

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

Mayoral-Appointed Members Attending

Kaitlin Cartoccio, Vice-Chair, Health Department Representative
Linda Wooldridge, BOE Representative
Cathy Phillips, Substance Abuse Representative
Johnny Graves, Clergy Representative
Tracy Baldassare, Bernards Township Police Department
Joan Harris, Citizen Representative
Hersh Gupta, Student Representative
Zoe Pettit, Citizen Representative
MJ Postal, Senior Citizen Representative
Isabel DiPalo, Student Representative
Swapna Kumari, PTO Representative

Other Attendees

Lucy Forgione, Health Department
KateLynn Patronick, Youth Services Commission
Alex Timoney, RAAD
Abigail Phillips, RAAD
Amy Button, William Annin Middle School
Jamie Sutton, William Annin Middle School

Members Not Attending

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

Call to Order

Kaitlin Cartoccio called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm. All attendees stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mission Statement

Welcome and reading of the Mission Statement by Kaitlin Cartoccio. 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

Amy Button, SAC at William Annin, and Jamie Sutton, guidance counselor at William Annin, introduced themselves.

Staff Comment

None.

Minute Approval

The minutes from the November 13 meeting will be available for approval at the January 9 meeting.

Reports

Somerset County Alliance Coordinator – Kaitlin Cartoccio reported that the RFP for the Municipal Alliance grant is due to Jennifer Sorensen's office by December 28. On November 1, Kaitlin Cartoccio, KateLynn Patronick, and MJ Postal attended the quarterly networking meeting. Two research-based programs were discussed. Footprints for Life is a 5-week elementary school program that uses puppets. It is based on the 40 developmental assets. We're Not Buying It is a middle school program focused on substance abuse.

Youth Services Commission – KateLynn Patronick announced two upcoming workshops: Human Trafficking on January 26 and Gangs on February 2. KateLynn will attend the RAAD meeting on December 13. The first quarter report is due January 2.

Community Programs Coordinator – Kaitlin Cartoccio reported that this is the last year of the Logic Model from 2013. She will write a new Logic Model based on the ADAS results.

Agenda Items

Grant Coordinator Update – Kaitlin Cartoccio attended Youth Mental Health First Aid training in Florida from November 27 to December 1. This training is for adults who work with adolescents; participants included social workers, teachers, parents, and clergy. Kaitlin said that the youth training is different from the adult training in its focus on personal interaction instead of steps to follow. She is now able to teach the Youth Mental Health First Aid class. Joan Harris has applied to take this training also.

RAAD – RAAD members volunteered at the recent vaping booth at Ridge. The last RAAD meeting of 2017 is on December 13.

Upcoming Events

- Stigma-Free Town Hall – December 7
- Two parent presentations by Dr. Michael Bradley, "Crazy Stressed" – January 31 at Ridge High School (for high school parents) and February 1 at Bernards High School (for middle school parents).
- Mental Health Resource Fair – TBD

Ridge High School Booth – the booth on vaping on November 16 was very successful. Empower Somerset provided a banner with vaping information. MJ Postal spoke with students about emphysema. About 15-20 teachers stopped by to pick up information and ask questions.

Municipal Alliance Member Comment

The vaping presentation for parents at William Annin on November 15 was very well attended. Tracy Baldassare wants to do grade-level presentations at William Annin. She is testing vaping devices for THC.

Zoe Pettit participated in a presentation on the opioid crisis on November 30 at the Rutgers Pharmacy School.

Kaitlin Cartoccio thanked Hersh Gupta for his participation in RAAD and LMTI.

Adjournment

Johnny Graves made a motion to adjourn. Joan Harris seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm.

Next meeting – January 9, 2018

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Wooldridge