

MHADA Board Minutes
Cape May County
May 12, 2020

In Attendance:

Frank Garcia	Thomas Dawson	Judy Kunec	Robert Johnson	Renee Petit
Pat Devaney	Majken Mechling	Barry Keefe	Katie Faldetta	David Grusemeyer
Amy Dindak	Greg Speed	Joe Landis	Deb Lukens	Donna Groome
Anne Garrison	Sharon Modzelewski			

Call to Order

A virtual meeting was held due to COVID -19.
The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Frank Garcia at 5:04PM.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the March meeting was made by Barry Keefe and seconded by Thomas Dawson. Motion carried.

Movement of Agenda Items:

A motion to move the agenda items requiring a vote to the beginning of the meeting was made by Majken Mechling and seconded by David Grusemeyer. See New Business.

Reports and Correspondence

Mental Health: Amy Dindak provided a report which is attached.

Addiction Services: No report

GCADA: Sharon Modzelewski reported: 1) Effective 3/23/2020, Municipal Alliance programmatic grant funds were frozen, and the funds were put in the state's pandemic reserve account. The state anticipates paying the salaries/stipends of County and Municipal Alliance Coordinators through June 30, 2020. The freeze is in effect until further notice. 2) The Municipal Alliance grant operates on the state fiscal year. The state fiscal year has been extended to 9/30/20. In the next several weeks, NJ Office of Management and Budget will provide guidance to all state government departments on how to move ahead through the FY2020 extension period of 7/1/20 - 9/30/20. 3) The Municipal Alliance grant is funded by the Drug Enforcement Demand Reduction Fund (DEDR). These funds are derived from fines assessed upon individuals convicted of a drug offense. Counties were informed that DEDR revenue has decreased. It is expected that the decreased DEDR as well as the fiscal impact of the pandemic on the state will reduce the grant allocation amounts for FY 2021 (which starts 10/1/2020). Counties will be informed of the new FY 2021 allocation amounts this summer.

Old Business

Membership/Appointments

Members up for reappointment to second terms: Joe Landis, Judy Kunec 7/1/20-6/30/23
Members appointed to first term: Rev Tom Dawson, Majken Mechling 7/1/20-6/30/23
Frank Garcia cannot be reappointed for another term. He will remain until the August meeting (see Elections).

Heroin Issue Update: According to NJ CARES, there have been 11 suspected fatalities from Jan 1st to March 31st, 2020. During this time last year there were 4 reported fatalities.

NARCAN training has been postponed and Urban Treatment is developing another approach to continue the trainings.

OORP Activities/CARES Services:

1. Jail to Treatment Program-16 people served - program operational
2. Jail MAT Program-55 people linked with a certified peer recovery specialist - program operational
3. Re-entry Jail Program -52 people served - program suspended due to covid-19
4. Recovery Court Support- program operational
5. Legal Intervention Program- 1 graduate, 1 pending graduate, 1 dropout - program operational
6. All Recovery Meetings transitioned to ZOOM. Conducting 12 meetings a week with 1791 duplicated participants since January - program operational
7. Fishermen's Support Group is currently on hold due to this being their active season.
8. Overdose Awareness Day: - Discussing ideas for Facebook Live and Zoom link to honor the people lost which will include chairs memoriam. Currently there are no plans for food or large gathering.
9. Fifty opiate hospital calls since January – program operational
10. Ninety-two non-opioid hospital calls – program operational
11. Ninety-four outreach calls – program operational
12. Hope One assisted 2 people to get into treatment during covid-19 -program operational

Joe Landis reported that the Prosecutor's Office, using the Helping Hand Grant, will distribute 400 bags to individuals living with substance abuse that include AA/NA Books, journals, personal hygiene supplies. Bags will be distributed to sober living homes, drug court participants, treatment providers, etc. Pat suggested the OORP program and Jail MAT program as possible recipients of the bags.

Pastor Dawson reported that the Coalition for Safe Community/FBI Citizen Academy donated 100 masks/gloves to Hope One. The Coalition will be meeting remotely to discuss plans of how to move forward during the pandemic to meet the needs of the community.

Recovery High School/Coastal Prep: Currently providing curriculum remotely to six (6) youth. Cape Assist maintains contact with the youth at a minimum of once (usually twice) a week outside of school. The future funding is an issue, but they would still like to maintain connections with the youth through the summer with our funding. Katie indicated that the funds will be used to provide outreach services to potential students during the summer months.

Jail Program: The number of inmates served by this program has declined due to COVID as low risk inmates were released to offer more space in the Jail. Approximately 10 inmates were released. The program has served 75 inmates so far with 53 having a warm hand off to a community provider and 55 connected to a peer specialist. The program has received funding for July- Dec 2020.

Innovation Funding Status: The application was sent to Trenton and the award is expected shortly. The RFP is out and the applications are expected on 5/13. Two members of the MHADA Board are requested once again to review the submissions. It is still unsure whether the state will perform their necessary processes in time for the funds to be encumbered by June 30th. Frank and Judy will be the MHADA reviewers.

New Business

RFP Report: Only one application was received for the Recovery Resource Program.

The applicant was Cape Regional Medical Center. It was reviewed by 5 people including Frank and Judy. The maximum score was 500 and the score for CRMC was 475.

A motion to accept the report for the funding level of \$65,920 was made by Barry Keefe and seconded by David Grusemeyer. Motion carried.

Screening Waiver: Each year the Division requires that Screening Centers, which are operating under a waiver, request a review from the community (See Acenda Request letter). No community opposition was delivered to the

Human Services Department. The waiver requests an exemption from the requirement that there is a holding bed within the unit and that 24/7 psychiatry is not available.

A motion to accept the waiver request was made by David Grusemeyer and seconded by Robert Johnson. Motion carried.

Elections: Due to the virus, it is proposed that elections be delayed until the August meeting.

RFP review: Two members are needed for the review of the Innovation Grant which is due 5/13.

A motion is needed to have the review committee act on behalf of the MHADA Board to award the grant as it must be encumbered by June 30th was made by Barry Keefe and seconded by David Grusemeyer. Motion carried.

Public Response

Greg Speed provided an Acenda report which included the following: All services are running. Screening is providing services both face to face and telehealth. If a patient is receptive to telehealth, they are evaluated from the screening office on the second floor. If the patient is not open to telehealth, a face to face is conducted in the ER. Mobile outreaches in screening are still operational.

Adult partial care is provided by telehealth. PACT services are provided daily. Acenda delivers meds, food, and continues to take clients for medical appointments whenever necessary. Staff wear masks and masks are available for the client if they do not have one. Before visits, critical questions are asked about fever, cough, being close to someone who has been diagnosed with COVID, etc. Agency continues to provide ICMS and IOC services via telehealth but will do an outreach when/if necessary. Prescribers are working from the office onsite but doing telehealth (except Dr. Zielinski who is working from home). On occasion, patients will come in for their meds and IM shots. The pharmacy remains open. All Residential services, both adult group homes and Cape Community Home, continue to be staffed 24/7. Staff and residents wear masks.

All of our other services, CPC, IFSS, Shore Family Success Center, Access, School Based Services.

Acenda has not seen an increase in numbers in Screening because of COVID 19. Agency is averaging 3 to 4 screenings a day which is typical.

Katie Faldetta reported on the following: 1) Cape Assist continues to work on Resiliency Team plans and the Preschool training will be held remotely on July 16th. 2) Joe Landis conducts a weekly remote book reading for students in the aftercare program. Children who participate receive ice cream reward. 3) Atlantic Prevention Resources is developing a training video for We Check. 4) The decision whether to schedule the youth law enforcement summer camps will be made by each participating Police Department.

Donna Groome reported on the following pandemic activities: 1) SNAP applications have increased about 10 times the usual volume. 2) Homeless housing in temporary shelter has almost doubled. 3) Certain qualifications for services have been waived at this time which increases the number of eligible individuals. 4) Meals on Wheels is operational.

Pat Devaney commented that Mental Health contact information should be promoted so that individuals know where to call if they are experiencing COVID stresses. Amy suggested the Mental Health Association of NJ Helpline; Greg suggested calling '211'; Sharon suggested 2nd Floor for youth and offered to send Pat helpline information that the Municipal Alliances utilize during COVID.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm by Chairperson Frank Garcia.