

**Minutes of the Bernards Township Municipal Alliance/Youth Services
Commission
February 5, 2019**

Mayoral-Appointed Members Attending

Joan Harris, Chair, Township Committee Representative
Kaitlin Cartoccio, Vice-Chair, Health Department Representative
Linda Wooldridge, BOE Representative
MJ Postal, Senior Citizen Representative
Alexandra Timoney, Student Representative
Audrey West, Student Representative
Katy Soulas, Civic Group Representative
Cathy Phillips, Substance Abuse Representative
Johnny Graves, Clergy Representative
Cindy Fleischer, Citizen Representative
Zoe Pettit, Citizen Representative
Swapna Uradi, PTO Representative

Other Attendees

Lucy Forgione, Bernards Township Health Department
KateLynn Patronick, Youth Services Commission
Jennifer Sorensen, Somerset County Alliance Coordinator

Members Not Attending

Tracy Baldassare, Bernards Township Police Department
Amy Stem, William Annin Middle School SAC, School Representative
Laurie Albee, Citizen Representative

Call to Order

Joan Harris called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. All attendees stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mission Statement

Welcome and reading of the Mission Statement by Joan Harris. 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 8, 2019. Audrey West seconded. The minutes were approved.

Reports

Somerset County Alliance Coordinator – Jennifer Sorensen reported that the 3rd quarter report for 2018-19 is due on April 10. Grant applications for 2019-20 were submitted on time and are currently under county and state review. On March 18, NAMI is presenting “In Our Own Voices,” a free one-hour program for adults and school staff. The Ammon Foundation is a non-profit in Linden that awards scholarships to people with at least six months of recovery from substance use so that they can attend college programs, trade schools or certification programs. Each scholarship is \$1000.

Youth Services Commission – KateLynn Patronick will be sending out 2nd quarter reports. A presentation on Suicide Prevention in Youth will be held on February 8 from 9:00 -10:30 am at the Somerset County Human Services Building, 27 Warren Street, in Somerville.

Community Programs Coordinator – Kaitlin Cartoccio attended the Networking Meeting on January 30. The focus was on Youth Mental Health First Aid. The next Youth Mental Health First Aid class will be May 16.

The Pride Plus survey will be administered in early March to students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 at William Annin and Ridge. The survey has questions about drug and alcohol use, including vaping and opioids as well as SEL. There are also questions about cell phone use. The survey will be done electronically using Chromebooks.

The William Annin Breathe Program will start at the end of April. Chris Flanagan is teaching the program.

Grant Coordinator Update

RAAD – the group met twice in February. A “Secret Sweetheart” is planned for February. The vaping group is creating four posters, with 25 facts about vaping on each poster. They are also creating an informational video for parents about vaping.

On April 24 at 7 pm at Town Hall, the RAAD group is presenting *The nico-teen generation: A Look Inside the Vaping Epidemic*.

Upcoming Events – save the date

1. RAAD Vaping Program – April 24
2. Spring Rx Takeback – April 27
3. Youth Mental Health First Aid – May 16
4. Charter Day – May 18
5. Twilight Challenge – June 2

Peer Educators at William Annin -- The students started the Drug and Alcohol unit. They will be presenting at 6th grade morning meetings.

Subcommittee Updates

RHS Booth

Johnny Graves suggested a booth on healthy relationships for February.

Fundraising/Twilight Challenge

Kaitlin is creating new forms with a new logo for this year. Every member is expected to get at least one \$100 sponsor, which can be a business they use, a personal donation, etc.

New this year – for \$100, an organization will have a line of text on the T-shirt. For \$250, an organization will have a logo on the T-shirt and a sign at the event, and for \$500 or more, a mile marker sign, logo on T-shirt and sign at the event.

Volunteers are needed to ask the usual vendors for donations: sandwiches from Subway; iced coffee from Starbucks; bananas, oranges and water from Dean's; gift cards from Shop Rite and Stop and Shop.

Mental Health

28 people, including some William Annin teachers, attended the Youth Mental Health First Aid training on January 17. The next class will be held on May 16.

About 250 people attended the Angst documentary screening on January 24. The audience was very engaged, and Blueprint Mental Health staff did a good job with the Q&A afterwards.

The Stigma Free concert will be held in the fall.

Local Events/Municipal Alliance Member Comment

Cindy Fleischer reported that Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital is now in a new building in Morris Plains. It is overcrowded (500 patients), and patients are subject to substandard care.

Adjournment

MJ Postal made a motion to adjourn. Alexandra Timoney seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wooldridge