

MA 4th Quarter Meeting
Minutes
April 26, 2022
Via Zoom

Bill Sullivan, Chairperson- called the meeting into order. Read the Certification of Notice of Compliance with Open Public Meeting Act. **Attendance:** Bill Sullivan, Laura Van Dyke, Noelia Perez, Bret Wagner, George Smith, Jackie Headlam, Tammy Williams. **Quorum has been met.**

- **Updates from individual programs:**
 - **Cope:** Cope is continuing to face a lot of staffing issues. Recent resignations, including Susan Johnson. Unable to spend down all their funds.
 - **Lead:** Lead will not be running their program this year. Will utilize \$500 of their funding to purchase giveaways for children, such as, stickers, rubber bracelets, pencils, erasers, etc. Giveaways will be given at police events.
 - **Boys & Girls Club:** Paul is absent from this meeting. Laura will follow up with him individually.
 - **Raising Drug Free Kids:** Steve is absent from this meeting. Laura will follow up with him individually.
 - **Community Awareness:** All original funding for community awareness was used.
- **Unused funds & strategies for spending down:** Project Graduation is always an option for utilizing unused funds under *Community Awareness*. Prior to giving the money to Project Graduation, recommendation to do mental health/stress-reducing programming for the next two months. Programming is needed especially now given increased substance use during the pandemic and mental health challenges. **VOTE:** Bill: Motion to transfer \$2,500 from Lead to Community Awareness for mindfulness programming with the understanding that if the funds are not fully utilized for that purpose that the remainder be used for Project Graduation. Second: Jackie **VOTE:** Bill: Motion to amend the last motion. Second: Noelia. **VOTE:** Bill: Motion to approve a transfer of \$2,000 from Lead to Community Awareness for mindfulness programming. Second: Noelia. -Passed.
- **Goals/Promotion of MA within West Orange:** MA page on the website is all set. (Link on the agenda). Any input or edits are welcomed. Cannabis information was recently added to it. Two MA-sponsored events are upcoming. 1. Cannabis Use; virtual on April 28th (will be recorded). 2. Compulsive Gambling; in-person on May 5th. Both will be heavily promoted.
- **New funding opportunity/ DMHAS Youth Leadership Grant:** The application is due May 9th. It is federal funding that has been made available for a multi-year program; the anticipated first year is July-March, while the second-year start is July of 2023. The funding is for youth peer leadership. The estimated allocation for West Orange is \$6,999. Some suggestions from Elizabeth were attached in a word document in an email. A natural place for such funding would be through one of the High School's programs. Jackie had a suggestion for a program called EPIC (Empower Peers Inspire Change) it's through The Center for Alcohol and Drug Resources. The program focuses on mental health and substance abuse. The program does not have to be selected by the application due date. **VOTE:** Bill: Motion to authorize Laura and Noelia to file the application for the EPIC program directed at the training of youth in drug and alcohol prevention. Also, to work with Jackie and the town's grant writer for this to be successful. It needs to be for a program that's funded by the grant and isn't obligating us to a long-term financial commitment for operating in order for it to be successful. Second: George. -Passed.
- **Next meeting: July 19th, 2022 at 3:00pm.**
- **Suggestions/ questions:** Tammy: Hold a wellness/relaxation day at the WOHS prior to exams. Bill: Do we know of providers for the mental health programming? (Yes, we received recommendations from a nurse

and professor from MSU and one of the WOHS teachers has held a yoga program in the past. Tammy offered additional recommendations. Jackie suggested the target audience for the EPIC program should be students that have yet to develop any leadership skills. Seniors should not be a targeted audience. Tammy advised that criteria and standards that must be met so that there's transparency in the selection process of the targeted audience. Bill conveyed support for EPIC program. Laura supported Jackie's recommendation given she would be hands-on with the process. Tammy offered that the Township grant writer may be able to help or look it over.

--There were no public representatives present at this meeting; therefore, no comments—The meeting was adjourned by Bill Sullivan.