

TOWN OF MEDFIELD

Office of the

Medfield Outreach Advisory Board

TOWN HOUSE, 459 MAIN STREET
MEDFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 02052-2009
(508) 359-3027 (508) 359- 6182 Fax

MEETING OF:
January 25, 2021
MINUTES

Members Present: Meghan Bannister, MHS Student; Kathleen Cahill, Parent; Kathleen Thompson, Nurse Leader for Medfield Public Schools; Katherine Waters, MHS Student

Members Absent: Molly Frankel, Parent; Michelle Manganello, School Resource Officer; Liz Sandeman, Parent

Staff Present: Chelsea Goldstein-Walsh, MO Outreach Clinician; Kathy McDonald, Outreach Director; Meri Haas, Prevention Coordinator

Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

1) Welcome/Call to Order

At approximately 6:00 pm, Kathleen Cahill, Board Member, called the meeting to order. Ms. Cahill took on the duties of Board Chair for this meeting in Molly Frankel's absence. Ms. Cahill read the following:

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Medfield Outreach Advisory Board is being conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order. A reminder that persons who would like to listen to/view this meeting while in progress may do so by following the instructions on the agenda and meeting notice.

2) Approval of Minutes from December 21, 2020 Meeting

Molly Frankel made a motion to approve the Advisory Board meeting minutes from the December 21, 2020 meeting. Kathy Thompson seconded the motion, and all present approved.

3) Introduction of new student board members

Meghan Bannister and Katherine Waters introduced themselves and their organization of which they are a part, the Active Minds Chapter at Medfield High School. Meghan and Katherine founded this chapter at Medfield High School. For one of their first initiatives, they organized a Green Bandana Project that provides free green bandanas of all Medfield High School students to tie to their backpacks to show their support for mental health and reduce the stigma. They are both passionate about promoting mental health and are excited to join the Medfield Outreach Advisory Board as associate members.

Other board members present introduced themselves as well and provided some information about their role in the community. Kathy Thompson also provided information about COVID-19 updates in the public school system, in her role as Board of Health member.

4) Updates

a) Outreach Database

Meri Haas has been instrumental in creating an updated database for needs-based clients who have contact with the Medfield Outreach office. We are working to collect accurate and streamlined data that will track the number and type of referrals made and that will inform our service provision and programming. Quantifying the numbers of referrals and contact points has been a challenge due to the unpredictable nature of our work, but this database will help streamline this process and capture accurate data.

b) Outreach Materials - new brochures

Molly Frankel is working on updating the language of our materials. She is absent this meeting but will share at an upcoming Advisory Board meeting.

c) Outreach Website

Kathy McDonald has inquired about the possibility of creating a new website for the Medfield Outreach office. The town already pays for CivicsPlus, the host of the departments' websites, so it is frowned upon to purchase a separate website that may have more engaging features. In the meantime, we will work to improve the website within the confines of the CivicsPlus platform. We are seeking a website that is user-friendly and that residents can use to apply for various programs we offer. Board members will explore other town departments to see how others are creative in their design. Meghan Bannister and Katherine Waters offered to help with updating the website. The Tech Help Desk class at Medfield High School that has been tapped in the past to get students who are interested in website design is not running this year due to Covid. Meghan suggested turning the updated website into an app, once it is up and running.

d) Clinical - drop in hours and referrals

We increased our drop-in mental health hours to be two 90 minutes windows for students and one 90-minute drop-in hours for adults. The demand for these hours has fluctuated

but we will continue to hold the hours open for those who need it.

5) Coalition Updates

a) MCAP

i) Data collection/survey update

The data from the student survey is being analyzed and aggregated. One of the coalition members is a professional researcher and is helping to crunch the numbers. Meri Haas estimates that the data should be available to present to the coalition at next month's meeting.

ii) CADCA Conference - student participation

There were 13 students who applied to attend the virtual CADCA conference next week. While there were initially two spots open for students, Meri and Kathy have decided to offer all 13 student applicants a spot at the conference. The mission of the coalition is to reduce youth substance use, so it was a priority that we invest in the youth and prioritize our grant funding on initiatives that actively engage youth in a sustainable manner. We are hoping that these students will have continued engagement with MCAP moving forward and have asked that all youth attendees attend at least two youth coalition meetings following the conference. At the next MCAP meeting, which is this Wednesday, we will be discussing youth empowerment that will help frame this increase in youth involvement.

The Cultural Alliance of Medfield, Medfield Outreach, and MCAP have worked together to bring Medicine Wheel to the community to engage in a youth social art project. We are working with Michael Dowling who will engage the youth in an ongoing endeavor to express what community means to them through art.

b) MCSP

i) Structure/Working groups

The most recent monthly MCSP meeting was very well attended. We are looking at our meeting structure to ensure that we are being the most effective and efficient with our time. We sent out a Google Form to coalition members to gauge their interest and availability for subcommittees and working groups that can meet outside the regular monthly meetings. For Mental Health Awareness Month in May, it might make sense to collaborate with MCAP, Medfield Outreach, and Active Minds.

6). Closing, Set agenda for next meeting

We will discuss the Medfield Outreach budget, website, and print materials at next month's meeting.

The next Medfield Outreach Advisory Board meeting will be held on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 6pm via Zoom.

Adjournment

Adjournment - Ms. Cahill made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. Thompson. Roll Call Vote: Kathleen Cahill = yes; Kathy Thompson = yes; Katherine Waters = yes; Meghan Bannister = yes; Kathy McDonald = yes; Meri Haas = yes; Chelsea Goldstein-Walsh = yes. The Vote: 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chelsea Goldstein-Walsh, Outreach Clinician