

**Minutes of the Bernards Township Municipal Alliance /Youth Services Commission  
June 8, 2021**

**Mayoral-Appointed Members Attending**

Joan Harris, Chair, Township Committee Representative  
Kaitlin Cartoccio, Vice Chair, Health Department Representative  
Jennifer Korn, BOE Representative  
MJ Postal, Senior Citizen Representative  
Rebecca Tritt, Ridge High School SAC, School Representative  
Madison Clowes, Student Representative  
Phil Jasina, Bernards Township Police Department  
Robert Green – Clergy Representative  
Catherine Santiati, PTO Representative  
Ellen Houlihan, Civic Group Representative

**Other Attendees**

Amy Lewis, Westfield/Chatham Municipal Alliance  
Todd Edelstein, Member of the public

**Members Not Attending**

Monica Sprague, Youth Services Commission  
Jennifer Sorenson, Somerset County Alliance Coordinator  
Cathy Phillips, Substance Abuse Representative  
Swapna Uradi, PTO Representative  
Cindy Fleischer, Citizen Representative (BRMA)  
Alex Timoney, Student Representative  
Tracy Baldassare, Bernards Township Police Department

**Call to Order**

Kaitlin Cartoccio called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM. 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**

Kaitlin thanked everyone for their patience. It has been an incredibly busy year for the health department and Kaitlin can not wait to get back to planning other activities very soon.

**Minutes Approval**

No Minutes

## Reports

### Somerset County Alliance Coordinator – (Jennifer Sorenson)

- No Report

### Youth Services Commission –(Monica Sprague)

- No new report

### Community Program Coordinator – (Kaitlin Cartoccio)

- \$8,474 in funding from 7/2021-6/2022 (grant)
- Less money than usual because of the lower DETER collections and others programs get money before the Municipal Alliance.
- We should still be able to do out programming even with the anticipation of being able to offer more in-person
- There is still some money that was saved from previous years and can be used for the Twilight Challenge next year.

## Agenda Items

### 1. REACH (Ridge Education Action & Community Health)

- Last meeting of the school year is on Thursday June 10
- 5 Seniors Graduating
- LMTI – will happen this summer in two forms:
- Hybrid – 1 day in-person summit then virtual (\$400.00)
- All virtual option - \$250.00(same amount as scholarship)
- 50-60 nomination letters were sent out to 8<sup>th</sup> graders. There were 20-30 responses (many more than the usual 10). Kaitlin is setting up 20 informational meetings with parents
- There is \$2000-\$2500 in scholarships, plus the past 5-6 years we have won scholarship awards from LTMI
- There are 5 YACS (Youth Advisory Counsel) and One CAT (College Age TI Staff) so far as well as 4-5 returning students
- Grab and Go Tean Outreach (see Flyer)
- Next pickup is June 9-10 (Beaded Lizards, no zoom)
- Last pickup was the end of May (DIY bouncy balls), 40 kits were picked up and 10 students participated in the zoom follow up.
- An in-person summer activity is being planned (Kaitlin ordered 7 sets of 25 pillowcases). The activity will be tie dye pillowcases.
- The program has been very successful, and all have enjoyed the crafts.

### 2. Fall Program Ideas

- Minding your mind – came to Empowerment Day, better fit for a speaker at school.
- QPR Training (Suicide Prevention)
- This is Quitting (vape)
- Use Take Vape Away grant
- Create posters to post around school (RHS)
- many more resources available now, Use QR code that can be scanned and list the resources

### **3. Subcommittees Update – Joan Harris**

- RHS Booth –No Updates
- Fundraising/Twilight Challenge –Can we do something in the fall? Kaitlin thought going back to the regular schedule would be best (June 5, 2022), with the beginning of the school year it would be too hectic.
- Mental Health –Ross Farm does not want to partner with outside groups until 2022– will try to plan for May 2022.

### **Public Comment**

- Todd Edelstein – Just out of the hospital and turned down the Percocet, but it was sent to the pharmacy for him anyway. He told the Dr. that they should be giving the least amount of medication as possible.
- Family member relapsed after being given pain meds during a medical procedure. There should be a med alert bracelet to warn Drs.
- Mr. Edelstein wanted to know if we could get the word out to doctors, to only prescribe the minimal meds necessary.
- The town finally zoned against any marijuana being sold, grown or cultivated in town, although they can't control deliveries.
- Thought we might have to look for alternative funding because of the anticipated decline in drug arrests.

### **Local Events/Municipal Alliance Member Comment**

- MJ – Tell your doctor you are allergic to the drug, and it will be put in your medical history, so they will not give you the drug
- Joan Harris- there are better laws now that limit the amount of opioids that can be prescribed by a doctor. There are many more safeguards today.
- Kaitlin – In regard to the DEDR funding, the County Coordinator wrote a letter to the state pointing out that the money is not shared fairly and that should change
- Although we should still be able to offer the same number of services.
- Phil- DETER collections are at a all time low because of the hands-off approach from police so there is less money to go around.
- Rebecca – Talked about Tim Schumaker and the Take Vape Away grant for RHS – we have access to all his virtual programming.
- MJ – Mentioned that she thought LTMI was out greatest program.
- Kaitlin – Shouted out to the 5 seniors graduating from the program
- Alex Timoney, who was on her way to the National Rowing Competition, is going to TUFTs as a Poly Sci major.
- Along with Abby Phillips, Ryan Duffy, David Hilferty and Andrew White
- Next meeting is September 7, 2021 – In-Person

### **Adjournment –6:52**

Motion 1-MJ Postal

2-Kaitlin Cartoccio

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jen Korn