

**Minutes of the Bernards Township Municipal Alliance/Youth Services
Commission
February 6, 2018**

Mayoral-Appointed Members Attending

John Malay, Chair, Township Committee Representative
Kaitlin Cartoccio, Vice-Chair, Health Department Representative
Linda Wooldridge, BOE Representative
Johnny Graves, Clergy Representative
MJ Postal, Senior Citizen Representative
Amy Button, William Annin Middle School SAC, School Representative
Sherri Harris, Citizen Representative
Alexandra Timoney, Student Representative
Katy Soulas, Civic Group Representative
Tracy Baldassare, Bernards Township Police Department
Joan Harris, Citizen Representative
Isabel DiPalo, Student Representative
Swapna Kumari, PTO Representative

Other Attendees

Lucy Forgione, Health Department
KateLynn Patronick, Youth Services Commission

Members Not Attending

Zoe Pettit, Citizen Representative
Cathy Phillips, Substance Abuse 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.

Minute Approval

Johnny Graves made a motion to approve the minutes from January 9, 2017. Kaitlin Cartoccio seconded. The minutes were approved.

Reports

Somerset County Alliance Coordinator – The Municipal Alliance 3rd quarter networking meeting will be held on March 15 at 6 pm. Resilient Youth of Somerset will do a presentation on Adverse Childhood Experiences. The 4th quarter networking meeting will feature training on either evaluation or cultural competency. Details to follow.

Youth Services Commission – KateLynn Patronick reported that the February workshop on Gangs was postponed; date is TBD. On February 27, MJ Postal will be recognized at the Somerset County Freeholders meeting for her recent award.

Community Programs Coordinator – Kaitlin Cartoccio reported that a new program will be offered at William Annin in spring 2018 called “Be Well Girls.” This program includes yoga and mindfulness as well as running. The program dates are March 20 – May 31.

Agenda Items

Grant Coordinator Update – Kaitlin Cartoccio reported that new Municipal Alliance literature is available. She also prepared a brochure on vaping, which she will distribute to Ridge faculty. RAAD has a new mission to increase positivity at Ridge and has posted a secret Positivity Challenge (27 different challenges in small envelopes). RAAD is having an interest meeting for Out of the Mouths of Teens on February 15.

Upcoming Events

1. Med Drop Drive Thru – March 10. Deterra bags will be handed out for liquids.
2. Youth Mental Health First Aid Training – March 17 and March 24 (both dates required; 30 people can attend).
3. Mental Health Resource Fair – March 22 at the Bernards Township Library.
4. Save the Dates – Charter Day, May 19. Twilight Challenge, June 3. This year the theme is superheroes, and a new donation category (\$500) has been added.

RHS Booth

Safe and Sound Somerset will do a booth on dating and healthy relationships at Ridge on February 12.

Local Event Watch

- Underground Session on Racial Reconciliation at Millington Baptist Church – February 10 at 6:30 pm
- Community in Crisis medication dropoff – April 28

Municipal Alliance Member Comment

John Malay provided an update on Community in Crisis. Andi Williams and Toni Knoll are now full-time employees. Community in Crisis has office space at the old Bernardsville Library. They are creating a toolkit/handbook in partnership with Rutgers University and Horizon Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

Adjournment

Isabel DiPalo made a motion to adjourn. MJ Postal seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Wooldridge