

# TOWN OF MEDFIELD

*Office of the*

## **Medfield Youth Outreach Advisory Board**

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

MEETING OF:  
August 17, 2020  
MINUTES

**Members Present:** Kathleen Cahill, Parent; Molly Frankel, Parent; Michelle Manganello, School Resource Officer; Liz Sandeman, Parent

**Members Absent:** Kathleen Thompson, Nurse Leader for the Medfield Public Schools

**Staff Present:** Chelsea Goldstein-Walsh, MYO Outreach Worker; Meri Haas, Prevention Coordinator; Kathy McDonald, Youth 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. 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.*

### **2) Approval of Minutes from July 21, 2020 Meeting**

Molly Frankel made a motion to approve the Advisory Board meeting minutes from the July 21, 2020 meeting. Kathy McDonald seconded the motion, and all present approved.

### **3) Name Change**

A proposal to change the name of the department from Medfield Youth Outreach to Medfield Outreach was submitted to the Board of Selectmen and approved at the Selectboard meeting last week. All paperwork has been changed, and Medfield Outreach staff are working on changing their voicemail messages on the phone, as well as their email signatures.

#### **Ideas for Logo**

Kathy McDonald has reached out to Mike Rogan, a local resident who offers design and marketing services. She is consulting with Mike on ideas for a Medfield Outreach logo. Advisory Board members were asked to brainstorm logo ideas. Kathleen Cahill noted that Medfield Outreach acts as the hub or center for community members to help navigate resources, which draws to mind a sunbeam. Meri Haas referenced the MCAP logo with a circle of hands as an example of a strong logo. Chelsea Goldstein-Walsh referenced the Fairfax county Family Services logo of colorful people forming a circle, in simplified form. Molly Frankel suggested giving Mike Rogan some ideas and then letting him use his creativity to develop suggestions. Kathy McDonald likes the idea of a tree made up of hands reaching out or uplifting. She stressed the importance of considering what we want the logo to convey when developing ideas. Meri suggested a logo that looks good with and without color, for printing swag and letterhead. Liz Sandeman likes the idea of two hands reaching out and grasping wrists. The Advisory Board will ultimately approve the logo.

#### **Provision of services with school hybrid model (remote vs. in person)**

So far, the services provided by Medfield Outreach during the pandemic have remained remote. The NASW Code of Ethics dictates that social workers “do no harm”. The provision of clinical services should therefore be virtual unless there is a compelling case for why services are being provided in person. Kathy discussed the risk of breaches in client confidentiality as well, if therapy services are offered in person. If a client tests positive for COVID-19, that person’s identity and relationship to the MO department may be revealed through contact tracing procedures. MO staff are being creative with the provision of services being offered at this time. For example, youth hiking groups are being offered to allow for social connectedness, mindful connections with nature, and an opportunity to build relationships and emotional resilience while maintaining safe social distance. Advisory Board members asked who the target audience is for the hiking groups. MO used benign marketing and didn’t specifically market the opportunity as a mental health group but instead as an opportunity to get out of the house and interact with peers. If we want to expand our reach, it was suggested that we reach out to Medfield Park and Recreation and church groups. MO could pitch the groups again, with a hook such as “Feeling restless and uncertain during this time?” Other ideas to hook youth included inviting a few teachers along. Molly Frankel shared that there is a hiking group that exists at the high school called the Sunrise Club, which is supervised by Mr. Barrows, a popular teacher. Meri Haas shared that she and Kathy met with school

staff members to figure out how to strengthen the partnership between the schools and the Outreach department. One idea is to join initiatives that already exist in order to get youth familiar with our staff members. Medfield Outreach is also partnering with the Medfield Foundation Youth Leadership Program and can tap them for ideas. Another way to reach students is through advisory groups at the high school. They meet once a month and the curriculum is planned out ahead of time. There is one teacher for every advisory group and every other month the advisory groups pair up. Kathy McDonald shared that she wants Outreach to be seen as being responsive and able to meet identified needs in the moment. Our office is able to lead discussions about current events and will continue to build relationships with school staff so we are the first group people think of then a need arises.

### **Additional staff - Substance Use Prevention Coordinator and BC Intern**

Meri Haas is the new Substance Use Prevention Coordinator under the DFC grant. Meri provided a background of her experiences that lend themselves to this new role. Meri has been part of the team for a few months and has already made great strides in building relationships and initiating tons of prevention activities. A first-year graduate clinical social work intern from Boston College School of Social Work is joining Medfield Outreach in mid-September. Her name is Vanessa, and she will be doing clinical, needs-based, and prevention work.

Kathy met with Gus Murby via Zoom for an hour and a half a couple weeks ago and provided statistics and information about other Youth and Family Services departments in Massachusetts. He had questions about liability and the capacity for this office to meet the clinical needs of the community. Kathy had a positive conversation with Gus and let him know that this office will only grow in response to identified needs.

### **4) Looking forward – plans for coalition work**

#### **Vision and Potential restructuring**

Kathy shared her goal of breaking down the silos that exist for the different program/coalitions connected to Outreach and to move toward a shared goal of emotional and physical wellness. Meri noted that she keeps speaking with coalition members who are on both the MCAP coalition and the MCSP coalition, so why not marry the two? It will be important to respect people's time and not replicate the work with extra meetings while also not taking away from the original mission of either coalition. It will also be important to shift the focus to what youth are interested in. For example, instead of abstinence from substances, we may want to focus on reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors. The format may look like an overarching wellness coalition with subcommittees for different subject matter and tasks. The Drug-Free Communities Grant could potentially be used to support these efforts, both with funding and staffing. The Advisory Board was in support of this restructuring. The next steps will be to float the idea by each coalition and to talk to Abby Marble at the Medfield Foundation, which is the fiscal agent for MCAP and MCSP, to see if this is feasible. Kathy reported that Julia Farrell, a longtime student volunteer on both coalitions, was given a gift to thank her

for her service.

### **Potential partnering with MFi Youth Leaders**

The youth leaders in the MFi program need projects to tap into, as the Angel Run Fund is not operating in the way it normally would. Outreach is exploring a potential partnership with MFi to provide projects and leadership opportunities for this group and grow their skill sets. We could allow kids to choose programs they are interested in, which gives youth a lot of agency in choosing what is important to them that supports health and wellness. Molly supported the idea of giving youth additional leadership opportunities. Liz noted that some kids don't want to be leaders but still want to do something and be involved. One example we may use is the Youth in Philanthropy program from the Foundation for MetroWest. Meri is meeting with Medfield TV tomorrow to discuss how they can help with youth leadership development. We will be looking at who the adult leaders are in this community who can help teach this group leadership skills.

### **5) Needs Based Giving**

#### **Covid- 19 Relief Fund and Angel Run Fund**

Chelsea provided statistics about recent needs-based giving from each fund, as well as trends in needs. Most of the COVID-19 relief fund asks have been for rental assistance, while the Angel Run Fund is more varied.

### **6) Closing and Set Date for Next Meeting**

To Do: Kathy will follow up with Evan Weisenfeld and Abby Marble at the Medfield Foundation about the possibility of combining MCAP and MCSP. She will also contact Mike Rogan about the Medfield Outreach logo. Outreach staff will solicit ideas for agenda items one week before the next Advisory Board meeting.

The next MYO Advisory Board meeting will be held on Monday, September 21, 2020 at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

### **Adjournment**

Adjournment - Ms. Frankel made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. Manganello. Roll Call Vote: Molly Frankel= yes; Michelle Manganello = yes; Liz Sandeman= yes; Kathleen Cahill = yes. The Vote: 4-0.

### **Respectfully Submitted,**

Chelsea Goldstein-Walsh,  
Outreach Clinician