

**Minutes of the Bernards Township Municipal Alliance/Youth Services
Commission
March 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
Audrey West, Student Representative
Katy Soulas, Civic Group Representative
Johnny Graves, Clergy Representative
Cindy Fleischer, Citizen Representative
Tracy Baldassare, Bernards Township Police Department
Amy Stem, William Annin Middle School SAC, School 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
Thomas O'Brien
Chris O'Brien

Members Not Attending

Laurie Albee, Citizen Representative
Alexandra Timoney, Student Representative
Zoe Pettit, Citizen Representative
Swapna Uradi, PTO Representative
Cathy Phillips, Substance Abuse Representative

Call to Order

Kaitlin Cartoccio 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 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

Joan Harris made a motion to approve the minutes from February 5, 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. On March 18, NAMI is presenting “In Our Own Voices,” a free one-hour program for adults and school staff. The next networking meeting is on April 29 at 27 Warren Street, Somerville. The annual New Jersey Prevention Network conference is on May 10 in Atlantic City. The focus will be on substance abuse.

Grant applications for 2019-20 were submitted on time and are currently under county and state review. The quarterly meeting with GCADA is on March 28. Lucy Forgione asked about the possibility of additional funding, for current issues such as opioid prevention. She said that the Municipal Alliance funding has been at the same level for 20 years. Ms. Sorensen said that not all money allocated is spent every year.

The Somerset County 2019 Human Services conference is on June 5 at Raritan Valley Community College.

Youth Services Commission – KateLynn Patronick reported that quarterly reports are up to date. An “Improvisation on Diversity” event for students in grades 7-12 will be held on Saturday, March 30 from 5:30-9:30 pm at the Ted Blum 4-H Center of Somerset County. The Annual Spring Forum will be held on April 12 in Bridgewater. The topic is Tech Dependency: How it Impacts Children, Families and Predatory Behavior.

Community Programs Coordinator – Kaitlin Cartoccio reported that the WAMS Breathe program will start at the end of April. The grant money was used to purchase yoga supplies. The PRIDE survey was administered to students in grades 6,8,10 and 12 during the first week in March. The Municipal Alliance worked with the school district and Community in Crisis on the questions. The PRIDE survey will result in new baseline data this year, since it is replacing the ADAS survey. Two new posters about vaping from the FDA are being displayed at Ridge. There is a prescription drug drop off day scheduled for April 27 at the police station.

Agenda Items

Grant Coordinator Update

RAAD – the RAAD group finished “Secret Sweetheart.” RAAD students are presenting “The Nicoteen Generation,” an educational program on vaping for parents, on April 24 at the Town Hall. The mental health group’s video idea (personal stories) was approved by Mr. Kraus and Mrs. Smith.

LMTI – the three teams at William Annin nominated 99 students for LMTI this year. YAC interviews are complete.

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 -- during the last week in February the WAMS Peer Educators went to 6th grade morning meetings and did a lesson for the students on vaping.

Ridge High School Booth – for the next booth, MJ Postal and Johnny Graves plan to set up a table with Safe + Sound Somerset that will provide information about healthy relationships. Handouts will also be available.

Fundraising/Twilight Challenge – Kaitlin Cartoccio sends letters to all businesses in Bernards Township. Donors who give \$100 or more get their name on the T-shirt. Donors who give \$250 or more get their logo on the T-shirt. Items for swag bags can also be donated.

Local Events

Katy Soulas said that Community in Crisis is running several programs, including a musical café on Fridays, sober fun including yoga and a cooking club, and a Hub Club for middle school students. The annual fundraiser will be held at the Bernards Inn in April.

Adjournment

Kaitlin Cartoccio made a motion to adjourn; Audrey West seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wooldridge