

TOWN OF MEDFIELD

Office of the

Medfield Youth Outreach Advisory Board

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

MEETING OF:

June 16, 2020

MINUTES

Members Present: Kathleen Cahill, Parent; Molly Frankel, Parent; Michelle Manganello, School Resource Officer; Liz Sandeman, Parent; Kathleen Thompson, Nurse Leader for the Medfield Public Schools

Members Absent: Marianna Kortis

Staff Present: Chelsea Goldstein-Walsh, MYO Outreach Worker; Kathy McDonald, Youth Outreach Director

Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

At approximately 4:00 pm, Kathy McDonald called the meeting to order.

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 Affordable Housing Trust 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.

Medfield Youth Outreach Updates

a. Clinical

Chelsea has been continuing to meet with clients on her caseload, both via Telehealth and via phone, depending on client preferences. Kathy is building a caseload of clients from our waitlist and from new referrals. Telehealth can present a challenge for families who are less privileged and do not have stable access to the internet or a computer. Kathy has noticed that the focus of clinical practice has been on financial concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic more so than the insight-oriented talk therapy that is often done. The immediacy of financial needs has led to more problem-solving work in therapy sessions over an insight-oriented focus. MYO will have a clinical intern in the fall named Vanessa, who is a Westwood resident and a graduate student at the Boston College School of Social Work. She will need to take on some clinical cases, so we will be welcoming new clinical referrals in the fall.

Kathy Thompson reported that the Wellness staff in the schools have been reduced, as the three most recent hires had to be reduced to .9 instead of full-time employees, so there may be a need for the intern's time in wellness classes. This could be a nice partnership between the schools and the Youth Outreach department. Kathy also shared that the Dale Street School is holding two weeks of an educational summer program for students who have high needs. There are about 12 children enrolled in the program. There have been 38 positive cases of COVID-19 in Medfield.

b. Needs-based Assistance

Medfield Youth Outreach is now implementing a new policy for residents who are seeking financial assistance from the Medfield Foundation COVID-19 Public Need Fund that requires all applicants to submit proof of residence and proof of income/loss of income. This is a new practice that will likely be implemented for other needs-based programs as well. MYO will be sharing the new vetting process and re-instituting policies. Families will need to re-enroll every year to qualify for needs-based assistance. Financial need in the community is ongoing due to the pandemic, and it is difficult to know how long the financial impact will last. Kathy Thompson reported that the Home Committee initially contributed \$10,000 to the fund and may be able to give an additional \$10,000. Kathy will talk to Abby Marble about that possibility. Molly Frankel suggested that we make it even easier for residents to donate to the Public Need Fund by publicizing the fund and directing donors to the MFi website. Kathy McDonald agreed and also stressed the importance of publicizing the fund to community members who need assistance. So far, the large majority of fund applicants have been residents who are familiar to our office, but we know that the need is far-reaching. Publicizing will hopefully solicit further donations and alert residents in need to available resources. Kathy Thompson offered to publicize the fund on the Board of Health page on the Town of Medfield website.

Medfield Park and Recreation is running summer camp this year, with changes in place to ensure safety and health. Nurses will be at each camp, and only Medfield residents will be allowed to attend. Each camp is accepting fewer campers and requiring all children and staff to wear a mask.

The Birthday Wishes program is in need of additional gift cards to cover spring/summer birthdays. We have a \$1450 deficit. Kathleen Cahill reached out to Toby Burrell at the Lions Club. There was no Lions Club Gala this year due to the pandemic, so a major fundraising opportunity was lost, unfortunately. The Home Committee may be able to cover the deficit for the gift cards if the Lions Club cannot.

c. MCSP

The Medfield Coalition for Suicide Prevention was very busy during the month of May, which is Mental Health Awareness Month. The coalition unveiled its "Medfield Show Their Heart" campaign, which encouraged community members to display green hearts around town to show support for mental health. Flyers with green hearts and mental health resources were distributed in the Hometown Weekly, and the Medfield State Hospital was outfitted with green chalk and posters encouraging residents to add green hearts and messages of hope on the sidewalks. The coalition rolled out a social media campaign with daily posts about events, resources, facts, and coping strategies to maintain wellness. Medfield TV began its "Mental Health Monday Project", featuring artists performing their crafts on TV each Monday at 5 pm. This will continue throughout the year. Jackie Vorpahl and

some of her former colleagues created short videos of various coping skills and mindfulness techniques like breath work for a “mental health minute” that was shared on Medfield TV as well. There were several virtual yoga classes offered and a virtual paint class, all sponsored by MCSP. Overall, it was a very busy month.

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, and the coalition is brainstorming initiatives for that month. Some ideas include doing another chalk campaign in turquoise and purple, the colors of suicide awareness. On Medfield Day, the coalition is co-sponsored a double booth with the Medfield Cares About Prevention coalition that will focus on stress reduction and wellness. We have discussed giveaway ideas, include magnets and biodots. The Mental Health Awareness Walk, which was supposed to take place in May, may be moved to the fall depending on the course of the pandemic. If the walk cannot be held in person, we may do a relay-type event. Julia Farrell is the chair of the walk, and she wants to stay involved as much as she can, even if it is done remotely when she goes off to college.

d. MCAP

The MCAP coalition hired a Prevention Coordinator under the DFC grant. Her name is Meri Haas and she will be starting full-time this month. She is well-versed in prevention work and just moved from Western Massachusetts. We are very excited to have her join the team and to reinvigorate the coalition. We are solidifying the Leadership Team and will be putting out an invitation to join shortly. The management of the grant is being transferred from SAMHSA to the CDC, so all grantees are required to draw down all funds they will need for July, August, and September by June 30. Kathy and Chelsea are working on that now.

e. Operations

There is a potential for Medfield Youth Outreach to relocate to the new building to be constructed at 6 Miller Street. This property is owned by the United Church of Christ in Medfield, who is looking to revamp the building to serve the community. A representative from the UCC building committee met with MYO staff in March to discuss possibilities. The committee is interested in the potential of the Medfield Food Cupboard and MYO working under the same roof. Kathy McDonald already brought this idea to Kristine Trierweiler and Jeff Marsden to get their approval. MYO would need to draft a proposal to bring to the Selectboard for approval, but we are nowhere near this step yet. The Advisory Board discussed the pros and cons of the move. The cons of leaving would be that the new location is not as accessible to the middle and high schools. The pros include a better use of space, better curb appeal, and more privacy for confidential clinical sessions. Kathy Thompson addressed the con of leaving, mentioning that it would likely be fairly easy to get space in the schools for meetings. The Advisory Board was supportive of a potential relocation, so the next steps will be to inform the UCC that MYO is serious about moving forward.

f. Structure

Kathy McDonald reviewed the structure and processes of an official town advisory board, including approving the prior month’s minutes at each meeting, having the Board Chair call the meeting to order, posting minutes on the town website, and doing a roll call at each meeting. Board members are working on getting sworn in again by

Marion Bonoldi for this year. There should be term limits for board members, and the meetings held via Zoom should be recorded. The meeting members discussed the differences between a “friends of” group and an official advisory board. Some departments, such as the Medfield Council on Aging, have both an official advisory board, which has oversight power, and a “friends of” group that has fundraising capacity.

3. Budget

The MYO budget was approved by the Warrant Committee and now needs to be approved at Annual Town Meeting. All town departments received a 20% budget cut to their supplies line item across the board. There will be no COLA or merit increases for salaried staff this upcoming year.

4. Closing

The next MYO Advisory Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 21 at 6:00 pm.

Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,
Chelsea Goldstein-Walsh,
Youth Outreach Worker