



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

February 8, 2022

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

1. Janice Fields - Chair, Township Committee Representative
2. Colin Lochner - Vice Chair, Substance Abuse Representative
3. Karen Gray - BOE Representative (arr 6:15 pm)
4. MJ Postal - Senior Citizen Representative
5. Rebecca Tritt - Ridge High School SAC, School Representative
6. Ellen Houlihan - Civic Group Representative
7. Phil Jasina, Alternate - Bernards Township Police Department
8. Catherine Santaiti - PTO Representative
9. Xingyue Huang – Citizen Representative
10. Rabbi Robert Green – Clergy Representative (arr 6:30 pm)

### **Other Attendees**

1. Lucy Forgione - Bernards Township Health Department

### **Members Not Attending**

1. Tracy Baldassare - Bernards Township Police Department
2. Madison Clowes - Student Representative
3. Swapna Uradi - Citizen Representative

### **Call to Order**

Janice Fields called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. All attendees stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Mission Statement**

The Mission Statement was read by Kaitlin Cartoccio. 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**

Lucy Forgione welcomed everyone to 2022 and mentioned being hopeful to return to in-person programming as COVID-19 cases begin to go down.

### **Minutes Approval**

A motion was made to approve the minutes from October 5, 2021

Motion 1) Colin Lochner

2) Ellen Houlihan

All in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from December 7, 2021

Motion 1) MJ Postal

2) Colin Lochner

All in favor, motion carried.

### **Reports**

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

- No report

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

- No report

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

- The Municipal Alliance RFA for FY2023 was submitted in December 2021. The grant was for about \$10,000 which is around \$2,000 more than last year. The increase was due to another Alliance not applying.
- The Youth Services Commission grant was submitted for the 2022. The Annual grant was \$5,000, and Grab and Go was renewed for 2022 for \$3,400.

### **Agenda Items**

#### **1. Welcome New Members**

- Janice Fields – Chair, Township Committee Representative
- Colin Lochner – Substance Abuse Representative
- Xingyue Huang – Citizen Representative
- Karen Gray – BOE Representative

#### **2. Nominations**

- Vice Chair – Colin Lochner was nominated by Janice Fields and seconded by Kaitlin Cartoccio. All in favor, motion carried.
- Secretary – Catherine Santaiti was nominated by Janice Fields and seconded by Karen Gray. All in favor, motion carried.

### 3. Youth Services Program Updates

- a. **REACH (Ridge Education Action & Community Health).** REACH met twice in January and twice in February. Meetings are still virtual. Instagram is updated at least 3x a week. Out. REACH Newsletter -REACH is coming out with a newsletter to be sent out monthly that will include information on their 4 main topics for 2021-2022 (Drug Use, Mental Health, LGBTQ+, Environment).
- b. **Grab and Go Teen Outreach**  
Kits were handed out in January – DIY Hot Chocolate Bombs. Pick up for February will be February 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> and will be DIY Bath Bombs. Kaitlin Cartoccio met with Rachel Talbert and discussed the crafts for 2022.

### 4. Upcoming Programs

- **RACE to be Human – February 24<sup>th</sup> 7pm**  
Virtual documentary screening of “RACE to be Human” a documentary about race and racism and the effects it has on mental health. Documentary is done by IndieFlix which also created “LIKE”, “Upstanders” and “Angst. The Alliance discussed and agreed to co-sponsor the screening with the other Somerset County Municipal Alliances.
- **Bernards Township School District Pride Survey**  
The PRIDE Survey was administered in December to Bernards Township 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Response rate was very low due to some confusion surrounding the survey and the COVID-19 Omicron surge. The survey will be readministered in the next school year.
- **Hope & Healing Support programs – Resiliency Workshops**  
Family Support Services in Camden offers statewide resiliency workshops through the FEMA Hope & Healing Support programs. Can offer resiliency workshops to teens and adults. Hoping to partner with the schools. Can also provide resources for seniors.
- **LGBTQ ATOD Prevention Programs – Partners in Prevention/Lindsey Meyer Teen Institute**  
Monies have been encumbered to provide LGBTQ ATOD Trainings to REACH students and a community-wide workshop.
- **Member Ideas**  
Kaitlin Cartoccio encouraged members to come up with ideas they have for programs in the future.

### 5. Subcommittee Discussion

More to be discussed at future meetings, but Colin Lochner mentioned being interested in a Mental Health subcommittee and both MJ Postal and Colin Lochner were interested in working with seniors.



### **Public Comment**

No members of the public.

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

Kaitlin Cartoccio discussed saving the date for two important upcoming events in the spring. Bernards Township's annual Charter Day will be on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> 11am – 5 pm. Members are expected to try and man the booth at some point during the day. The annual Twilight Challenge 5K Fundraiser race will be on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Members are also expected to volunteer for that. Twilight Challenge sign up information and sponsorship information will be out soon.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm

Motion 1) Kaitlin Cartoccio

2) Colin Lochner

Respectfully Submitted,

Kaitlin Cartoccio

*Municipal Alliance Grant Coordinator*