

TOWN OF MEDFIELD

Office of the

Medfield Outreach Advisory Board

TOWN HOUSE, 459 MAIN STREET
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MEETING OF:
February 22, 2021
MINUTES

Members Present: Meghan Bannister, MHS Student; Kathleen Cahill, Parent; Michelle Manganello, Medfield Police; Kathleen Thompson, Nurse Leader for Medfield Public Schools

Members Absent: Molly Frankel, Parent; Liz Sandeman, Parent; Katherine Waters, MHS Student

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

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 January 25, 2021 Meeting

Kathleen Cahill made a motion to approve the Advisory Board meeting minutes from the January 25, 2021 meeting. Kathy Thompson seconded the motion, and all present approved.

3) FY2022 Budget

Kathy McDonald presented the proposed departmental budget for fiscal year 2022. Medfield Outreach is scheduled for the Warrant Committee meeting this evening and Kathy will have an opportunity to answer any questions the committee may have. We are asking for level funding for the operational budget. Possible turnbacks are expected due to restrictions during the pandemic, such as reduced mileage.

4) Program Updates

a) Clinical

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. Many of these calls are like mental health triage to refer to appropriate services. People have found this service helpful.

On Friday, Kathy and Meri are going to be featured on MUPdates on Medfield TV to discuss the Mental Health Open Hours and the Youth Coalition.

b) MCAP

Meri reported that 10 youth attended the CADCA Leadership Forum and are invited to this Wednesday's MCAP meeting. She is hoping that these youth form the foundation of a growing youth coalition that will be focused on wellness.

Medicine Wheel Productions, based out of East Boston, is partnering with Medfield Outreach, MCAP, and the Cultural Alliance of Medfield are partnering to recruit youth to collaboratively create an epic piece of art that expresses what it means to be a young person in Medfield. The project is called "Reaching Into Medfield" and is intended to create a channel for making connections, telling stories, creating beauty, making statements, demanding change, highlighting community assets, and giving youth a voice. It will be a public art piece that can stand as a tangible representation of the story the group chooses to portray. This group will meet weekly on Thursdays from 2 pm to 4 pm. High school students are helping to market this opportunity to their peers. The deadline to apply is this Friday. It is free to participate but it is a time commitment. It is open to any high school student, even if they do not attend Medfield High School. The opportunity can be hard to explain, but it will be such a valuable and enriching experience to those who participate.

5) Website

We are expected to stick with Civics Plus as our main website for the Medfield Outreach department. There will be an update to the platform soon that can improve the look and feel of our site. We are aiming to model our page off of the Medfield Council on Aging site, as they have a robust and dynamic

website that still uses the Civics Plus platform. Kristine Trierweiler has very generously offered to help us update our site.

Medfield Outreach staff are looking at other towns' websites to borrow ideas for formatting and content; this idea was supported by the Board. Meghan Bannister and Meri Haas both offered to help update the website if we needed assistance.

6) Active Minds Update

Meghan shared updates about the Medfield Active Minds Chapter. The next project will be self care posters posted around Medfield High School. The posters will depict various forms of self care. The club got 800 rubber bracelets that say "It's okay not to be okay" from The Hope Project. They will distribute the bracelets to MHS students. Medfield Outreach would love to help support the self care poster project through social media promotion. Kathy McDonald asked Meghan what students tend to do when they are struggling emotionally. She thought that students would go to their guidance counselor or a school nurse, if available. She suggested having a room with couches staffed by Dr. Worthley or Russ Becker where kids could go if they were feeling stressed. Kathy has noticed that oftentimes, when Medfield Outreach staff is called to help a student by the nurses office, it develops into a continued ongoing mental health relationship. The drop-in mental health hours offered by this department could possibly offer this sort of drop-in support function, whether via Telehealth or in-person.

Meghan suggested marketing the open hours through a direct email to students, an announcement over the loudspeaker, posting on social media, and announcements by English teachers in class. This will increase awareness of the services offered among high school students.

7) Pooled COVID Testing

Kathy Thompson shared that the schools are implementing pooled COVID testing. This is a way to reduce cost and increase testing volume among staff and students in the public schools. The pooled testing is starting at the middle and high schools because the case numbers have been higher at these levels. Tests will be done for full classrooms, and if there is a positive test result then every individual in the class is individually tested and contact tracing will start.

8) 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, March 22, 2021 at 6 pm via Zoom.

Adjournment

Adjournment - Ms. Cahill made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. Thompson. Roll Call Vote: Kathleen Cahill = yes; Kathy Thompson = yes; Meghan Bannister = yes; Kathy McDonald = yes; Meri Haas = yes; Chelsea Goldstein-Walsh = yes. The Vote: 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chelsea Goldstein-Walsh, Outreach Clinician