lower in its recreation department and Wildwood(s) in their police lobbies. For the period November through February, there were 23 code blue declarations (last year there were 41). And 255 people have been placed so far in motels. The Branches opens early to accommodate those who go to the warming centers as that service ends at 6AM. Fare Free transports people to and from Branches and Cape Hope's warming center.

Public Response

Distributed: CMC Healthcare Resource Day flyer.

Samantha McManus reported that six consumers are living at various sites in Cape May County via the Community Support Services program.

Greg Speed and Katie Faldetta gave a presentation on the activities of the Cape Wellness Alliance (see attached) This group has been very busy developing programs that enhance resiliency in youth and have involved many partners since it started several years ago.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.