

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:
July 21, 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; Meri Haas, Prevention Coordinator; Kathy McDonald, Youth Outreach Director

Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

At approximately 6:00 pm, Molly Frankel, Board Chair, called the meeting to order. Chair 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 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.

1) **Welcome and Introduction of Meri Hass, Prevention Coordinator**

Meri Haas was welcomed to the meeting as the newest member of the Medfield Youth Outreach department. She was hired under the Drug-Free Communities grant to lead youth substance use prevention efforts and began in her role in May. Meri grew up in Connecticut and Brookline, Massachusetts and was living and working in Western Massachusetts for the last several years. She has experience working in substance use prevention and with youth, particularly with the Railroad Street Youth Project out in the Berkshires. Meri is excited to be joining the MCAP coalition and the coalition is happy to welcome her.

2) **MCAP and Drug-Free Communities Grant**

Meri provided an overview of the MCAP coalition and the grant activities with which she has been engaged so far. She has attended two of the three required weeks of the CADCA National Coalition Academy, which was moved to a virtual format due to safety precautions during the COVID-19 pandemic. The next MCAP meeting is taking place on Thursday, July 23rd at 4:00 pm. Meri has been having individual meetings with coalition members to hear about their experiences and learn more about the community.

3) FY2021

a. Budget

The FY2021 budget was approved at Annual Town Meeting in June, and the Medfield Youth Outreach budget was approved. The only cut that was made was a 20% decrease in the supplies line item, which was mandated for all departments across the board. All other categories remained as outlined in the budget proposal.

b. Scope of Services/ Provision of services- remote v. in person

Kathy McDonald reported that, in an abundance of caution, all services will remain remote until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As long as we are still able to effectively serve our clients via Telehealth services, we will continue to do so. Kathy and Chelsea are taking an online training to be certified to deliver Telehealth services. All other programs of the Youth Outreach department are running remotely. Kathy Thompson reported that the plans for return to school in the fall are being deliberated and will be unveiled next week. It is possible that the schools will be a hybrid in-person/virtual model for the fall. The Superintendent has been meeting with other superintendents in area schools to coordinate and discuss options. Kathy also reported that the Medfield Public schools are running a summer program for two weeks, starting the following Monday, at Memorial School. Medical tents will be used to separate students who have symptoms. Kathy McDonald asked how Medfield Youth Outreach can support parents and students as they transition to school in the fall, no matter what the format. It was recommended that MYO staff reach out to Dr. Worthley and Stephanie Worthley to ask how our departments can collaborate. It is possible that teachers and staff will be going into classrooms and rotating from room to room, while students stay in one classroom.

4) Medfield Day Planning

Medfield Day has been cancelled for 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

5) Looking forward- Plans for the MYO Department

a. Vision

Moving forward, MYO will be posting meeting notices on the Medfield town website. At each Advisory Board

meeting, board members will vote to approve the meeting minutes from the previous board meeting, with the expectation that members will read the minutes ahead of the next meeting. Board members were asked to read, sign, and return all open meeting law paperwork to the department. The Advisory Board is looking for new youth board members, as our youth board member has graduated. Kathy Thompson mentioned one student who she knows well, Grace O'Donnell, who will be a senior at Medfield High School, as one possibility for a new youth board member. The MCAP and MCSP coalitions are also looking to increase their youth membership. Participating in either of these coalitions can provide an opportunity for youth to have their voices heard. One way to increase youth membership is to collaborate with teachers to invite or nominate students to join. It can be an honor to be part of a youth leadership group, and adding in steps such as an application and interview can be another way to demonstrate the value of joining such a group.

Kathy McDonald envisions an expanding department to meet the needs of the community. One possibility is to bill for clinical services while still maintaining some slots for clients without insurance or ability to pay relevant copays. More clinicians may be recruited in the future to meet this growing need. Other youth outreach departments in area towns have a variety of structures and services, so it is hard to compare one town with the next. Moving forward, youth outreach will continue to provide clinical services to clients via Telehealth or even meeting in person outdoors, if feasible. Dr. Derek Gay was mentioned as a consultant who provides support to clinicians on cultural competency, which could be explored. Kathy Thompson suggested reaching out to Nat Vaughn, who helps to coordinate the Medfield Talks series, to suggest Dr. Gay as a speaker. Medfield Youth Outreach could sponsor cultural competency efforts for the whole community.

b. Rebranding

Kathy McDonald proposed the idea of renaming the Medfield Youth Outreach department to more accurately reflect the scope of services provided to youth, adults, and families in the community. Board members brainstormed ideas for other names and landed on Medfield Outreach as the most appropriate choice. The next step will be to submit a proposal to the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen and make a presentation at a Selectboard meeting.

c. Scope of services

Kathy McDonald reported that the Youth Outreach department is exploring the possibility of creating a mentorship program, which can normalize youth involvement with this department. Another program that is in the works is a scholarship program to help kids purchase new books from Park Street Books. We may combine the mentoring program with the book scholarship program and could even kick it off as soon as September. Kara Gelormini is a MPS teacher who had the idea for the book scholarship and who wants to implement the book program to allow for all children to access new books in partnership with Park Street Books. Kathy Thompson requested that a report be given on the needs of Medfield families in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

d. Logo

Medfield Youth Outreach intends to design a logo for the department but will wait until any possible name changes are solidified before moving forward. Mike Rogan is one option for a graphic designer when the department is ready

to begin this process. Another option is to involve students in the art and graphic design programs, including AP art classes, in the logo design.

6.) Closing and Set Date for Next Meeting

Ms. Frankel made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the June 16th Advisory Board Meeting. Seconded by Ms. Sandeman. Roll Call Vote: Molly Frankel= yes; Kathleen Thompson = yes; Liz Sandeman= yes; Kathleen Cahill = yes (Michelle Manganello needed to exit the meeting early). The Vote: 4-0.

The next MYO Advisory Board meeting will be held on Monday, August 17 at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

Adjournment

Adjournment - Ms. Frankel made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. Thompson. Roll Call Vote: Molly Frankel= yes; Kathleen Thompson = yes; Liz Sandeman= yes; Kathleen Cahill = yes (Michelle Manganello needed to exit the meeting early). The Vote: 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chelsea Goldstein-Walsh,
Youth Outreach Worker