

**Minutes of the Bernards Township Municipal Alliance/Youth Services
Commission
September 5, 2017**

Mayoral-Appointed Members Attending

John Malay, Chair, Township Committee Representative
Kaitlin Cartoccio, 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
Hersh Gupta, Student Representative

Other Attendees

Lucy Forgione, Health Department
Jennifer Sorensen, Somerset County Municipal Alliance Coordinator
Gagan Singh, RAAD
Stanley Chou, RAAD
Jennifer White, parent
Andrew White, RAAD
Anna Skrobala, RAAD
Melissa Johnson, RAAD
Chloe Lewis, RAAD
Nicholas Telesmanic, RAAD
Padmaja Harisrikanth, parent
Ryan Duffy, RAAD
Allie Blanchard, RAAD
Alex Timoney, RAAD
Shreeja Harisrikanth, RAAD
Ruby Dennis, RAAD
Leila Cheo-Isaacs, RAAD
Abigail Phillips, RAAD
Steve Isaacs, RAAD
Kelly Dennis, parent

Members Not Attending

Zoe Pettit, Citizen Representative
Johnny Graves, Clergy 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 and Kaitlin Cartoccio welcomed everyone attending the meeting.

Minute Approval

Isabel DiPalo made a motion to approve the minutes from June 6, 2017. Tracy Baldassare seconded. The minutes were approved.

Reports

Somerset County Alliance Coordinator – Jennifer Sorensen reported that the 4th quarter report for 2016-17 was submitted on time. The 1st quarter report for 2017-18 is due on October 10. There was a huge turnout for Overdose Awareness Day on August 31. Upcoming dates: September 18, MAC Networking Meeting – presentation from LMTI. October 25, Safe Communities Coalition Fall Conference – Patrick Kennedy is the keynote speaker. November 1, MAC Networking Meeting – information session on two evidence-based programs: Footprints for Life and We're Not Buying It 2.0.

Youth Services Commission – Kaitlin Cartoccio reported that the 4th quarter report is due October 2. At the October 3rd Municipal Alliance meeting, Katelynn Patronick will share data from Bernards Township and Somerset County on school dropout rates, substance abuse, and suicide in adolescents.

Community Programs Coordinator

Kaitlin Cartoccio reported that the Municipal Alliance grant closed out on June 30, and the Youth Services Commission grant closed out on August 31. Youth Services Commission grant changes for 2017-18 are: competitive grant not renewed, Girls on Track program not included. The Twilight Challenge on June 4 raised \$7,110.

Agenda Items

RAAD – students raised about \$300 during the summer (can shakes, Panera fundraiser).

LMTI 2017 – August 21-25. Thirty students attended this year (22 campers and 8 YACs). The RAAD group won the LMTI 2017 Motivation Award.

Many students attending the meeting had very positive comments about their experience at LMTI. Comments included: action group meetings were excellent, great speakers, very positive environment, learned about mental health and teamwork.

Upcoming Events

- Suicide Prevention Week at Ridge High School – September 12-15, in partnership with the Ridge PTO. Every day there will be two tables outside of the cafeteria, a PTO table and a Municipal Alliance table. Participating organizations are High Focus, Zufall Health, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, To Write Love on Her Arms, and National Alliance on Mental Illness.
- Ridge Back to School Nights – September 28 and October 5. RAAD/Municipal Alliance will have an information table.
- Knock Out Opioid Abuse – October 10, 7-9 pm at Bernards High School. Guest speakers include Michael Robertson, Gregg Benson, Jody D'Agostini, and Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli. Open to all Somerset Hills communities.
- Teen Volunteer Fair – October 11, 6:30-8:30 pm.
- Municipal Alliance football game – October 13, 7-9 pm.
- Empowering Your Teen with Love and Logic – October 16, 7-9 pm, Bernards Township Town Hall. Program in collaboration with the Basking Ridge Indian Community.
- Pumpkins in the Park – October 25. RAAD students volunteer at this Parks and Recreation event.
- You Cannot Be Replaced – October 25, 7 pm. Speaker follow-up to suicide prevention week.
- William Annin Empowerment Day – October 27. All day program for 8th graders.
- DEA National Take Back Drug Day – October 28. Community in Crisis will do drug drop-off on that day.
- Mental Health First Aid Training – November 1, 8:30 am-5pm.

Ridge High School Booth – suicide prevention, smoking/vaping booths are planned.

Member Comment

John Malay reported that the Community in Crisis Wellness Center is located across the street from the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church. He also shared information about a *New York Times* article regarding the sharp rise in overdose deaths from fentanyl.

Adjournment

Tracy Baldassare made the motion to adjourn. MJ Postal seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wooldridge