



**Minutes of the Bernards Township
Municipal Alliance/ Youth Services Commission
May 2, 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. Anderson Lee – Student Representative
7. Ed Rubino - Citizen Representative
8. MJ Postal – Senior Citizen Representative
9. Philip Jasina – Bernards Township Police/Chairperson
10. Lucy Forgione - Board of Health
11. Tracy Baldassare – Bernards Township Police
12. Colin Lochner – Substance Abuse Representative/ Vice Chairperson
13. Rabbi Robert Green – Clergy Representative
14. Csilla Csipak – Board of Education

Other Attendees:

1. Susan Visser – Community in Crisis

Members Not Attending:

1. Sanjiv Raghupathy – Student Representative
2. Michele Robertson – Citizen Representative

Call to Order

Philip Jasina called the meeting to order at 6:09pm. All attendees stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mission Statement

The Mission Statement was read by Philip Jasina. 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.



WAIVING OF THE READING OF MINUTES March 7, 2023 - APPROVED

Motion (1) Lily Wong

Motion (2) Phil Jasina

MINUTE APPROVAL – March 7, 2023 - APPROVED

Motion (1) Phil Jasina

Motion (2) Colin Lochner

Staff Comment

Welcome to the meeting and thank you to all in attendance.

Reports

Somerset County Alliance Coordinator (Ebeny Torres) – E. Torres not present. Kaitlin Cartocco provided the following update:

1. Upcoming Programs for County-wide programs will be forwarded by K. Cartocco. All programs are open to Municipal Alliance representatives, but not required.
2. Application for grant funding was submitted to Bernards Township Committee ahead of May 9, 2023 county deadline. Approved by Bernards Township Committee.

Youth Services Commission (Monica Sprague) – M. Sprague Not present. Kaitlin Cartocco provided the following update: Submitting grants for REACH, Viking Yoga, and Cope.

Community Programs Coordinator (Kaitlin Cartoccio)

- Grant applications were approved by Township Committee. Kaitlin to submit to county prior to May 9th.

Agenda Items

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

- a. The band that was booked, Mama Stew, cannot perform at event. One of the band members put Kaitlin in touch with another similar band to perform. Secured for June 4.
- b. We need volunteers for event. Please sign up.
- c. May 23 5-6:30pm virtual volunteer training
- d. T-shirts will be delivered by All Sport.
- e. Timer is all set up and will print results before awards ceremony
- f. Phil Jasina along with BTPD is managing traffic and parking.
- g. Basking Ridge First Aid Squad will be on hand as long as there are no emergencies that call them away.
- h. Bernards Township Maintenance crew will be onsite.
- i. Race Marshals will be out on the course to assist runners if necessary.
- j. 55 people currently signed up. Facebook ad is running. Please promote through member networks online and by word of mouth. Expecting about 100-150 runners.
- k. Will add to Bernards Township calendar.
- l. Andy Lee to confirm volunteer high school photographer. Back up photographer is Lily Wong's husband.
- m. Kaitlin to order yellow tshirts for volunteers to be easily identifiable.
- n. Two aide stations: one with water and one with fruit and granola bars.



- o. Have secured three GOLD sponsors “Mile Marker Sponsors”
- p. Last day for sponsors to commit is on May 12.
- q. Event Schedule is as follows: 3pm Set up begins; 4:30pm Participants begin to arrive for check-in and on-site registration. 5:30pm Health walk begins; 5:45 5K Prerace warm up; 6PM 5K starts; Between 6:30 – 6:45 Lollipop Loop; 7PM Awards Ceremony; 7:15 Clean up.
- r. We need all hands on-deck for set up and clean up
- s. Tuesday, May 30 – 2PM – 4:30 Swag Bag assembly at the Health Building. Please come in to help if you are free.

2. Youth Services Program Updates

- a. *REACH (Ridge Education Action & Community Health)*
 - i. Students will be participating in the Volunteer Activities Fair, Charter Day, LEAD Letters (if possible), and Twilight Challenge.
 - ii. Friday, June 2 – Senior Send Off Picnic for 6 seniors
- b. Viking Yoga – no update
- c. COPE (Creating Opportunities for Positive Emotions) – no update

3. Upcoming Programs – Save the Date!

- a. Youth Mental Health First Aid – May 11th 9 am – 3 pm – CiC Hub, Bernardsville - [Flyer](#)
 - b. Mental Health First Aid – May 18th 9 am – 4:30 pm – BT Library, Basking Ridge – [Flyer](#)
 - c. May 25th QPR Virtual Training – reschedule of the 4/26 training that had technical difficulties and registrants did not receive virtual link.
- 4. Charter Day SignUpGenius was emailed to members. Please sign up for set up, booth shift, and/ or clean up.
 - 5. PRIDE SURVEY Results: working on analyzing data with Community in Crisis. Will send to Board of Ed for review before sending out results to public.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- S. Visser: Are you bringing back “It’s 21 for a Reason”? Kaitlin: Waiting for PRIDE Survey Data and to update program to include marijuana.

LOCAL EVENTS / MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE MEMBER COMMENT

- Tracy Baldassare: Is Addiction.Org contacting MA regarding their “Parents’ Guide to Talking to Kids About Fentanyl” Kaitlin: No. We have our own local resources. Not certain of Addiction.org source and validity.
- Safe Communities organization had planned a Fentanyl Awareness documentary and Narcan training just prior to COVID. They are working on an updated program.
- Community in Crisis provides virtual Narcan training. Participants receive a free Narcan kit.
- Phil Jasina: Please note that one dose of Narcan is no longer effective. Need 2-3 doses to stabilize until medics arrive.
- May 16: Coffee with a Cop at Just Ride Along at 7:30am – 10am.

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 7:52p.m.



Motion (1) Phil Jasina
(2) *Tracy Baldassare*

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Santaiti, *Secretary*