

**Minutes of the Bernards Township Municipal Alliance /Youth Services  
Commission**  
*May 4, 2021*

**Mayoral-Appointed Members Attending**

Joan Harris, Chair, Township Committee Representative  
Kaitlin Cartoccio, Vice Chair, Health Department Representative  
Jennifer Korn, BOE Representative  
MJ Postal, Senior Citizen Representative  
Rebecca Tritt, Ridge High School SAC, School Representative  
Madison Clowes, Student Representative  
Phil Jasina, Bernards Township Police Department  
Robert Green – Clergy Representative

**Other Attendees**

Monica Sprague, Youth Services Commission  
Jennifer Sorenson, Somerset County Alliance Coordinator

**Members Not Attending**

Cathy Phillips, Substance Abuse Representative  
Swapna Uradi, PTO Representative  
Cindy Fleischer, Citizen Representative (BRMA)  
Alex Timoney, Student Representative  
Tracy Baldassare, Bernards Township Police Department  
Ellen Houlihan, Civic Group Representative  
Catherine Santaiti, PTO Representative

**Call to Order**

Kaitlin Cartoccio called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM. All attendees stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Mission Statement**

The Mission Statement was read 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.

Three goals of the Alliance: ESP!

1. To **Educate** about the damaging effects of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs,
2. To **Support** events & programs that provide healthy alternatives to substance abuse, and
3. To create community wide **Presence** in the identification of problems and in designing effective measurable solutions.

### **Staff Comment**

Kaitlin thanked everyone for their patience. It has been an incredibly busy year for the health department and Kaitlin can not wait to get back to planning other activities very soon.

### **Minutes Approval**

No Minutes

### **Reports**

#### **Somerset County Alliance Coordinator – (Jennifer Sorenson)**

- No Report
- Grants were submitted 4/27
- Waiting for the 2Q report

#### **Youth Services Commission –(Monica Sprague)**

- No new report
- Spreadsheets are being prepared and sent to Kaitlin for preparation of the 1Q report.

#### **Community Program Coordinator – (Kaitlin Cartoccio)**

- \$8,474 in funding from 7/2021-6/2022
- Bernards Township historically disburses a majority of the funds for youth initiatives
- Spent most money on virtual documentary screenings
- 3 screenings – all somerset county residents could participate
- Maria from Warren? was instrumental in putting the screenings together.

### **Agenda Items**

#### **1. REACH (Ridge Education Action & Community Health)**

- Follow on Instagram.
- Had one meeting in April. Information was presented on the anti-vaping task force
- \$5,000? grant received for vaping prevention
- LTMI received the grant, Biasia came and spoke to the group about vaping.
- Planning for a Senior picnic in June
- **LTMI Update (see flyer)**
- Kaitlin is excited about the New Director, Rachel Taylor. Ms. Taylor has been involved with LTMI since high school. It will be exciting to see what new happens with new programming.
- Planning the Leadership Conference for 2021/2022

- Safety is paramount, there will be a safety task force and all CDC guidelines will be followed.
- Kaitlin will attend the live one-day conference with students if possible. There is still scholarship money available from last year.
- 65 nomination letters were sent out to students in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This was a great number and the counselors at WAMS were very enthusiastic about the nominating task.

## **2. Grab and Go Teen Outreach (see Flyer)**

- All April bags were picked up (there are 50 available)
- Hoping to do in-person crafts when things open a bit more. Will be at the library.
- Later in the summer there are plans for the Library, Township and Health Dept to collaborate on craft programs for kids.

## **3. Program Recap**

- Documentaries – Like (3.24.21) 421 people registered; Angst (4.22.21) no numbers yet
- DEA Takeback day in conjunction with Community in Crisis (4.24.21)
- Hoping to start the drive thru drop off back up in October '21, more accessible to seniors who have many medications
- Marijuana – What We Don't Know Can Hurt Our Kids (4.27.21) Presentation
- Helped promote with Community in Crisis – 176 registered; 96 active at any given time.
- Very effective presenters
- It was recorded and Kaitlin sent it out in an e-mail to Members

## **• Upcoming Programs**

- Minding your mind
- Qpr Training (Suicide Prevention)
- This is Quitting (vape)
- Use Take Vape Away grant
- Create posters to post around school (RHS)
- many more resources available now, Use QR code that can be scanned and list the resources.

## **• Subcommittees Update**

- RHS Booth –No Updates
- Fundraising/Twilight Challenge – need to get together for planning; can possible put something together with the new outdoor limits expanded.
- Mental Health –Ross Farm does not want to partner with outside groups – may have to postpone until next year.
- MAY – Mental health awareness month; posting suicide prevention materials

- Facebook posts scheduled for each day highlighting a different mental health organization
- IE NAMI whose slogan is “You are not Alone”
- RHS is having a virtual mental health fair.

**No Public Comment**

**Local Events/Municipal Alliance Member Comment**

- Joan spoke about the new Marijuana Ordinance
- Municipalities must opt out of provisions
- Ordinance is up for discussion at the 5.25.21 Township Committee Meeting
- No manufacturing of marijuana in town
- Health Dept revamped its website
- [Bernardshealth.org/municipal alliance](http://Bernardshealth.org/municipal_alliance)
- Information and pictures about available programs with hyper-links to additional information
- Link tree to the sites REACH deems most important.
- Content planner with calendar that schedules Facebook posts
- Publishing tool on Facebook
- Post listing programs will pop-up on users feeds if they like the Municipal Alliance page
- Not sure when live Municipal Alliance meetings will start. Play it by ear for an outdoor meeting in June. Hopefully start live meetings back up in September.

**Adjournment -6:52**

Motion           1-Robert Green  
                          2-Jen Korn

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jen Korn  
*Municipal Alliance Secretary*