

## **Minutes of the Bernards Township Municipal Alliance /Youth Services Commission**

**December 7, 2021**

### **Mayoral-Appointed Members Attending**

Joan Bannan, Chair, Township Committee Representative  
Jennifer Korn, BOE Representative  
Madison Clowes, Student Representative  
Phil Jasina, Bernards Township Police Department  
Robert Green – Clergy Representative  
MJ Postal, Senior Citizen Representative  
Catherine Santaiti, PTO Representative  
Ellen Houlihan, Civic Group Representative

### **Members Not Attending**

Kaitlin Cartoccio, Vice Chair, Health Department Representative  
Rebecca Tritt, Ridge High School SAC, School Representative  
Cathy Phillips, Substance Abuse Representative  
Swapna Uradi, PTO Representative  
Cindy Fleischer, Citizen Representative (BRMA)  
Tracy Baldassare, Bernards Township Police Department

### **Others**

Lucy Forgione, Health Department Representative  
Stephanie Billitz, Somerset County Alliance Coordinator

### **Call to Order**

Joan Bannan called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM. 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.

### **Minutes Approval**

No Quorum (tabled)

### **Reports**

#### **Somerset County Alliance Coordinator – (Stephanie Billitz)**

- RFA is due to the purchasing office by December 15<sup>th</sup> for the Somerset County Alliance grant. Kaitlin is working on it.

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

- No report

#### **Community Program Coordinator – (Kaitlin Cartoccio – presented by Lucy Forgione)**

- Please see the attached report. Which also includes updates on the agenda items below.

### **Agenda Items**

1. **REACH (Ridge Education Action & Community Health)**
2. **Grab and Go Teen outreach**
3. **Subcommittees Update – Joan Harris**
  - RHS Booth –No Updates
  - Fundraising/Twilight Challenge –Save the date for June 5, 2022
  - Mental Health –Joan still has hopes for the concert at Ross Farm - TBD

### **Public Comment**

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

**Thanks very much for to Joan Bannon and Cathy Phillips for their years of service**

- Joan wanted to thank everyone for their participation in the Municipal Alliance. Hopeful that the next year will be better for outreach. Although there may be small numbers at event, you can never really know how many people we have reached and the messaging always makes a difference. We are sowing seeds, nurturing ideas and getting positive results.
- Catherine Santaiti informed us that Community in Crisis was coming to Mt. Prospect School on January 12, live and zoom possibly to connect with parents to share information and discuss how to start a conversation with younger kids about serious subjects.
- Phil Jasina was tapped to give Internet Safety Presentations in the school district. With the one to one technology initiative and the pandemic

shutdowns forcing more kids on devices more often, it is seen as a very important subject. Hopefully the presentation can be broke into three, elementary, middle school and HS.

- MJ Postal would like to meet with Dr. Lazovick (RHS Principal) and get back into the HS with the informational tables. She would need help carrying the tables and info boards from the health dept to the HS.
- Lucy Forgione wanted to thank Joan for her wonderful work at the Municipal Alliance. Joan's leadership has been extraordinary.
- Robert Green wished Joan good luck.

**Adjournment -6:33**

Motion            1-Jen Korn  
                         2-Joan Bannon

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jen Korn