

**Minutes of the Bernards Township Municipal Alliance/Youth Services  
Commission  
December 3, 2019**

**Mayoral-Appointed Members Attending**

Kaitlin Cartoccio, Vice-Chair, Health Department Representative  
Linda Wooldridge, BOE Representative  
MJ Postal, Senior Citizen Representative  
Cathy Phillips, Substance Abuse Representative  
Audrey West, Student Representative  
Amy Stem, William Annin Middle School SAC, School Representative  
Johnny Graves, Clergy Representative  
Laurie Albee, Citizen Representative  
Alex Timoney, Student Representative

**Other Attendees**

Lucy Forgione, Bernards Township Health Department  
Jennifer Korn, BOE  
Monica Sprague, Youth Services Commission  
Todd Edelstein  
Grace Ambrozy, Ridge student  
Emma Albee, Ridge student  
Caroline Leonard, Ridge student  
William Leonard

**Members Not Attending**

Joan Harris, Chair, Township Committee Representative  
Swapna Uradi, PTO Representative  
Tracy Baldassare, Bernards Township Police Department  
Katy Soulas, Civic Group Representative  
Zoe Pettit, Citizen Representative  
Cindy Fleischer, Citizen Representative

**Call to Order**

Kaitlin Cartoccio called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. All attendees stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Mission Statement**

Welcome and reading of the Mission Statement 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.

## **Minute Approval**

Alex Timoney made a motion to approve the minutes from October 8, 2019. Audrey West seconded. The minutes were approved.

## **Reports**

**Somerset County Alliance Coordinator** – The RFA for 2020-21 was submitted in November. Every Municipal Alliance in Somerset County had its funding cut by 20 -- 50%. Bernards Township Municipal Alliance had its funding cut by \$2600 -- \$3000. However, 21 for a Reason was approved. Only evidence-based programs were approved.

**Youth Services Commission** – Monica Sprague introduced herself to the group. She is a former teacher and an advocate for children and families.

**Community Programs Coordinator** – Kaitlin Cartoccio, Amy Stem, and several other school district employees recently attended a presentation by Michael DeLeon called "Vaping Me Crazy." The topic was preventing youth vaping.

## **Agenda Items**

### **Grant Coordinator Update**

Hackensack Meridian Health has started a Take Vape Away grant program to help stop youth vaping. Kaitlin Cartoccio worked with Mr. Markarian, Mr. Kraus, Ms. Hudock, Ms. Smith and Ms. Stem on three grant applications (\$7,000 each). The grants are for Ridge, William Annin, and the Bernards Township Health Department.

Eighteen people participated in Safe Talk on November 2.

The November 13 presentation, "What Are You Really Vaping," was recorded. Kaitlin will edit the video and post it on the Municipal Alliance website. Mr. Markarian has also requested the video.

RAAD had its annual "RAADsgiving" party.

### ***Upcoming Events***

Youth Mental Health First Aid – December 4, 2019

Screenagers Next Chapter – January 23, 2020. Movie at 6:30 pm in the Ridge PAC. Presentation to follow.

### **RISE Update**

The next meeting is on December 5. Mrs. Hudock and Mr. Lederer will attend. The students want to play music in the gym to promote wellness. They are working with United Way on school culture and climate.

**RHS Booth**

There was discussion about ways to address student stress at school. Ms. Stem suggested a booth to support Character Strong, a new program at Ridge.

**Twilight Challenge**

This event will be held on Sunday, June 7, 2020.

**Mental Health**

Stigma Free Communities is a GCADA-approved program.

**Adjournment of Regular Meeting – 6:55 pm****Official Adjournment Following Harassment Training – 7:21 pm**

Linda Wooldridge made a motion to adjourn. Amy Stem seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wooldridge