

**Minutes of the Bernards Township Municipal Alliance/Youth Services
Commission
February 7, 2017**

Mayoral-Appointed Members Attending

John Malay, Chair, Township Committee Representative
Kaitlin Kordusky, Vice-Chair, Health 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
Zoe Petitt, Citizen Representative
Swapna Kumari, PTO Representative

Other Attendees

Lucy Forgione, Bernards Township Health Department
KateLynn Patronick, Somerset County Youth Services
Sasha Cole, student
Shrey Patel, student

Members Not Attending

Tracy Baldassare, Police Department Representative
Joan Harris, Citizen Representative

Call to Order

John Malay called the meeting to order at 6:02 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

Lucy Forgione welcomed new members.

Minute Approval

Katy Soulas made the motion to approve the January 10, 2017 minutes. Hersh Gupta seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Reports

Somerset County Alliance Coordinator – All paperwork is up to date. Mental Health Training today went very well.

Youth Services Commission – KateLynn Patronick said that a Cultural Competency Workshop will be held on March 24. She provided an overview of programs that are funded by the Youth Services Commission and MAC, including the B Well program. KateLynn said that the Municipal Alliance can apply for a competitive grant for September 2017. Grant amounts are \$2500 and \$5000.

Community Programs Coordinator -- Kaitlin Kordusky attended evidence-based program training on January 26. She learned about a database of evidence-based programs. A program on marijuana and its effects on the teenage brain will be held on March 23 at Somerville Middle School.

Agenda Items

Welcome to New Members – Zoe Pettit, Citizen Representative and Swapna Uradi, PTO Representative.

RAAD – had two meetings in January.

LMTI – 15 students are applying to be YACs (Youth Advisory Council members). YACs are teenage advisors who help set up and run workshops at camp and help the advisors.

Fundraising/Twilight Challenge – Alyson McCauley updated Swapna on fundraising in 2016. Swapna has spoken with 7 business owners, and they are interested in contributing.

Upcoming Events

Girls on Track – the program runs from March 28 to June 8. The flyer is complete. The \$65.00 fee includes the race registration fee.

Med Drop Drive Thru – scheduled for March 25. Kaitlin has enough volunteers. Tracy confirmed that a member of the Police Department will be there.

Pathways to Mental Health – now scheduled for April 12 from 6-8 pm at the Bernards Township Library. NAMI of New Jersey, Carrier Clinic, Arc of Somerset County and other organizations will be there. There will be a table for handouts.

Twilight Challenge – The registration fee is \$20 until March 1, \$25 until June 4, and \$30 on June 4 (race day).

Ridge High School Booth

A booth will be held on February 15; the topic is sexual assault and healthy relationships. Another booth will be held in April. MJ requested ideas.

Local Event Watch

The Millington Baptist Church is partnering with Community in Crisis on a community workshop on opiate and heroin addiction, to be held March 4 from 6:30 to 9 pm at the Millington Baptist Church.

A fundraiser for Community in Crisis will be held on March 8 in New York City.

On March 14, Mike Robertson, Somerset County Prosecutor and Gregg Benson, a substance abuse counselor, will do a presentation at Bernards High School.

Chris Herren will speak to students in grades 9-12 at Ridge High School on April 7.

Municipal Alliance Member Comment

MJ Postal said that Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services will now provide the mental health services formerly provided by PESS (Psychiatric Emergency Screening Services).

Adjournment

Isabel DiPalo made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wooldridge