



## Join Together Atlantic County

Virtual Zoom Meeting - November 10, 2020

11:00am – 1pm

### Attendance/Sectors & Agencies Represented:

Youth:

Parents:

Law Enforcement: Lindsay Komar (HopeOne/AC LEAD, Atl. Cnty Sheriff's Depart)

Govt Agency: Jen Pielhau (Atl. Cnty Municipal Alliance); Sofia Noncent-Johnson (NJDCFS/CSOC)

School:

Youth Service Org: John Roy (Cape Atlantic INK/CMO)

Healthcare: Scott Gras & Lisa Celebre (AtlantiCare); Shannon Burke (Shore Medical Center)

Religious/Fraternal Org.:

Business: Ben Goldman (Recovery Centers of America)

Media:

Civic/Volunteer:

Other Org.: Sean Kolins (Seabrook), Ken Litwak (800 Gambler); Jody Fernandez (Southern NJ Perinatal Cooperative), Rachel Campbell (SJ AIDS Alliance)

Staff: Laurie Smith; Amber Cutano; Brian Wilson; Bob Zlotnick; Kathy McFadden (JTAC/APR)

Guest/Other: Ryan Teddy Palmer (NJPN)

**Introductions/Minutes:**

Laurie opened the meeting, welcomed the attendees and introductions were made.

Minutes from the July meeting were approved via email, there were no minutes from the September meeting because it was the coalition retreat with Kym Laube's presentation.

**Internal Coalition Business/Grant Updates:**

Coalition Communication- Amber is doing the newsletter quarterly, if anyone ever has anything to add, please let her know. Laurie will continue to send the JTAC Updates/Member News email on Thursdays.

Coalition Chairperson- The coalition is looking to fill the chairperson position to conduct the meetings and sign documents for grant renewals. If you are interested or would like to nominate someone, please contact Laurie.

Drug Free Communities (DFC) and CARA (opioid prevention) grants – Both were a part of the SAMHSA and have now been transferred to the CDC. Coalition operations remain the same.

STOP ACT (underage drinking prevention) – Still a SAMHSA grant, only one year left for the grant.

Opiate Athlete Grant – This is a state grant that focuses on athletes and the misuse of opiates, we will report on that grant later in the meeting.

**Cape Atlantic Bridge Coalition (CAB):**

This is a state grant that we have in collaboration with Cape May County and the last meeting was on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Under this grant we offered two 3-day trainings to help build school resiliency teams in Atlantic/Cape May counties. We had over 430 people in attendance (teachers, administrators, nurses, etc.) and we will have a 1-day follow up in January/February but are still unsure whether or not this will be able to be done in-person. We are hosting two parent resiliency workshops, one this Friday and the other one on December 11<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Lori Desautels and Michael McKnight are the presenters for these resiliency workshops, the parent workshops will focus on parenting during COVID and helping youth in the virtual learning environment. Laurie sent the flier for these workshops out with the Thursday email, feel free to share it. The Handle with Care program has already been implemented in Cape May County and has now been adopted statewide. This program requires that if children are involved in a police call (domestic violence, overdose, etc.) the police must send a notice to the school district to handle this child with care. This is to help school staff understand that if a student is misbehaving, falling asleep, etc. there is a reason why and to handle them with care. Every police department will be trained to learn how to deal with Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) and the hope is that this will be extended to emergency responders and hospital staff as well.

**Partnership for Success (PFS):**

This is a state grant that we work on together with the Children's Inter-Agency Coordinating Council and Children's System of Care (CSOC). We will be holding a half day conference on December 9<sup>th</sup> "Building A Resilient Community". We will be having several presenters for this conference, Michael McKnight from the NJ Dept. of Education will be covering trauma, Kym Laube from HUGS, Inc. will be presenting on risk and protective factors, Chief Chris Leusner will be presenting on the Handle with Care program and Natalia Leusner, Cape Assist and Laurie will be presenting on school resiliency teams. There will also be a viewing of the documentary Resilience. Under this grant, we are also working with the New Jersey Prevention Network creating a toolkit that will include information on ACE's and best practices.

**Stand Up and Rebel (SUAR)/Incorruptible.Us:**

Stand Up and Rebel / Incorporruptible.Us is gearing up for the Great American Smokeout on November 19th. The event will be completely virtual on the @Incorruptible.Atlantic Instagram pages -- as well as across all county Incorporruptible.Us Instagram Pages. The countdown to the Great American Smokeout began on Monday November 9th, and interactive posts and stories will be featured through November 19th. General SUAR meetings are still happening virtually through Zoom, with additional virtual school-based meetings once a month. We have continued doing our Sticker Shock events and will be doing another one for the upcoming holidays. We will have SUAR groups place sticker on bags and then distribute the bags to liquor stores in the county to use around the holiday to communicate the penalties for providing alcohol to underage persons. One of the SUAR students designed artwork to promote the program and we had it turned into a billboard. The billboard is on the Black Horse Pike in Egg Harbor Township right before Storybook Land heading towards Atlantic City.

**Opioid Task Force:**

Naloxone Trainings – Urban Treatment is still providing free trainings. Hope One is doing outreach 3 days and 2 nights a week and are doing trainings whenever they are out. They are also doing them for sober living houses and are looking to start training police/fire/EMT's soon. As of right now, the county is on hold because funding was cut for the municipal alliances but they are waiting to hear back about transferring these trainings to be done under Chapter 51 funding instead. SJ Aids Alliance is also offering trainings to those who are actively using and have given out 1,033 kits so far this year. Bunting Family Pharmacy participated in the free giveaway day throughout the state but only distributed about a dozen free kits. It seems like the demand has lessened now that there are more avenues to distribute Narcan. Assemblyman Armato is part of legislation that will require physicians to prescribe Narcan to anyone who is being prescribed an opioid.

Hope One/AC LEAD – The AC LEAD program has continued however things are slow due to COVID. Hope One is out 2 nights and 3 days each week doing outreach and providing services. They have been focusing on sober living houses and getting temporary ID's for residents. Their Hopesgiving event was rescheduled for Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at City Center Park in Atlantic City starting at 10:00 a.m. and Tony Luke's donated 150 sandwiches for the event. Laurie will send the updated flier with the Thursday email.

Overdose Fatality Review Team (OFRT) – Atlantic County Dept. of Health, Atlantic City Health Dept., and 16 other health departments in New Jersey received grants to do a social autopsy of overdose decedents to determine any gaps and use that information to make recommendations for policy changes. This is only a one-year grant but the hope is that it will be available for additional years. The county is currently working on how to implement the program and will be sending letters with more information to anyone who sent a letter of support once some additional paperwork is completed.

Opioid Radio Town Hall Meeting – We held an Opioid Radio Town Hall Meeting on October 13<sup>th</sup> on Harry Hurley in the Morning. Dr. Bob Zlotnick and Harry Hurley moderated the meeting and the guest speakers were Chief Bruce DeShields, Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office, Scott Gras, AtlantiCare STARS Program, Angela Conover, Partnership for a Drug-Free NJ and Laurie Smith, Join Together Atlantic County/Atlantic Prevention Resources. The panel discussed updated statistics relating to opioids and overdoses and different programs relating to opioids at the state and county levels. This town hall meeting replaced the

one that we were planning to hold in March with Shore Medical Center. The March town hall had to be cancelled due to the pandemic and we are hoping to reschedule something similar with Shore Medical Center in 2021.

Opiate Athlete - Under the Opiate Athlete Grant, we had an in-person event planned for May with Shore Medical Center that had to be postponed so we are planning a pre-recorded presentation for athletes, athletic directors and parents. Sgt. Cugini, Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office, Joe Bunting, Bunting Family Pharmacy and a couple others will be doing presentations and we will be posting it on our YouTube channel and sharing it with school athletic departments, municipalities, and parents. We have also been running ads in Glory Days magazine about properly securing and disposing of medications.

### **Interventions/Updates:**

Pharmacy/Veterinarian/Hospice Outreach – Brian visited pharmacies and veterinarian offices in the county and asked them to sign a pledge form stating they support the program and will do their part in helping to educate their customers about properly securing and disposing of their medication. The majority of the pharmacies and veterinarians signed the pledge. During his visits, Brian gave out magnets, rack cards, and posters with information about properly securing and disposing of medications to both pharmacies and veterinarians. Free Deterra was also offered to be distributed to patients and customers. Hospice agencies continually reach out for Deterra and locking medicine cabinets. We distributed close to 4,000 Deterra bags over the summer.

Prescription Drop Boxes – While Brian was doing his outreach to pharmacies, he communicated to the smaller ones that we would be interested in having drop boxes installed at their locations. Brian was able to work with Joe Bunting, Bunting Family Pharmacy, and have a drop box installed there in September. JTAC purchased the box and the first four liners. In the future Bunting Family Pharmacy will be responsible for purchasing the liners. These drop boxes are different from the police department boxes because they also accept liquids and creams. Brian has also been in contact with the Hamilton Township Police Department because they are one of the last police department in the county to get a permanent drop box installed. The box has been purchased and the township is working on the back end to get the DEA approvals and waivers taken care of. There are roughly 24 boxes installed in the county.

Deterra/Locking Medicine Cabinets – Deterra and locking medicine cabinets have been replenished so reach out to Brian or Laurie if you need either one and they can set up a contactless pick up.

Middle School PSA Contest – Contest winner were announced in July. The winner was Emma Mattson from the Galloway Township Middle School and Emma's artwork was turned into a billboard. The billboard is located on the White Horse Pike in Egg Harbor City, heading into Hammonton.

Parent Presentations –We held several parent presentations back in May and have an underage drinking one scheduled for December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 p.m. We are offering two resiliency trainings on November 13<sup>th</sup> and December 11<sup>th</sup> and we have a pre-recorded 15-minute child break available that can be provided to parents until January 31<sup>st</sup>. We will also be doing pre-recorded opiate and athlete prevention presentations for parents.

We Check for 21 – This year we did a pre-recorded virtual presentation for bartenders and servers, we shared the presentation with the Cape May County Health Department for their establishments. The recording was available on our website to view for the month of July and we had 379 unique views.

TIPS Training – We offered two sessions last week but due to a low number of registrations we rescheduled for December 2<sup>nd</sup>. We think the low registration number was due in part to restaurant closures due to COVID-19 exposures.

Marijuana Town Hall Meeting – On August 11<sup>th</sup> Bob Zlotnick and Harry Hurley moderated a marijuana radio town hall meeting. Bob spoke along with Diane Litterer of the New Jersey Prevention Network Will Jones of Smart Approaches to Marijuana.

Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day – October 6<sup>th</sup> was Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day and it was held mostly virtually this year. We sent out social media information to JTAC members, faith-based leaders, athletic directors/coaches and healthcare providers for them to share on their social media pages. We had 12 municipalities in Atlantic County sign proclamations to recognize the day and Carlo had two SUAR students attend Buena Vista Township's meeting to speak about what our youth coalition is doing in the county. When we send out our physician mailing, we will be including the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey's prescriber guide.

#### **Tobacco Update:**

Working Well - Are you looking for a new & fresh networking opportunity?? Join us virtually on zoom November 17th! Meet other businesses who are working to create a healthy and safe worksite. Discuss your challenges and successes and get to know what other businesses around New Jersey are doing. -Register here <https://njpn.zoom.us/j/91234567890>

A smoke free housing pledge is being created. Information will be found on TFHNJ's newsletter coming out this Monday feel free to reach out and join the email list to receive the newsletter.

Smoke Free AC- -All Atlantic City casinos are currently smoke free. A smoke free casino regional involvement group has been developed. Please visit/like/share our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SmokefreeAC> and view our comedy show at <https://youtu.be/AJTFXwwri1I>

Quit Center - The Atlantic Quit Center currently has 4 groups running throughout the week and is also seeing clients individually. Will be distributing information into the community for the Great American Smokeout. We are currently doing groups via zoom with JBRC clients. Counselors are available to do presentations to groups via zoom, and can add additional groups/individuals at this time. All counseling is being done via Telehealth.

#### **New Business:**

Stockton Service Learning Class – Started in September and is going well, it is being done virtually through Zoom. There are about 16 students who are split into 5 groups. The five groups are working on the following projects: 1) Researching colleges and universities across the country and putting together a toolkit for sober activities 2) Positive parenting messaging and the importance of family time 3) Drugged driving awareness campaign for December 4) Above the Influence campaign to raise awareness through social media outlets 5) Stigma free campus campaign. All groups have to do an

article about their project for the online college newspaper, Argo. They will be recording their radio PSA's at the Stockton radio station and we will have the recordings available to send to the radio stations. One student is bilingual so he is going to translate one of the PSA's to be aired in Spanish as well.

Radio PSA's – We are running an underage drinking ad for October, November and December. In addition to the underage drinking ad, in October, we ran an ad for the consequences of marijuana use. Starting next week, we will be running an ad specifically for JTAC and in December which is drugged driving month, an ad will focus on drugged and drunk driving.

Physician Mailing – We are sending out a letter to physicians in the county and will be including PFDNJ's prescriber guide, CRAFFT questionnaire for underage drinking, tobacco information and information on properly securing and disposing of medications. We are hoping to get this packet out next week to pediatricians and any physicians who prescribe opioids.

Faith Based – On November 16<sup>th</sup> Amber and Brian will be hosting a meeting for faith-based leaders in the county to try to reconnect and build on partnering with them. Emails and letters were sent out to all faith based leaders in the county. If you know anyone who would be interested, please share the information with them or contact Amber or Brian.

Marijuana Legalization – Marijuana legalization was passed so it can be added to the state constitution and legalized. The Governor announced his regulatory commission the day after the election but said it could take up to a year until everything is finalized. On Friday at 4 p.m., Kevin Sabet, Smart Approaches to Marijuana, will be covering important issues relating to marijuana legalization including potency levels and municipal ordinances that can be enacted (grow facilities, content regulations, etc.). Laurie was already contacted by a town about ordinances that can be passed relating to marijuana. We will be looking into working with municipalities in our county for these types of ordinances. There is a statewide epidemiology workgroup (SEOW) that Laurie will be a part of, as it relates to marijuana and she will share that information as it becomes available.

Oregon Decriminalization – Oregon passed legislation to decriminalize small amounts of all drugs including heroin, meth, cocaine, etc. The coalition Prevention Is Key (PIK) is holding a workshop covering the Portugal model which is a similar approach to legalizing all drugs.

### **Upcoming Events/Announcements/Information:**

Recovery Centers of America – Ben Goldman reported they are working on rolling out new programs, and starting a gambling track next month. The Raritan Bay location in South Amboy had their first admit in December 2019 and it has really taken off, they just started their faith program, which will be coming to this location next. They also have a trauma program called Breaking Free, and Evolutions is a program for older adults. They have a first responders program starting up at both locations. Things have been difficult with COVID but they are still screening everyone on the front end and holding them in an isolated unit until they receive a negative test result and then they are moved in with the rest of the clients (detox, residential, etc.). They have some CE events that Ben has been sharing. On November 21<sup>st</sup> they are offering their first virtual Seeds to Recovery program for people affected by substance use disorder. This program is a family support program, and it helps educate people and provide hope.

800 Gambler – Ken Litwak informed the group the 30-hour gambling training has changed and is now being offered virtually for free for NJ residents, non-residents pay a fee. Contact Ken to get the link for this training. This training isn't just a power point presentation but you will have access to interviews of experts in gambling from across the country, research articles, websites, videos, etc. This is the first virtual training being offered in the country and is approved by the New Jersey Certification Board for CEU's and the International Gambling Counselor Certification Board. You do not need to be a counselor to do the training. Ken is working on a certificate to get the first credential in New Jersey for video game counseling. He will need to do some trainings for this and is available virtually or in-person for anyone interested.

Atlantic Prevention Resources (APR) – Kathy shared a flier for the Achieving Personal Balance (APB) program that they will be beginning on November 16<sup>th</sup>. This program is Stanford University, to help individuals who are serving or have served in the military on how to deal with stress. This particular one is for woman and is funded through the New Jersey Prevention Network. They are still working on specific day and time but it looks like it will be on Wednesdays from 4-5:30/6. They are also looking to start a men's group with ENPHRONT in Atlantic City for homeless vets. There are still openings available in both groups so if you know anyone who would be interested, please contact Kathy McFadden. Kathy will send fliers for both programs to Laurie to send out with the Thursday email. All of the other APR programs are school based. They are currently looking to do another Strengthening Families Program at the end of November for Atlantic City and Pleasantville under a Dept. of Health grant.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. Laurie will email 2021 Meeting Dates to everyone, they will continue the second Tuesday of every other month unless there is a holiday. Meetings will remain virtual for now, hopefully back to in-person in May.

Motion to adjourn meeting 1<sup>st</sup> Ken Litwak 2<sup>nd</sup> Sofia Noncent-Johnson, Meeting Adjourned