

**Minutes of the Bernards Township Municipal Alliance/Youth Services  
Commission  
September 3, 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  
Johnny Graves, Clergy Representative  
Cindy Fleischer, Citizen Representative  
Cathy Phillips, Substance Abuse Representative  
Laurie Albee, Citizen Representative  
Audrey West, Student Representative  
Amy Stem, William Annin Middle School SAC, School Representative

**Other Attendees**

Lucy Forgione, Bernards Township Health Department  
Jamie Sutton, William Annin Middle School counselor  
Sanjiv Raghupathy, RAAD  
Srini Raghupathy, parent  
Matthew Leopold, RAAD  
Kris Leopold, parent  
Madison Clowes, RAAD  
William White, RAAD  
Andrew White, RAAD  
John White, RAAD  
Katherine White, RAAD  
Dylan Hicks, RAAD  
Abby Phillips, RAAD  
Anna Skrobala, RAAD  
Evaline West, RAAD

**Members Not Attending**

Swapna Uradi, PTO Representative  
Tracy Baldassare, Bernards Township Police Department  
Katy Soulas, Civic Group Representative  
Zoe Pettit, Citizen Representative

**Call to Order**

Joan Harris called the meeting to order at 6:01 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**

MJ Postal made a motion to approve the minutes from June 6, 2019. Audrey West seconded. The minutes were approved.

Johnny Graves made a motion to approve the minutes from May 7, 2019. Amy Stem seconded. The minutes were approved.

### **Reports**

**Somerset County Alliance Coordinator** – the first quarter report is due on October 14. GCADA reduced funding to all counties for the next grant cycle. Somerset County is reduced by 11%.

**Youth Services Commission** – WAMS Peer Educators, Viking Yoga and RAAD have all been approved for 2019-10.

### **Agenda Items**

#### **Grant Coordinator Update**

**RAAD** – the car wash raised \$300. Party in the Park was rained out. This year all the RAAD students are working together on three topics, by season:

- Fall – Vaping
- Winter – School Stress
- Spring – Mental Health

The RAAD group is considering changing its name to be more inclusive of mental health and to increase student participation in programs and events. The students are also increasing RAAD's social media presence.

**LMTI 2019** – This year the Bernards Township group consisted of 8 YACs and 7 freshmen. The students at the meeting talked about their experiences at LMTI; all were very positive.

The school district cancelled the staff college on Mental Health First Aid training, because they needed to train staff on Genesis, the new Student Information System.

Screening of the movie *Screenagers* is scheduled for January 23, 2020. (An updated *Screenagers* movie will be released in October 2019.)

### ***Upcoming Events***

- September 23 – PRIDE Survey presentation at Board of Education meeting
- September 24 – Teen Volunteer Fair
- October 11 – Football Game
- October 18 – Empowerment Day at WAMS
- October 23 – Pumpkins in the Park
- November 2 – safeTALK, a 3-hour program about suicide. Minimum age to attend is 15 years.
- December 4 – Youth Mental Health First Aid training
- January 23, 2020 – *Screenagers* movie

### **Peer Educators at Wiliam Annin**

The group has a new name, RISE, which stands for Reaching, Informing and Supporting Everyone. The first meeting will be later in September. A suggestion was made for a meeting between RISE students and RAAD students after William Annin Empowerment Day.

### **By-Laws**

Kaitlin Cartoccio distributed the By-Laws. Members will vote at the October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Key Informant Interview**

This is an opinion-based questionnaire that helps with the Logic Model. Kaitlin will send out email about it.

### **RHS Booth**

September 8-14 is Suicide Prevention Week at Ridge. An anti-smoking/anti-vaping booth is planned for November (to coincide with the Great American Smokeout). MJ asked for suggestions for booth topics from the RAAD students.

### **Member Comment**

Audrey West spoke briefly about Feeling Swell, an organization whose goal is to decrease the stigma about mental health.

### **Adjournment**

Linda Wooldridge made a motion to adjourn. MJ Postal seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 pm.