

**MINUTES OF THE BERNARDS TOWNSHIP
MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE/YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION**

April 6, 2010

Bernards Township Municipal Building

Mayoral-Appointed Members Attending:

1. John Carpenter, Chair, Township Committee Rep.
2. Kathy Kelly, Bernards Township Health Dept., Vice Chair
3. Monique Loh, Citizen Rep., Secretary
4. Bob Skea, Citizen Rep., Ridge Youth Sports
5. Lynn Evelyn, Citizen Rep.
6. Mary Jane Postal, Civic Group Rep.
7. Officer Tracy Alexander, Police Dept. Rep.
8. Officer David Martin, Police Dept. Rep
9. Audrey Sherwyn, Board of Education Rep.
10. Dr. Barbara Bush, School District Rep.
11. Fr. Rick Morley, Clergy Rep
12. Lynn Mourey, PTO Rep.

Mayoral-Appointed Members Not in Attendance:

1. Ellie Todt, Senior Citizen Rep.
2. Dorothy Schleifer, Substance Abuse Rep.

Other Attendees

1. Ronnie Weiner, Somerset County Alliance Coordinator
2. Chris Rose, Youth Services Commission
3. Lou Carlucci, citizen

Call to Order

John Carpenter called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m and all attendees stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Welcome and Reading of the Mission Statement.

John Carpenter read the Municipal Alliance’s mission statement: “The mission of the Bernards Township Municipal Alliance Against Substance Abuse is to provide consultation, programs, training and resources to members of the Bernards Township community with the goal of preventing and reducing the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.” The three goals of the Municipal Alliance are “ESP” – **E**ducate about the addicting and damaging effects of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs, **S**upport events and programs which provide healthy alternatives to substance abuse and **P** create a

community wide presence in the identification of problems and in designing effective and measurable solutions.

Monique Loh did a roll call of mayoral appointed members. John asked if there were any public comments, and as there were none, proceeded to open the meeting. John asked for staff comments and there were none. Minutes from the March meeting were then approved. The agenda was revised a bit as Chris Rose had to leave the meeting early.

Reports:

Youth Services Commission - Chris Rose – the budget is supposed to be adopted by the end of April. The timelines for the grants have changed – Application due on 6/10, Review & Decision during the week of 6/14, last day of appeals is 6/21. The same timelines apply for the competitive grant. Chris handed out a flyer “21 Saves Lives” which is a program sponsored by the Somerset County Municipal Alliance and the Youth Services Commission. The program will be held on Tuesday, April 27th. Pam Fisher, who is the director of the NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety, will provide information on the dangers and potential consequences of under age drinking and driving. New driving regulations will also be discussed.

Chris also mentioned that in reviewing the quarterly report, of the \$5000 that the Municipal Commission allocated for the Youth Summit, only half of it was spent. This means that we have ~\$2500 to spend by the Sept/Oct timeframe. This is in addition to the anticipated new \$5000 grant that should be awarded. Kathy Kelly asked Chris if there were guidelines as to what the money could and could not be spent on. Chris said that they would prefer that monies be spent on addressing juvenile delinquency, parental and child dialogue, getting messages out to the community, substance abuse, D.A.R.E. program, transition programs for middle school to high school, etc. John Carpenter asked Kathy if there was still a need for some monitors at the high school and she responded that the need was for software, not hardware. These are the LCD monitors that are the high school and the middle school. Chris advised that assuming that there is still a competitive grant, that the same deadlines apply as for the \$5000 grant. The competitive grant is more narrowly focused, is supposed to be used for at risk kids and that Bernards Township has never applied for one in the past and should be creative in its approach.

Somerset County Alliance – Ronnie Weiner – the timeline for the grant process is similar to the YSC. She said that the process is relatively easy if we are going to continue the same programs as in the past, then only the appropriate signatures will be required. If programs changed, then additional paperwork is required and she offered her assistance to complete the process. Should the Alliance continue, there is discussion that the current grant would become a 4-year one instead of a 3 year one? Timeline hasn't been as defined as the YSC but should follow the same guidelines. The Governor's Council has some new reporting forms and there will be a meeting to discuss the changes. They have

pushed back the date of the first quarterly report until the end of May (5/20) and the forms and changes will be reviewed at that time.

New Business:

Parent presentation – John stated that the last time the Alliance met, we asked Lucy and Kathy to develop a presentation that could be delivered by members of the Alliance. Kathy asked the committee members to think about questions while she is delivering the presentation so that answers could be developed in advance. Kathy delivered the presentation to the committee. Included in the presentation were a) description of the Municipal Alliance and its goals, b) ADAS survey results, c) parental concerns about under age drinking, d) substance abuse effects on the body, e) delayed first use, f) what can a parent do. Kathy will email the presentation to the MA members and members will provide comments back to Kathy prior to the next meeting. Monique mentioned an Australian video that was very powerful and will forward the link to Kathy who will distribute it to the MA members.

Alliance Reports – various members of the Alliance contacted members of other Municipal Alliance committees from other towns:

Father Morley – contacted Montgomery – he spoke about how this is a relatively new community and that the town does not have as much of a natural bond. They are focusing on the 40 Community Assets. They also sponsor the Montgomery Night off once a year where there is nothing planned in the community – no homework, no sports games, etc. in an attempt to have families spend time together.

Lynn Evelyn – Franklin, Somerset Hills and Manville – did not connect with Franklin representative. Somerset Hills – the MA services Bernardsville, Far Hills, Peapack Gladstone, meets monthly from Sept – June, have a senior newsletter, Chapter 2 that is mailed out. Manville – does not have a web site but this is being planned. They have 12-15 members and they have good involvement from the HS principal and Student Assistant Counselors. Their marketing is done through local newspapers. Biggest issues are tobacco and alcohol abuse, particularly at the middle school level. They have a moderate amount of student involvement. They committee meets monthly and sponsors several programs, e.g. GOTR, senior citizen activities, Character Education.

MJ Postal – Hillsborough – has a very active Municipal Alliance and has numerous programs; e.g. BABES, Life Skills, REBEL, GOTR, GOTrack. She is going to speak again with their MA rep.

Audrey Sherwyn – Watchung – was not able to make contact with the representative.

Somerset County Readiness Assessment Review – Kathy handed out the results of the survey from the Municipal Alliance members. Included with these results was a chart that showed the number of Bernards Township adult incidents related to alcohol and drugs.

Subcommittee Chair Reports:

Local event watch – Lynn Mourey met with Kathy and will be reaching out to MA members who have specific constituents that they represent and she is asking that all members keep her informed and up to date as to community events that are coming up. She wants to communicate to the committee on an every other week basis, via email, about what's coming up. She will be developing a strategy to meet with the PTO presidents. She said that they are interested but very busy and so we will figure out a way to go to them instead of asking them to come to one of our meetings. John asked that she help identify different networks/groups where a Municipal Alliance member could go speak about the work we do.

RHS Booth – MJ Postal – a letter was sent to Frank Howlett about setting up the booth and suggested topics. She has not yet heard back from him, as of this meeting. She will follow up again with him.

Communications – Lynn Evelyn met with Kathy about focusing on promoting the Municipal Alliance, who we are, what we do. She sent in a list to the Bernardsville News about the MA meetings. She discussed different ways in order to get the word out, e.g. Friday Folder, Ridge Bridge, Blogs in Bernardsville News, Health Dept Monthly newsletter, Senior Publications, e.g. Acorn, Municipal Alliance Newsletter, Patch, WRHS, Courier News, etc. Lynn also handed out suggested topics. Lynn asked MA members to give her suggestions for other topics. John asked that all articles, messages, etc. be cleared through him or Kathy.

Twilight Challenge – Bob Skea – met with Kathy to discuss planning the event which will be held on June 6th. Launch is mid April and a blast email will be done to Ridge Youth Sports. Kathy handed out posters for MA members to post around town. We need to actively solicit sponsors as well. Kathy spoke about on line registration that is already available. Bob needs coordination and assistance from the Municipal Alliance members on the day of the event. He mentioned that a lot of kids need service hours and Audrey mentioned that there is somewhere to post a list of opportunities and will find out the contact information and let the MA know. Audrey mentioned that the Boomer Esiason event is the weekend after the Twilight Challenge which could pose a dilemma for the Twilight Challenge. We need to position the challenge as a run for a cause. Kathy also handed out registration forms.

Charter Day May 15th – Kathy – handed out a sign up sheet for members to work a shift on Charter Day to sell water and distribute information. People can register for the Twilight Challenge as well. If anyone is interested in helping out on May 15th, please contact Kathy.

Old Business

AAI presentation at Delbarton – MJ went to the presentation which she said was great. There was a good turnout. The presentation presented information about the impacts of alcohol on athletic performance. The lacrosse team was the target audience for the presentation. It was a requirement that both parents and lacrosse players had to sign a commitment to the program or the kids would not be able to play. John questioned whether there were any issues regarding a private school versus a public school and how the program was implemented. Monique asked if we could use the remaining \$2500 from the grant to fund our implementation. Another consideration is to use the competitive grant. Rich Shello also really likes the program. Bob Skea mentioned that the data is very powerful and that the negative impact that alcohol has on performance, will resonate very strongly with the kids. He mentioned that Ridge student athletes sign a contract for conduct for athletes with regard to drugs, steroids, alcohol and tobacco and outlines the consequences for violation. Dr Bush commented that this cannot be a one shot deal and we should look for any threads that can be replicated every year and determine at what we can institutionalize. She also wanted to know what evaluations have been done – both pre and post program. Kathy asked the AAI presenter for evaluations and has not yet heard back. She will follow up. Our target audience should be middle school/freshman students as this is when some of the critical choices are made. The next step will be to meet with Dr. Goger. MA members Audrey, Kathy, Lucy and John will meet with Dr. Goger on 4/22 to discuss the Municipal Alliance.

Girls on Track – Kathy Kelly – program started 4/6 and Kathy needs help with monitoring the study halls. She passed around a sign up list for MA members to volunteer.

Report – Building Youth – Kathy Kelly – The D.A.R.E. offices are getting letters from 5th graders to give to graduating seniors, asking them to not drink and drive and to be careful around prom and graduation. RAD is also working on some You-Tube videos that are aimed towards parents and that will be distributed via the Friday Folder.

Municipal Alliance Member Comments

MJ – is going to Rockaway Twp to listen to a presentation and will be meeting with a Municipal Alliance member to find out more about their programs.

Audrey – going to the Livingston on 4/27 for the Rutgers presentation

Kathy – on 4/28 is the SIPS presentation

Meeting Adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Next meeting is May 4, 2010 at 6pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Monique Loh, Secretary