



Minutes of the Bernards Township Municipal Alliance /Youth Services Commission

January 10, 2023

Mayoral-Appointed Members Attending:

1. Philip Jasina – Bernards Township Police/Chairperson
2. Ellen Houlihan – Civic Group Representative
3. Colin Lochner – Substance Abuse Representative/ Vice Chairperson
4. MJ Postal – Senior Citizen Representative
5. Catherine Santaiti – PTO Representative
6. Rebecca Fritzky – SAC Representative
7. Lily Wong – Citizen Representative
8. Kaitlin Cartoccio – Health Department Representative/Grant Coordinator
9. Andy Lee – Student Representative

Other Attendees:

1. Lucy Forgione – Bernards Township Health Officer
2. Susan Visser – Community in Crisis
3. Ebony Torres – Somerset County Municipal Alliance Coordinator

Members Not Attending:

1. Tracy Baldassare – Bernards Township Police
2. Rabbi Robert Green – Clergy Representative
3. Kathleen Grochala – Township Committee Representative
4. Sanjiv Raghupathy – Student Representative
5. Michele Robertson – Citizen Representative

Call to Order

Kaitlin Cartoccio called the meeting to order at 6pm. 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

Welcome and introductions of all members.

Minutes Approval

A motion was made to approve the minutes from December 6, 2022.

Motion 1) Kaitlin Cartoccio

2) Ellen Houlihan

All in favor, motion carried.

Reports

Somerset County Alliance Coordinator – Ebony Torres

Ebony is the new Somerset County Alliance Coordinator. She introduced herself and her intentions in the position.

Youth Services Commission - Antonietta Phelan

Monica Sprague has left the County and Antonietta Phelan will be filling in. Antonietta was not able to attend tonight.

Community Program Coordinator – (Kaitlin Cartoccio)

Met with LMTI and 8th grade teachers for 8th Grade Empowerment Day – April 3, 2023; Positively Me, RESPECT, and We Like to Party (Diversity Party). Leaning away from drugs and alcohol and toward respect, anti-bullying. Will incorporate substance abuse prevention. Kevin Wanzer will be present. School would like to do smaller class specific components. LMTI would have difficulty accommodating that. Will work out over the next couple of months. REACH students are very excited.

Return of Mental Health First Aid for adults and youth. Still working out details of trainers and logistics.

Susan Visser is also certified and can assist. CIC is hosting an adult training Jan 27 at 9:30am at YMCA.

Agenda Items

1. Welcome New Members

- a. *Kathleen Grochala – Township Committee Liaison*
- b. *Lily Wong – Citizen Representative*
- c. *Ed Rubino – Citizen Representative*
- d. *Andy Lee – Student Representative*

2. Nominations

- a. *Chairperson – Phil Jasina*
- b. *Vice Chairperson – Colin Lochner*



c. *Secretary – Catherine Santaiti*

3. Bernards Township Municipal Alliance & Youth Services Commission Program Refresher

- a. Review of presentation of Municipal Alliances and how funding
- b. Bernards Alliance goals.
- c. Municipal Youth Services Commission – funded by County Commissioners
- d. Alliance funded programs and alliance grants (about \$10K for 2023)
- e. The funding has decreased over the last several years. There are some Municipal Alliances that have regionalized; some smaller alliances are inactive at this time and will need to reapply for funding from county when they are ready. BT MA also welcomes other communities to attend our programs. Virtual programs were achieved by multiple alliances joining together to bring programs to the county.
- f. DMHAS funding
- g. Opioid Abatement Settlement
- h. Youth Services Commission – county fund of about \$9,000 a year.
- i. PROGRAMS: It's 21 for a Reason initiative, REACH, Grab n Go, LMTI, C.O.P.E., Med Drop Drive Through, MA Football Game, Great American Vape (smoke) Out, Twilight Challenge 5K Fundraiser - June 4, 2023. PLEASE SAVE THE DATE TO VOLUNTEER FOR COORDINATING, SET UP, RUN/WALK, AND CLEAN UP!
- j. Evaluation and surveying
- k. Expectations of Member: Attend monthly meetings, participate in events, volunteer for big events CHARTER DAY (5/20/23) and TWILIGHT CHALLENGE; Appointment runs Jan 1 – Dec. 31

4. Youth Services Program Updates

- a. *REACH (Ridge Education Action & Community Health).*
- b. *Viking Yoga – waiting on schedule for spring programming.*
- c. *COPE (Creating Opportunities for Positive Emotions)*

5. Program Recap

- a. *LIKE – Virtual Documentary & Panel Presentation – Thurs, Dec 9th*
200 Participants. Will try to move toward more in person screenings.
- b. *PRIDE Drug Survey at WAMS & RHS – Dec 14th*
Numbers looked good for the survey, should get results in a few weeks.

6. Upcoming Programs – Save the Date!

- a. QPR Training – Suicide Prevention – Jan 18th (In-Person) 10 am -12pm [Flyer](#), Jan 24th (Virtual) 6:30-8:30 pm [Flyer](#)



- b. John Halligan Presentation for Parents @ WAMS -
Will probably be moved due to delay in scheduling.
- c. Race to be Human – Virtual Documentary & Panel Presentation –
February 16, 7 pm
Flying coming soon, please share.
- d. School Phobia, Social Media, Gaming presentation-in the process of
developing with presenter

7. Twilight Challenge 2023 Save the Date - Sunday, June 4, 2023;

Discussion next month for details

Public Comment

None

Local Events/Municipal Alliance Member Comment

The Bernardsville Food Pantry needs a new space about 25' x 25', please let Lucy Forgione. know. They stock all the time and distribute 2 times per month.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at

Motion 1) Kaitlin Cartoccio

2) Ellen Houlihan

Respectfully Submitted,
Catherine Santaiti, *Secretary*