

**Minutes of the Bernards Township Municipal Alliance/Youth Services
Commission
May 7, 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
Alex Timoney, Student Representative
Katy Soulas, Civic Group Representative
Johnny Graves, Clergy Representative
Cindy Fleischer, Citizen Representative
Cathy Phillips, Substance Abuse Representative
Zoe Pettit, Citizen Representative

Other Attendees

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

Members Not Attending

Laurie Albee, Citizen Representative
Audrey West, Student Representative
Swapna Uradi, PTO Representative
Tracy Baldassare, Bernards Township Police Department
Amy Stem, William Annin Middle School SAC, School Representative

Call to Order

Joan Harris called the meeting to order at 6:07 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

Kaitlin Cartoccio made a motion to approve the minutes from April 2, 2019. Linda Wooldridge seconded. The minutes were approved.

Reports

Somerset County Alliance Coordinator – Jennifer Sorensen reported that the April 29 Networking Meeting went well. It is helpful for members to see what other

Municipal Alliances are doing. The annual conference at RVCC is on June 5. The 4th quarter report is due July 10, and Forms 10 and 11 are due July 31.

Youth Services Commission – KateLynn Patronick distributed Adolescent Information Data for Bernards Township for 2018. She tracks this data every year. The Somerset County Community Resource Fair will be held on Thursday, May 9 from 2-4 pm.

Community Programs Coordinator – Kaitlin Cartoccio reported that the Viking Yoga class at William Annin will be held on Thursdays after school from May 9 until the end of the school year. On April 17, about 30 parents attended “Under Construction and Under the Influence.” Ms. Cahill presented information about RHS counselors. The PRIDE survey results will be presented to the Board of Education in the fall. The 6th graders wrote prom letters to the Ridge seniors as part of the “Too Good For Drugs” program. Every senior will receive a letter.

Agenda Items

Don’t Get Vaped In – Kaitlin Cartoccio reviewed the recent presentation on vaping from NJ Health and Tobacco Free for a Healthy New Jersey. The presentation was designed for educators.

Grant Coordinator Update

RAAD – About 30 parents attended the “Nico-Teen Generation” program on April 24. RAAD students did a 30-minute presentation, which was followed by a 30-minute Q&A period. There was also a trifold with visual information about vaping. The students did an excellent job.

The RAAD students are making a 10-minute video on mental health, to be shown in 9th grade health classes. Ridge students submitted stories, and the RAAD students recorded them. This project was done in conjunction with the Ridge Counseling Department.

RAAD students participated in the Ridge Activities Night, held on May 2.

The RAAD car wash will be held on June 15.

LMTI – Two information sessions are planned. Three college-age staff (CATs) from Bernards Township will be at LMTI this summer: Samantha Harris, Isabel DiPalo, and Megan Garrity.

Spring DEA Take Back Day on April 27 – 110 pounds of drugs were collected from 101 cars,

Upcoming Events

1. Youth Mental Health First Aid on May 16 – Kaitlin and Jennifer will teach this class.
2. Charter Day – May 18
3. Twilight Challenge – June 2

Peer Educators at William Annin – the students are setting up a “creative corner” for the wellness unit in the WAMS media center. It will be ready for use this month.

Subcommittee Updates

RHS Booth – the booth on healthy relationships was very well received.

Fundraising/Twilight Challenge – Community Service help may not be available this year. Volunteers are needed for set-up, pre-registration and on-site registration. Volunteers are also needed for food pickup and the water and fruit station.

Mental Health – Joan Harris is working with Ross Farm.

Adjournment

Joan Harris made a motion to adjourn. Kaitlin Cartoccio seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm.