

**Minutes of the Bernards Township Municipal Alliance/Youth Services
Commission
September 4, 2018**

Mayoral-Appointed Members Attending

John Malay, Chair, Township Committee Representative
Kaitlin Cartoccio, Vice-Chair, Health Department Representative
Linda Wooldridge, BOE Representative
MJ Postal, Senior Citizen Representative
Cathy Phillips, Substance Abuse Representative
Amy Stem, William Annin Middle School SAC, School Representative
Johnny Graves, Clergy Representative
Alexandra Timoney, Student Representative
Katy Soulas, Civic Group Representative
Laurie Albee, Citizen Representative
Joan Harris, Citizen Representative

Other Attendees

Lucy Forgione, Bernards Township Health Department
KateLynn Patronick, Youth Services Commission
Jennifer Sorensen, Somerset County Alliance Coordinator
Jamie Sutton, William Annin Middle School
Abigail Phillips, RAAD
Jennifer Quinn, RAAD
Mady Weber, RAAD
Madison Clowes, RAAD
Jack Rhead, RAAD
Shelby Kaiser, RAAD
Andrew White, RAAD
Katherine White, RAAD
Melissa Johnson, RAAD
Allison Blanchard, RAAD

Members Not Attending

Swapna Uradi, PTO Representative
Zoe Pettit, Citizen 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

Kaitlin Cartoccio made a motion to approve the minutes from June 5, 2018. Linda Wooldridge seconded. The minutes were approved.

Reports

Somerset County Alliance Coordinator – Jennifer Sorensen reported that 100 people participated in Overdose Awareness Day on August 30. The first quarter networking meeting is on September 17; the agenda is Program Evaluation. The first quarter report is due October 9. The Safe Communities Coalition Fall Conference is on October 26 at Raritan Valley Community College.

Youth Services Commission – KateLynn Patronick reported that the fourth quarter reports for 2017 are due October 4. The \$5000 annual grant and the grant for Peer Educators for 2018 were both approved. The annual check presentation is on September 25.

Community Programs Coordinator – Kaitlin Cartoccio said that the annual grant covers RAAD. WAMS Breathe, a yoga club, will replace Be Well Girls in spring 2019.

Agenda Items

Wecome New Member

Laurie Albee, Citizen Representative

RAAD

Party in the Park was held on August 1. It was a difficult year for LMTI, because camp was closed down on Wednesday due to illness. On Monday, the campers discussed topics for the 2018-19 school year; the focus will be on mental health and vaping.

RAAD was selected as one of the top 5 most outstanding Prevention Action Groups in New Jersey.

Upcoming Events

Kaitlin distributed a schedule of Municipal Alliance events for fall 2018. September 10-12 is Suicide Prevention Week at Ridge High School. The Teen Volunteer Fair is on September 26. On October 8, there will be a presentation on childhood trauma at 7 pm in the Ridge PAC. October 19 is WAMS Empowerment Day.

Ridge High School Booth

A suicide prevention table is planned for Suicide Prevention Week, in coordination with the Ridge PTO. MJ Postal is also working with the Anti-Stigma Club.

Mental Health

Kaitlin Cartoccio and Joan Harris provided training in Youth Mental Health First Aid to 32 administrators and 31 teachers during the summer. Most teachers were from WAMS and Ridge.

Local Events/ Member Comment

Community in Crisis is working on an Anti-Stigma art exhibit.

Joan Harris would like to partner with other towns on a Stigma Free concert in the spring.

Youth Mental Health First Aid will be taught on December 13 at the Bernards Township Library, in partnership with the American Society for Suicide Prevention.

Lucy and Kaitlin are reviewing the first draft of the Student Stressor Survey results. They will present to the Board of Education, date still to be determined.

Adjournment

Any Stem made a motion to adjourn; MJ Postal seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Wooldridge