

TOWN OF MEDFIELD

Office of the

Medfield Outreach Advisory Board

TOWN HOUSE, 459 MAIN STREET
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(508) 359-3027 (508) 359- 6182 Fax

MEETING OF:
April 26, 2021
MINUTES

Members Present: Kathleen Cahill, Parent; Molly Frankel, Parent; Liz Sandeman, Parent; Michelle Manganello, Medfield Police; Kathleen Thompson, Nurse Leader for Medfield Public Schools; Katherine Waters, MHS Student

Members Absent: Meghan Bannister, 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, Molly Frankel, Board Chair, called the meeting to order. Ms. Frankel 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 March 22, 2021 Meeting

Molly Frankel made a motion to approve the Advisory Board meeting minutes from the March 22, 2021 meeting. Kathleen Cahill seconded the motion, and all present approved.

3) Program Updates

a) Clinical

Since school has resumed in person full time, the Medfield Outreach office has seen a large influx of referrals for therapy. Our office is poised to act as a stop gap for those waiting for longer term services or as a longer term service. Our clinical intern, Vanessa Warshaw, is ending her internship this week and will be terminating with some of her clients and transferring others. Kathy McDonald shared that her goal is for the department to be able to serve all residents who are referred for clinical services. The Advisory Board will be consulted should the numbers continue to rise over the coming years in terms of staffing capacity.

Molly Frankel asked what our projections are in terms of clinical need and what the board can do to support the department. Kathy noted that it's hard to predict the future but that the need may continue to rise as the effects of the pandemic continue to ripple throughout the community. The efforts of the department to rebrand and market itself more in the community, the demand will likely continue to rise. The clinical services of the office have fewer barriers to access than other outside providers, particularly because the services are free and located walking distance to several schools.

b) Use of Clinical Consultant

The Selectboard just approved a contract with Rhona Karens, a licensed clinician who is utilized by several other municipal departments who speak very highly of her. Her contract is for 10 hours between now and the end of the fiscal year. Depending on how that service goes, we will renew the contract for the following fiscal year. She may be helpful in getting some clinical groups for youth off the ground starting in the fall, one of the goals of this department.

Kathy Thompson shared that the clinical and guidance staff in the schools are very busy supporting both students and staff across the schools. It is a busy time psychologically in the schools as students return from remote work. School staff are dealing with their own personal grief for a variety of reasons.

4) Program Updates

a) MCSP

The Medfield Moves for Mental Health initiative is gaining traction through the marketing of the event in the Hometown Weekly, local businesses, the Patch, and the schools. The t-shirts and sweatshirts, sponsored by Rep. Denise Garlick and designed with the help of Kathleen Cahill, were delivered and look great! The first 150 registrants will get a free t-shirt.

We are hoping to close out Mental Health Awareness Month in May with a yoga on the turf event, taught by Tracy Buckley at Medfield Yoga.

b) MCAP

Meri is in the process of putting together a safety webinar for graduating seniors in conjunction with the new SRO. On Thursday, MCAP is hosting our first tri-annual meeting. Some people will attend in person and some will attend virtually. We created a Welcome Packet for sector representatives and the data from the MCAP Survey will be presented, along with a general overview of where we have been and where we are going. This past weekend, Meri Haas worked with the Medfield Police Department to clean up trash on Drug Takeback Day. MCAP will be hosting a station at the Rolling Rally and will be purchasing a flyer to be hung at the senior graduation cookout and that we can use at future All Night Grad Parties. Michelle Manganello reported that 180 pounds of medications were collected, which includes drugs dropped off that day and throughout this year.

5) Signs/Brochure update

Avery Ayer, a MHS student and NHS student and art student is painting a mural on the wall next to our interior door. Kathy McDonald shared photos of the new signage outside of our office with the new Medfield Outreach logo. We are beautifying the front entrance to our office with a bench and a barrel with flowers. We have several students who are volunteering their time and efforts to help with these efforts.

We are postponing the creation of the new brochures until the new fiscal year, as we exhausted our funds with the logo and sign work.

Katherine Waters reported that Active Minds is doing an event this week with the whole high school. The students will take time out of their day to discuss the book “What Made Maddy Run?” and to hear from Carly, the sister of Maddy who died by suicide and about who the book is written. This is intended to open up a conversation about mental health and suicide prevention. Students will have a discussion in Advisory after the presentation. Dr. Worthley invited Medfield Outreach staff to be present in the guidance office during the presentation for those students who may be in need of support.

6) Open Floor, Q&A

Rep. Garlick recognized the efforts of Kathy Thompson and expressed an interest in meeting with her. Meri wanted to recognize her efforts publicly in the meeting. Kathy shared that Liz Sandeman was recently recognized as the Norfolk County Teachers Association Volunteer of the Year as well. She also shared that Jake Auchincloss visited the school and the pooled testing is now being used as a model for other communities.

Katherine Waters shared that the Active Minds Medfield chapter will be helping to promote the Medfield Moves for Mental Health throughout the school community, both in person and on social media.

7) Closing, Set agenda for next meeting

The next Medfield Outreach Advisory Board meeting will be held on Monday, May 24, 2021 at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

Adjournment

Adjournment - Ms. Thompson made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. Cahill. Roll Call Vote: Kathleen Cahill = yes; Kathy Thompson = yes; Liz Sandeman = yes; Michelle Manganello = yes; Molly Frankel = yes; Meghan Bannister = yes; Kathy McDonald = yes; Meri Haas = yes; Chelsea Goldstein-Walsh = yes. The Vote: 8-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chelsea Goldstein-Walsh, Outreach Clinician