

**Minutes of the Bernards Township Municipal Alliance/Youth Services
Commission
March 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
Mary Jane Postal, Senior Citizen Representative
Katy Soulas, Civic Group Representative
Johnny Graves, Clergy Representative
Tracy Baldassare, Bernards Township Police Department
Joan Harris, Citizen Representative

Other Attendees

Jennifer Sorensen, Somerset County Alliance Coordinator
Susan Gibbons, parent
Robyn Brenner, parent
Shrey Patel, student
Sasha Cole, student
Meghan Gerrity, student
Lindsey Brenner, student
Maxwell Silverman, student
Cam Mourey-Roth, student

Members Not Attending

Swapna Kumari, PTO representative
Zoe Pettit, Citizen 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

Susan Gibbons introduced herself; she is a counselor and formerly worked in the Office of Youth Services. She asked what is being done in the community, in addition to what the school district is doing, regarding recent student deaths. She asked about possibility of holding neighborhood coffees.

Staff Comment

None

Minute Approval

Johnny Graves made the motion to approve the February 7, 2017 minutes. Katy Soulas seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Reports

Somerset County Alliance Coordinator – Jennifer Sorensen reported that the 2017-18 grant was approved by GCADA staff and is now pending council review. The 3rd quarter report is due April 10. CVS has a new prevention program for 9th-12th graders, called One Choice Changes Everything: Educating Teens about Prescription Drug Use. It is a free program. Scheduled for April 20, 6-8 pm, 27 Warren Street in Somerville. Open to Municipal Alliance members.

Community Programs Coordinator – Kaitlin Kordusky reported that Asist suicide intervention training will be held March 24 & 25. Prescription drug drop-off will be held at Bernards Township Police Department on March 25 from 10 am – 1 pm.

Agenda Items

RAAD – students are working on goals for Pathways to Mental Health resource fair and Charter Day.

Upcoming Events

Girls on Track – 11 girls have signed up so far.

Under the Influence – Michael DeLeon from Steered Straight will speak at the Ridge PAC on March 22 at 7 pm. This presentation is for parents only.

Pathways to Mental Health – will be held at the Bernards Township Library on April 12. The goal is to gather all resources in one room. So far 9 organizations have signed up. There will also be a table with drug and alcohol resources and a START packet.

Ridge High School Booth

MJ Postal reported that there was a great response to Zufall. The topic was healthy relationships and dating violence.

Local Event Watch

The Millington Baptist Church partnered with Community in Crisis on a community workshop on opiate and heroin addiction, which was held March 4 from 6:30 to 9

pm at the Millington Baptist Church. It was very successful; about 120 people attended. Many did not have prior knowledge of the opiate epidemic.

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. (Note: this event was postponed until fall 2017 due to the snowstorm.)

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

Municipal Alliance Member Comment

Mary Jane Postal attended a special Mental Health Board meeting on February 28. Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services will now provide the mental health screening services formerly provided by PESS.

Adjournment

Linda Wooldridge made a motion to adjourn. Katy Soulas seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wooldridge