

**Minutes of the Bernards Township Municipal Alliance/Youth Services  
Commission  
April 4, 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**

Lucy Forgione, Health Department  
KateLynn Patronick, Youth Services Commission  
Sasha Cole, Ridge student  
Michael Harris, Ridge student  
Dylan McCauley, Ridge student  
Vienna Stack, Ridge student  
Alyson McCauley, parent of Ridge student

**Members Not Attending**

Swapna Kumari, PTO representative  
Zoe Pettit, Citizen Representative

**Call to Order**

John Malay called the meeting to order at 6:01 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**

None.

**Staff Comment**

Lucy Forgione welcomed members of the public attending the meeting.

**Minute Approval**

Johnny Graves made a motion to approve the March 7, 2017 minutes; Tracy Baldassare seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**Reports**

**Somerset County Alliance Coordinator** -- The report from Jennifer Sorensen was distributed electronically.

**Youth Services Commission**

KateLynn Patronick announced upcoming workshops and provided flyers:

- Building Cultural Competence – April 7, 2017
- Right in Our Backyard: The Drug Addiction Epidemic in Suburbia – April 26, 2017
- The Impact of Trauma on Children – April 28, 2017

**Community Programs Coordinator**

Kaitlin Kordusky reported that Jennifer Sorensen did a site visit on March 29 as part of the monitoring survey for the grant. Kaitlin also met with staff members at William Annin and confirmed that 8<sup>th</sup> grade Empowerment Day will be held on October 27, 2017.

**Agenda Items***Results of the 2016-2017 American Drug and Alcohol Survey*

Kaitlin Kordusky reviewed the summary results of the 2016-2017 American Drug and Alcohol Survey. All Municipal Alliance members received a folder that contained detailed information about the survey results.

The survey was administered to students in grades 6, 8, 10 and 12 at William Annin and Ridge High School. The Community in Crisis group added questions that were required by the Drug Free Communities grant, and questions were added about e-cigarettes, dabbing (marijuana) and pills (opiates). The results showed students' alcohol use is twice the national average. Age of first use is 13-15, and binge drinking is common among teenagers in the community.

*RAAD*

RAAD met twice in March. Groups worked on planning for Charter Day, the Twilight Challenge and the Mental Health Resource Fair. The fake ID group is making an information card.

#### *Under the Influence – March 22*

Michael DeLeon provided a lot of information on marijuana, synthetic drugs, and heroin. He gave three videos to Ridge and three to William Annin. Thirty-eight people attended the presentation.

#### *Med Drop Drive Thru– March 25*

127 pounds of medication were collected. Common medications were:

1. Combination medications with opiates, for example, acetaminophen and hydrocodone, acetaminophen and oxycodone, ibuprofen and hydrocodone.
2. Sedatives
3. Antidepressants
4. Anti-anxiety medications such as Xanax
5. Sleep medicines such as Ambien

#### *Pathways to Mental Health – April 12*

Thirteen organizations are confirmed, including Carrier Clinic, High Focus Centers, Richard Hall and Princeton House.

#### **Local Event Watch**

“Drug Education for the Elementary School Parent” will be held at Liberty Corner School at 9:30 am on April 6.

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

On April 12, a panel on depression will be held at St. Marks Church.

Millington Baptist Church, the Municipal Alliance and Community in Crisis are planning an event on depression and suicide, to be held June 7 at the Millington Baptist Church.

#### **Municipal Alliance Member Comment**

John Malay spoke briefly about the book *Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic*.

#### **Adjournment**

MJ Postal made the motion to adjourn. Hersh Gupta seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wooldridge