

**Minutes of the Bernards Township Municipal Alliance/Youth Services  
Commission  
April 2, 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  
Cathy Phillips, Substance Abuse Representative  
Zoe Pettit, Citizen Representative

**Other Attendees**

Lucy Forgione, Bernards Township Health Department  
KateLynn Patronick, Youth Services Commission  
Jamie Sutton, William Annin Middle School  
Scott Ward, Bernards Township Police Department  
Michael Calderon, Somerset County Department of Human Services  
Andrew Lee-Au, Ridge High School student

**Members Not Attending**

Laurie Albee, Citizen Representative  
Alexandra Timoney, Student Representative  
Swapna Uradi, PTO Representative

**Call to Order**

Joan Harris called the meeting to order at 6:05 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**

Katy Soulas made a motion to approve the minutes from March 5, 2019. Amy Stem seconded. The minutes were approved.

## **Reports**

**Somerset County Alliance Coordinator** – No more scholarships are available for the conference in Atlantic City. The next networking meeting will be on April 29 from 6:30-8:30 pm at 27 Warren Street in Somerville. There has been a change for the next grant cycle: previously the Municipal Alliance used its own logic model but now will choose a pre-made logic model and select from a list of evidence-based programs. The funding for “21 for a Reason” will still be available.

**Youth Services Commission** – KateLynn Patronick reported that quarterly reports are up to date. Upcoming events include:

- Workshop on Parental Incarceration and the Effects on the Family, Friday April 5, 9 am
- Annual Spring Forum on Tech Dependency, Friday April 12, 9 am
- Somerset County Community Resource Fair, Thursday May 9, 2:00-4:00 pm

**Community Programs Coordinator** – Kaitlin Cartoccio reported that she completed the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report. 502 Ridge students and 472 William Annin students completed the PRIDE survey in March. The electronic permissions slips were not very effective. Kaitlin plans to attend a “train the trainer” program on vaping, and she is working with Mrs. Smith, the Director of School Counseling, on a video about mental health. Four staff colleges are planned this summer on Youth Mental Health First Aid.

## **Presentation – Helping Families Access Services Through the Children’s System of Care (CSOC)**

**Presenter:** Michael Calderon, Tri-County Substance Use Navigator

The CSOC is a statewide organization for children under age 21 and families who need intervention because a child is experiencing a problem involving mental health, substance abuse or behavioral, emotional or developmental issues. All services are free of charge and are billed through Medicaid. All children using these services are assigned a temporary Medicaid number.

The first step to obtain services is for parents to call PerformCare, the administrative hub, at (877) 652-7624. PerformCare provides initial screenings and offers recommendations and referrals when appropriate. Other organizations within CSOC are:

1. Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) – responds on site to a mental health or behavioral crisis, typically within 1 hour of the initial phone call.
2. Tri-County Care Management Organization (CMO) – provides long-term services (up to 2 years)

3. Family Support Organization (FSO) – provides advocacy, educational workshops, parenting classes and support groups. Also provides a “warm line” for family members and caregivers.
4. Tri-County Substance Use Navigators (SUNs) – are specialists in all areas of substance use resources and services for youth under age 21; support professionals who work with youth.

Mr. Calderon said that there is a separate administrative hub for adults (ages 21 and over). It is called IME, which stands for Interim Managing Entity. The phone number is (844) 276-2777.

### **Grant Coordinator Update**

**RAAD** – the Mental Health group video will be finished in May. The Vaping group has been working on the “Nico-teen Generation” program. There will be a slide show and presentation followed by Q & A for parents. Devices for parents to look at will be displayed in clear plastic bags on a trifold.

**LMTI** – letter were sent to 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Two group information sessions will be offered this year. Camp is scheduled for August 19-23.

### **Upcoming Events**

1. Nico-teen Generation – April 24
2. Spring Rx Takeback – April 27
3. Charter Day – May 18
4. Twilight Challenge – June 2

### **Peer Educators at William Annin**

The students are working on the wellness unit. They are revamping the coloring corner in the Media Center to be a wellness corner.

### **Subcommittee Updates**

**RHS Booth** -- On April 29, Safe and Sound is providing information on healthy relationships.

**Fundraising/Twilight Challenge** – almost \$3000 has been raised so far.

**Mental Health** -- no update.

### **Local Events/Municipal Alliance Member Comment**

On April 17, the William Annin PTO, Municipal Alliance and Community in Crisis are presenting “Under Construction and Under the Influence.”

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wooldridge