



Minutes of the Bernards Township Municipal Alliance /Youth Services Commission

March 7, 2023

Mayoral-Appointed Members Attending:

1. Ellen Houlihan – Civic Group Representative
2. Catherine Santaiti – PTO Representative
3. Rebecca Fritzky – SAC Representative
4. Lily Wong – Citizen Representative
5. Kaitlin Cartoccio – Health Department Representative/Grant Coordinator
6. Andy Lee – Student Representative
7. Tracy Baldassare – Bernards Township Police

Other Attendees:

1. Susan Visser – Community in Crisis
2. Monica Sprague – Somerset County Youth Services Coordinator

Members Not Attending:

1. Philip Jasina – Bernards Township Police/Chairperson
2. Rabbi Robert Green – Clergy Representative
3. Kathleen Grochala – Township Committee Representative
4. Sanjiv Raghupathy – Student Representative
5. Michele Robertson – Citizen Representative
6. Colin Lochner – Substance Abuse Representative/ Vice Chairperson
7. MJ Postal – Senior 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 to the meeting and thanks to all for attending.

Minutes Approval

No quorum to approve meeting minutes, no minutes for February,

Reports

Somerset County Alliance Coordinator – No report

Youth Services Commission - Monica Sprague is returning from 5 weeks away. Regarding county programs – all welcome.

2 upcoming workshops: March 23, Chris 1.5 Professional Development 1.5 hours; Office of Youth Services Michele Defall.

Regarding Youth Mental Health disparity – nationwide; moving into grant 2023 – 2024 grant cycle will be to address mental health crisis and specifically to aim at younger elementary students. Bernards COPE program is a great model.

RFP Grant available to commissions and charitable organizations from NJ in amount of \$106K; open for proposals for grants for prevention. RFP is vague in who qualifies to apply. Monica to send link to Kaitlin, but due date to apply is March 22 and is likely too tight to apply.

Community Program Coordinator – Kaitlin Cartoccio reported that PRIDE Survey data is in and she is working with Amy at Community in Crisis to analyze data. Board of Education meeting is up in the air as they are busy the next few months. Not sure when we'll present to the public.

Agenda Items

1. Youth Services Program Updates

a. REACH (Ridge Education Action & Community Health). 7 REACH students applied for and received Youth Advisory Council (YAC) positions with the Lindsey Meyer Teen Institute. Youth Summit Day at William Annin Middle School is scheduled for Monday, April 3rd. For 8th graders, one full day on choices, empowerment, surrounding themselves with supportive people. 9 LMTI coordinators and 2-5 REACH students facilitating; MA members are welcome to attend and observe and/ or help coordinate students. Kevin Wanzer also attending. If interested, please let Kaitlin know so that you may be invited as a guest.

b. Viking Yoga – No update, waiting on spring programming.



c. *COPE (Creating Opportunities for Positive Emotions)* – Kaitlin met with Molly Mooney – school counselor at Cedar Hill. She will survey students and teaches to see what's needed to add or resupply the kits with. Looking to add mindfulness board games and curriculum resources from Teachers Pay Teachers.

2. Upcoming Programs – Save the Date!

- a. *QPR Suicide Prevention Training* – April 26th 6:30-8:30 pm **Flyer**
Will also offer in Sept and Oct
- b. *Mega Coffee with a Cop Update* – Phil wants to do a presentation and coffee; Tracy Baldassare is working with businesses in town and may work on setting a date.
- c. *Social Media, Gaming presentation Update* – CIC rescheduled presentation that was supposed to take place in the fall. Dr. Ruston will be doing a Social Media related virtual presentation March 29 6-7pm

3. Twilight Challenge 2023 – Sunday, June 4, 2023

- a. Starbucks Donation Request at Riverwalk or Bernardsville – Ellen to request Cambro of iced coffee.
- b. Ridge Bagel Donation Request – Catherine to reach out.
- c. Need 200 lbs of ice day of race.
- d. Wegmans donates oranges, bananas, gallons of water, water bottles, and dixie cups – Kaitlin requested donation already; Need volunteer to pick up and bring.
- e. Flyer help – need help dropping flyers and posters. At next meeting Kaitlin will bring all materials needed for members to take a packet and hang in different business districts. Members to sign up for specific areas.
- f. Please sign up on SIGN UP GENIUS LINK to help with the day.

Public Comment

None

Local Events/Municipal Alliance Member Comment

No comments,

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at
Motion 1) Ellen Houlihan
2) Lily Wong

Respectfully Submitted,
Catherine Santaiti, *Secretary*