

# TOWN OF MEDFIELD

*Office of the*

## **Medfield Outreach Advisory Board**

TOWN HOUSE, 459 MAIN STREET  
MEDFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 02052-2009  
(508) 359-7121

MEETING OF:  
January 3, 2022  
MINUTES

**Members Present:** Kathleen Cahill, Parent; Molly Frankel, Parent; Michelle Manganello, Medfield Police; Kathleen Thompson, Nurse Leader for Medfield Public Schools; Kate Thomas, Karuna Nutrition & Movement

**Members Absent:** Katherine Waters, MHS Student

**Guests Present:** Abby Bligh, MHS Student

**Staff Present:** Chelsea Goldstein-Walsh, 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, Board Chair Molly Frankel 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 December 6, 2021 Meeting**

Molly Frankel made a motion to approve the Advisory Board meeting minutes from the December 6th meeting. Kathy Thompson seconded the motion, and all present approved.

### **3) Clinical Cases**

We continue to get referrals for clinical services at Medfield Outreach. There is a soft waitlist of families who have expressed an interest in counseling but who have not fully returned their paperwork. The reasons for referral include depression, anxiety, and trauma. The majority of our referrals are coming from the schools, and we are seeing more of the younger grades being referred.

Due to Covid surges, Kathy reported that other youth and family service departments are moving towards all virtual appointments for clinical clients. She asked Kathy Thompson her opinion about holding clinical appointments in person versus virtually. Kathy Thompson reported that the safest option is virtual but that in-person appointments can be safe provided that all parties are wearing masks and maintaining at least a three-foot distance from clients. Kathy added that the majority of Medfield residents are vaccinated, including kids. A discussion ensued regarding Covid protocols in the schools in light of the uptick in positive cases with the Omicron variant.

### **4) Needs-Based Programming**

The holiday gifts program was successful and completed last month and served over 50 families. The majority of the gifts were funneled through the Christmas Angels program, run by Nicki Gustafson and Jeanne McKenzie. Other donation sources include the giving tree at Fitness Together, Dale Street School, a Girl Scout troop toy drive, Knights of Columbus, and various residents.

Kathy McDonald also introduced the idea of solidifying a process for vetting applicants to the Angel Run Fund and other needs-based programs. We have noticed a pattern of repeat asks from the same residents for regular expenses like rent and utilities. Kathy Thompson recommended that we meet with UCC staff and Medfield Foundation staff to get their input. Molly Frankel asked about the vetting process and application process for the needs-based assistance programs. Kathy McDonald shared what our process is, including our financial assistance application with proof of residence and income.

### **5) Prevention Programming**

Meri Haas reported that she and Kathy and a high school representative will be presenting at the Board of Health meeting tomorrow evening. Some of the information that will be discussed is compliance checks for tobacco and alcohol retailers in Medfield.

Kathy McDonald also shared that we are combining our three social media accounts (MO, MCAP, MCSP) into one account under Medfield Outreach across the Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts.

We are looking for a full-time Media Sector Representative for the MCAP coalition now that Audrey Ensor has left Medfield TV. If anyone has ideas for a representative, please let Meri Haas know. Kathy Thompson recommended reaching out to Colleen Sullivan to ask if she could be our Media Sector Rep.

#### **6) Community Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan**

There were some hiccups in the process of approving the consultant's contract and starting the community needs assessment planning process. The key stakeholders we have assembled include Gus Murby, Kevin Ryder, Lisa Donovan, Jean Mineo, Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke, Molly Frankel, Kathy Thompson, a member of the Police Department, and Medfield Outreach staff. We are utilizing our contract with CADCA to help with the data collection and analysis as part of this process.

#### **7) Closing and set date for next meeting**

The next Medfield Outreach Advisory Board meeting will be on Monday, February 7, 2022 at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

#### **8) Adjournment**

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

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Chelsea Goldstein-Walsh, Outreach Clinician