



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

June 7, 2022

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

1. Colin Lochner - Vice Chair, Substance Abuse Representative
2. MJ Postal - Senior Citizen Representative
3. Rebecca Tritt - Ridge High School SAC, School Representative
4. Phil Jasina, Alternate - Bernards Township Police Department
5. Ellen Houlihan - Civic Group Representative
6. Catherine Santaiti - PTO Representative
7. Rabbi Robert Green – Clergy Representative
8. Kaitlin Cartoccio, MAC/Health Department Representative

### **Other Attendees**

1. Susan Visser – Community in Crisis
2. Lucy Forgione – Bernards Township Health Department Health Officer

### **Members Not Attending**

1. Janice Fields - Chair, Township Committee Representative
2. Tracy Baldassare – Bernards Township Police Department
3. Swapna Uradi - Citizen Representative
4. Karen Gray - BOE Representative
5. Xingyue Huang – Citizen Representative
6. Sanjiv Raghupathy - Student Representative
7. Madison Clowes – Student Representative
8. Michele Roberts – Citizen Representative

### **Call to Order**

Colin Lochner called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. All attendees stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Mission Statement**

The Mission Statement was read by Colin Lochner. 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**

No comments

### **Reports**

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

- No report.

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

- No report.

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

- No report.

### **Agenda Items**

#### **1. Youth Services Program Updates**

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

On May 25<sup>th</sup> returned back to Ridge High School for in-person lunchtime table. Good table traffic. Offered a table of fidgets including playdough, fidgets, sour patch kids, REACH stress stars. In honor of Mental Health Awareness Month

##### ***b. Grab and Go Teen Outreach***

Next kit pick up is June 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Will continue into the summer with craft bags. CD wind chimes, design your own sunglasses, and pencil cases.

#### **2. Charter Day Recap**

Good traffic. People seemed to like the free COVID tests, bracelets and other give aways. Water sales were great as it was very hot out. New this year we did a donate to spin, and people were turned off to that. Next year we will go back to asking a question and allowing people to spin for free. Maybe next year try a “Milk Bottle toss” or another game.

#### **3. Twilight Challenge Recap**

4. Overall, everything went really well. Over 170 registered runners. The course itself is a real selling point – so beautiful Need to order more shirts in the future – perhaps put a deadline for size guarantee. Good amount of bananas, ice, and water. Timer needs to have everything printed and hung up for participants. Split snacks and water into 2 snack and water stations. Need a larger Lollipop Race sign. Note in the flyer that awards take place at conclusion of the race.



### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No members of the public present at this time.

### **LOCAL EVENTS / MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE MEMBER COMMENTS:**

None. Members are asked to attend "ATOD & LGBTQ: The Rainbow Connection" starting at 6:30 pm.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm

Motion (1) Kaitlin Cartoccio

(2) Robert Green

Respectfully Submitted,  
Catherine Santaiti  
*Municipal Alliance Secretary*