

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

June 8, 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.

Mayoral-Appointed Members Not in Attendance:

1. Ellie Todt, Senior Citizen Rep.
2. Dorothy Schleifer, Substance Abuse Rep.
3. Fr. Rick Morley, Clergy Rep
4. Lynn Mourey, PTO Rep.

Other Attendees

1. Lucy Forgione, Bernards Township Health Office
2. Danielle Cooper, Bernards Township Health Dept.
3. Nathan Susanj, PATCH

Other Members Not in Attendance:

1. Ronnie Weiner – Somerset County Alliance Coordinator
2. Chris Rose – Youth Services Coordinator

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 staff comments. Danielle Cooper thanked members of the Municipal Alliance for their support of the Twilight Challenge. John asked for public comments and there were none. Minutes from the May meeting were then approved.

New Business:

Social Host Video –Kathy Kelly showed the video that was produced by Derek Vogt, a student at Ridge. The video, “It’s 21 For a Reason” featured several interviews with past and present local law enforcement officials. Among the officials featured were Former Police Chief Thomas Kelly and Municipal Prosecutor Stephen O. Davis. Central to the theme of the video is the importance of delaying the age of first use of alcohol, by youth. After the video was shown, John Carpenter asked Office Alexander for a clarification about parents serving alcohol to their own children, in their own home. Office Alexander stated that if parents are serving alcohol to their own children, there is not much that can be done about that situation but if parents are providing alcohol to children other than their own, the parents can be charged. Dr Bush mentioned that if alcohol is being served to younger children, e.g. 7th or 8th graders, then it can also be perceived as a potential child abuse situation and it would have to be addressed. The video was favorably received by the Alliance. Monique Loh suggested that some form of recognition be awarded to Derek Vogt. John suggested that the video be shown at the Township Committee meeting. John will try to get it shown at the June 15th meeting. (It was shown at the June 29th meeting of the Township Committee). Kathy suggested that the video might also be an appropriate vehicle to use during the upcoming Neighborhood Coffees. Members of the Municipal Alliance concurred. Discussion points would have to be developed in support of this use.

Neighborhood Coffees – Kathy Kelly reviewed the Neighborhood Coffees with the Municipal Alliance. She shared a presentation with the Alliance that reviewed the history, objective and program.. Volunteers will host these discussions in their homes. Also in attendance will be trained facilitators as well as high school students. Coffees last about 2 hours. The coffees were last held in 2006 and there were 50-60 coffees over a 2 week period. There are essentially three parts to a coffee, 1) introduction and getting to know you, 2) dialogue around the topic and 3) summary and discussion about next steps. There are three main objectives of the coffees: 1) foster supportive relationships, 2)encourage dialogue between adults and teens, and 3)present a unified language that promotes a healthy and nurturing environment for our teens. John asked for some clarification about the third objective. Dr. Bush thought that the third objective was put in because of the link to the developmental assets. Kathy added that it was important to

have a consistent message that would be reiterated throughout the coffees. Kathy then discussed the Steering Committee and its focus. The Steering Committee will work from August through May to organize the Neighborhood coffees and will plan and evaluate the coffees. Membership will be comprised of Health Department Staff, Municipal Alliance members, and volunteers from the community. The Steering committee will develop the theme of the coffees, identify the neighborhoods where the coffees will take place, recruit and train the hosts and facilitators, coordinate the schedules, etc. Kathy reviewed the timeline with the Municipal Alliance. The actual coffees will be held late March/April, coordinated with school vacations, religious holidays, etc. Kathy asked if there were any volunteers from the Municipal Alliance. Lucy mentioned that the Health Dept was looking to hire someone part time to assist with the coffees. John Carpenter, Dr. Bush, Mary Jane Postal, Lynn Mourey (suggested by John Carpenter), Danielle Cooper, Kathy Kelly, Lucy Forgione and Monique Loh will work on the Steering Committee. Kathy will set up a meeting for August for the committee to meet. Members can call Kathy with the names of people who might also work on the Steering committee.

Subcommittee Reports:

RHS booth: MJ Postal –John, Kathy, Lucy and MJ met and there will be a table once a month, a lunch that that will focus on a topic of interest to teenagers. MJ will follow up with Mr. Howlett about potential topics.

Local Event Watch: Lynn Mourey – Kathy reported for Lynn – she has been looking through publications and has not found a lot of programs focused on drug and alcohol programs. John mentioned a program about prescription drug use from an article in PATCH.

Communications: Lynn Evelyn – has been trying to develop slogans/titles for the presentation and asked members for some suggestions. Some potential titles, e.g. “Why Wait?,” “Delaying the Age of 1st Drink.”. John mentioned the Australian website that focuses on the same topics. Kathy will forward another link to the Municipal Alliance members for some ideas. John asked members to look at the site and come up with some ideas. Bob Skea suggested that the presentation begin with the most impactful slide, to grab the attention of the audience and then ask them to listen to the rest of the presentation. Alliance members agreed to send Kathy some suggested slogans.

Twilight Challenge: Bob Skea –Bob thanked all of the Municipal Alliance members who supported the event and said that it was a fantastic event. Everyone seemed to enjoy it and there was a good turnout, despite the weather. The challenge was well run. Bob provided feedback from one of the participants who mentioned that they were unaware of the purpose of the Municipal Alliance. Danielle Cooper also reported on the challenge with money raised, profits, and recommendations for next year.

First Presentation Update: MJ Postal- Father Morley – no report as Father Morley was not in attendance. Kathy will follow up with Father Morley to check on the status.

Reports - no reports from the Somerset County Alliance or Youth Services Commission

Community Programs: Danielle Cooper – reported on Girls on the Run and Project Graduation. The 5k was held on the day after the Twilight Challenge. There were over 1400 runners who participated in the event. All of the Basking Ridge girls participated and finished the race. Project Graduation will be held at Rider in Lawrenceville and planning is well under way.

Building Youth: Kathy Kelly – reported on the letters sent from the 5th graders to the seniors. She heard from Mr. Howlett that many of the seniors were very appreciative of the letters. She also reported on LMTI and has begun interviewing prospective campers. She also is soliciting donations from local organizations to help offset the cost of attending the camp. The camp is for incoming freshmen and sophomores. Kathy also reported on the website and is aiming for a mid-July date to be up and running.

John asked the Municipal Alliance members for final comments. MJ mentioned that there is a house in Green Village that has a sign on the front lawn that says, “Parents Who Host, Lose the Most” and suggested that similar signs could be used during the Neighborhood coffees. Lucy mentioned that the Health Dept is working with Ridge to write the competitive grant that is due on June 10th. She mentioned that Danielle is working on a grant for Youth Summit. Audrey and Lynn Evelyn both made positive comments about the Twilight Challenge. John had three items – 1) adding two student members to the Alliance and asked that there be representation by someone from the Municipal Alliance at the June 29th Township Committee meeting, 2) met with Mr. Howlett as to how to better engage the Ridge counselors 3) summer meeting –currently the Municipal Alliance does not meet in July or August. The committee agreed to meet on July 27th. Audrey mentioned that on June 21st BOE meeting, there will be a presentation on the Rutgers University Safe & Drug Free Schools & Communities Project Report – Cedar Hill School Assistant Principal Julianne Kotcho, RHS SAC Chad Gillikin/OS Guidance Counselor Mary Pasquale.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Next meeting is July 27, 2010 at 4-6pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Monique Loh, Secretary