

**Minutes of the Bernards Township Municipal Alliance/Youth Services
Commission
January 10, 2017**

Mayoral-Appointed Members Attending

John Malay, Chair, Township Committee Representative
Kaitlin Kordusky, Vice-Chair, Health Department Representative
Tracy Baldassare, Police Department Representative
Linda Wooldridge, BOE Representative
Cathy Phillips, Substance Abuse Representative
Hersh Gupta, Student Representative
Isabel DiPalo, Student Representative
MJ Postal, Senior Citizen Representative
Katy Soulas, Civic Group Representative
Johnny Graves, Clergy Representative
Joan Harris, Citizen Representative

Other Attendees

Lucy Forgione, Bernards Township Health Department
Jennifer Sorensen, Somerset County Alliance Coordinator
Katelynn Patronick, Somerset County Youth Services
Nick Telesmanic, RAAD

Members Not Attending

Zoe Petitt, Citizen Representative
Sapna Uradi, PTO Representative

Call to Order

John Malay called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. All attendees stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mission Statement

Welcome and reading of the Mission Statement by John Malay. 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.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Staff Comment

There were no staff comments.

Minute Approval

Tracy Baldassare made the motion to approve the December 6, 2016 minutes. MJ Postal seconded. One correction was noted: correct spelling of Ivana Pareja's name on the attendance list.

Reports

Somerset County Alliance Coordinator -- Jennifer Sorensen reported that the application for 2017-18 funding was received and will be forwarded to the state in February. Second quarter reports for 2016-17 are due on January 15. She requested that the electronic version of the START packet be posted on the Municipal Alliance website. Upcoming events: Training on Evidence-Based Programs for MAC, February 2. Mental Health First Aid training February 6-7.

Youth Services Commission -- KateLynn Patronick reported that space is still available in upcoming workshops. She asked Kaitlin for information on RAAD and LMTI to pass along to other Municipal Alliance groups.

Community Programs Coordinator -- Kaitlin Kordusky reported that 1100 students at William Annin and Ridge took the updated ADAS survey in December 2016. Questions were added about heroin, prescription pills and vaping.

Agenda Items

Welcome to New Members -- Johnny Graves, the new clergy representative and Joan Harris, a new citizen representative introduced themselves.

Nominations -- Linda Wooldridge nominated Kaitlin Kordusky for Vice-Chair; Tracy Baldassare seconded. Approved by unanimous vote. Kaitlin Kordusky nominated Linda Wooldridge for Secretary; Katy Soulas seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.

2017 Meeting Dates -- Kaitlin Kordusky distributed the 2017 meeting schedule.

RAAD -- The four areas of focus for 2016-17 are: vaping; underage drinking and fake IDs; mental health and special needs awareness; and coaches, athletes and alcohol/drug use.

LMTI -- Applications for Youth Advisory Council are now available. Fifteen students are applying for summer 2017. Eighth grade nominations for LMTI are done in February. The target is 50 students, all of whom are offered a scholarship.

Upcoming Events

Girls on Track -- The application needs to be approved by Mrs. Hudock, William Annin Principal. The program runs from March 28 to June 8, with the same curriculum as last year. The registration fee now includes the cost to participate in the Girls on Track 5K in June.

Steered Straight – Michael DeLeon will present at the Ridge PAC on March 22 at 7 pm.

Med Drop Drive Thru – Scheduled for March 25 at the Bernards Township Police Department. John Malay said that a total of 207 pounds of drugs were collected last year, including a very large amount of opiates.

Mental Health Resource Fair – Scheduled for April 10 at the Bernards Township Library. Kaitlin Kordusky is working on the flyer.

Save the Dates – Charter Day is May 20, and the Twilight Challenge is June 4.

A Look Back at 2016

Kaitlin Kordusky distributed the report *2016: A Year in Review*.

Ridge High School Booth

MJ Postal has spoken with Nicci Spinazzola, the Executive Director of Richard Hall Community Mental Health Center in Bridgewater, about program ideas.

Local Event Watch

Chris Herren, a former NBA basketball player, is presenting to Ridge students in grades 9-12 on April 7 about his experiences with drug addiction and recovery.

Adjournment

Linda Wooldridge made a motion to adjourn and Katy Soulas seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wooldridge