

**Minutes of the Bernards Township Municipal Alliance/Youth Services
Commission
May 2, 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
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
Swapna Kumari, PTO representative
Isabel DiPalo, Student Representative

Other Attendees

Lucy Forgione, Health Department
KateLynn Patronick, Youth Services Commission

Members Not Attending

Zoe Pettit, Citizen Representative
Hersh Gupta, Student Representative

Call to Order

John Malay called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 congratulated Kaitlin Kordusky on her upcoming wedding.

Minute Approval

Johnny Graves made a motion to approve the April 4, 2017 minutes; Tracy Baldassare seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Reports

Somerset County Alliance Coordinator – Kaitlin Kordusky read Jennifer Sorensen's report. GCADA is set to approve the county plan on May 17. Mental Health First Aid training will be held on May 6 at the Somerset County Vo-Tech School in Bridgewater. The Municipal Alliance Appreciation Dinner is on June 8. A free workshop on current trends in opiates and marijuana will be held on June 20 from 6-8 pm at the Hillsborough Municipal Building.

Youth Services Commission

KateLynn Patronick said that grants are due on June 5. The Somerset County Office of Youth Services & HiTOPS is hosting a Trans 101 workshop on May 12 from 9-11:30 am. The theme is promoting knowledge and sensitivity about the needs of gender-diverse youth.

Community Programs Coordinator

Kaitlin Kordusky and Lucy Forgione attended the New Jersey Prevention Network conference on April 28. The keynote speaker talked about adolescent drug use. Kaitlin and Lucy attended workshops on cultural competency, lessons from Colorado on marijuana, marijuana to opiates, and mindfulness.

Kaitlin said that RAAD and Girls on Track will continue in 2017-18, and the Municipal Alliance will apply for a competitive grant.

Agenda Items

RAAD – two meetings were held in April. Groups worked on preparing for the Pathways to Mental Health Resource Fair, planning for Post It and Read It, working with 6th graders on senior letters (before senior prom), a vaping brochure for Charter Day, and an information card on fake IDs.

Pathways to Mental Health, April 12 – 30 people attended. All participating groups gave out detailed information and had a chance to network with each other. This program is planned again for next year.

Charter Day, May 20 – volunteers are needed to help with the Municipal Alliance booth.

Twilight Challenge, June 4 – volunteers are needed to help with set-up, on-site registration, the water and fruit station, etc. May 18 is the deadline for donors to have their names on the Twilight Challenge T-shirts. Swapna reported on current fundraising efforts.

Hope in Life, June 7 – will be held 7-9 pm at the Millington Baptist Church. This event focuses on suicide and is for 7th to 12th graders and their parents. Students will participate in small groups led by a counselor. Parents will participate in a discussion group for adults.

RHS Booth – an LMTI table is planned for May 17.

Local Event Watch

John Malay attended the Safe Communities Coalition meeting on April 14. He was part of the prescription drugs group. The group discussed the lack of access to schools in the county, with the exception of Bernards Township and Hillsborough. He also reported that, unfortunately, the state's voluntary Prescription Monitoring Program is currently experiencing serious problems with staffing and software.

"Drug Education for the Elementary School Parent" will be held again on May 9 from 6-7:30 pm at Liberty Corner School.

George Scott from the Traumatic Loss Coalition will speak on recovering from suicide and other sudden losses on May 17 at 7 pm at the Ridge PAC. This presentation is for adults.

Adjournment

Isabel DiPalo made a motion to adjourn. MJ Postal seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 pm.

Next meeting: June 6, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wooldridge