

## **MID-SOUTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE COMMISSION**

**September 22, 2008 – 6:00 p.m.  
Michigan High School Athletic Association  
1661 Ramblewood Drive  
East Lansing, Michigan**

### **MINUTES**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Robert Showers, Chair  
Dale Barr  
Joe Brehler  
Jan Bunting  
Shirley Carter  
Dale Copedge  
Brad Densmore  
Debbie DeLeon  
Cliff Herl  
Lynn Mason  
Jerry Michalowicz  
Earl Poleski  
Ralph Tillotson  
Bob VanBelzen  
Jim VanDoren

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Jean Golden  
Deborah Smith

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Showers called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Mr. VanBelzen called roll; 15 present and 2 absent.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 25, 2008**

**Ms. DeLeon moved approval of the minutes of August 25, 2008 as presented. Mr. Densmore supported the motion. The motion carried with Ms. Mason abstaining.**

#### **GUESTS:**

Judith Cates, CEI-CMHA  
Ericanne Spence, CEI-CMHA  
Lisa McCafferty, Ionia alternate member

#### **STAFF:**

Gary VanNorman, Executive Director  
Mary Kronquist, Treatment Manager  
Gerrie Roeser, Finance Manager  
Lori Griffin, Executive Secretary  
Jeanne Diver, CCC/QA Manager  
Joel Hoepfner, Prevention Coordinator  
Lisa Larson, CCC Utilization Coordinator  
Ben Langman, CCC Utilization Coordinator  
Patti Tygre, CCC Utilization Coordinator  
Luann LeVeck, CCC Secretary  
Peter Ford, MSSAC volunteer

## **ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Mr. Copedge asked to discuss the letter written in response to comments from Gratiot County's member which implicated Ingham County in misappropriation of funds.

**Mr. Tillotson moved to accept the agenda as printed with the exception noted. Mr. Copedge supported the motion. The motion carried.**

At this time, Mr. VanNorman introduced new staff members who are working in the Care Coordination Center. He added a press release will be put out announcing the opening of the center. He also introduced Peter Ford, who is volunteering for Mid-South, working 5-10 hours per week. Mr. Ford is a Ph.D. candidate in English at MSU and studying the history of substance abuse.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. VanNorman stated the letter provided from Toby Bayliss at CEI essentially clears up the issue of fraud. The two newspaper articles are for information. Mr. VanNorman recognized Joel Hoepfner on his award as "Prevention Coordinator of the Year", which was presented at the annual Statewide Substance Abuse Conference, by Director Don Allen.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Treasurer's Report for august 2008**

**Ms. Mason moved approval of the Treasurer's Report for august 2008 as presented. Mr. Densmore supported the motion. The motion carried.**

### **B. Program Development Committee Report**

Ms. Mason briefly reported the Committee met the new CCC staff and received an update on what is happening with it. They also received a report from CEI staff on Birchtree Cottage. In addition, she reported discussion surrounded other providers of detox services in the region and the difference between clinical versus medical detox. Other discussion topics were development of co-occurring services as more of these clients are presenting for services; unbundling of IOP services, which will allow for more individualized, client-oriented services; and brief discussion on a Recovery Oriented System of Care, which will be on the agenda for the October meeting to discuss further.

### **C. Executive-Personnel-Finance Committee Report**

Mr. Showers reported there was discussion of diversifying the Commission's banking as concern was raised with having all of our funds in one bank. Staff, along with the Board Chair and Treasurer will look into other options, with any decisions made being formally ratified by the full

Commission at the following meeting. Staff was also instructed to find out what some of the member counties are doing with their money.

**Mr. Poleski moved that the full Commission ratify any decisions made relative to banking. Ms. DeLeon supported the motion. The motion carried.**

Mr. Showers reported the budget recommendations for FY08/09 were reviewed and recommended for approval.

**Ms. DeLeon moved approval of the FY08/09 budget recommendations as presented. Ms. Mason supported the motion. The motion carried.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Director's Report**

Mr. VanNorman stated staff activity reports were provided. Brief discussion ensued regarding the CCC. He stated the next six months will be telling as we will get data we haven't had access to in the past.

### **B. Letter**

Mr. Copedge stated he wished to discuss the letter written in response to the comments made by Ms. Bunting in the State Police Report, specifically that Ingham County was mentioned. He also stated his disappointment that no action was taken at the last meeting on revision of the By-Laws. Significant discussion ensued.

Mr. Copedge stated he was glad discussion took place, however, as a member of the Ingham Board of Commissioners and this Board, he (and they) is disgusted with what has happened. He added it is his hope to again look at the By-Laws at the next meeting, and for some education to take place with regard to Roberts Rules.

Mr. Poleski stated his review of the State Police report found no reference to Ingham County and nothing to implicate them any more than others. He added his belief that the greater issue is a member had/has a duty to disclose information relative to Board operations, and everyone is implicated in any wrongdoing under investigation. He further stated a By-Law change is not wise as the counties have a right to appoint their representatives.

Mr. Showers stated staff will seek legal opinion on misconduct and find information on Roberts Rules.

Ms. Carter stated the By-Laws do need to be looked at, and possibly develop a procedure to take when things such as this happen. She also stated that everyone is implicated in any investigation, which she sees as deformation of character. She continued by stating she takes her personal reputation seriously and this is personal.

Ms. Mason suggested we look at what other CAs has in place dealing with misconduct or language for a code of ethics to adopt.

Mr. Brehler agreed to look at a code of ethics. He added Mr. Poleski's points were good; all members are appointed by their counties and if we want to be able to remove people, it may change the relationship between the counties and this Board. He also stated this incident has destroyed any communal feelings, and most members don't want to say anything; the atmosphere has been poisoned. Everyone has been implicated and have no clue what is going on. He stated this Commission has few dollars to treat people in need and are caught up in this business rather than helping clients.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business brought before the Commission.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Judith Cates thanked Mr. VanNorman with the assistance provided to programs with credentialing costs. She stated with her 32 professional staff, it would have cost her approximately \$4,200 to cover those costs from her budget.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.