

Join Together Atlantic County (JTAC) Meeting

March 16, 2015

New Day Family Success Center
622 - 624 New York Road, Galloway, NJ 08205

Attendance/Sectors & Agencies Represented:

Youth:

Parents: Gineen DeMari , Laurinda Hendrix

Law Enforcement:

Govt Agency: Rhonda Fitzgerald (Atlantic City Health Department), Lily Britton (DMHAS), Heather Green (Atlantic County Division of Public Health)

School:

Youth Service Org: Brittany Sheridan (EHTHS Teen Center), Kathryn Saxton-Granato (CIACC)

Healthcare: Joia DeStephano (Shore Medical Center, Cape Atlantic Coalition for Health)

Religious/Fraternal Org.:

Business: Michael DiMarco (Behavioral Crossroads Recovery LLC)

Media: Bill Lynskey (Glory Days Magazine), Robert Salvato (Recovery Life Radio), Claude Gandy (Recovery Life Radio)

Civic/Volunteer:

Other Org.: John Straughn (Atlantic County TRY-IT), Anna Mullins (Hope All Day Recovery Center)

Staff: Laurie Smith, Bob Zlotnick, Kathy McFadden, Brian Wilson

Guest/Other: Dillon Cort, Aimee Gawroniak, Cassandra Shea, Louis Muzyka, Samantha Munoz, Cherie Sloan, Kelsey Bent, Riley Gerne, Dean Jones (Stockton University Students)

Introductions/Minutes

Minutes: Were reviewed from the previous meeting. Motion to approve minutes – 1st Gineen DiMari, 2nd Laurinda Hendrix

Internal Coalition Business:

CACDA Coalition Academy – The training is down in Gulfport Mississippi for three separate weeks throughout the year. The training is during the weeks of January 11th, April 12th and July 6th. Laurie will be attending all three of the weeks. Brian Wilson attended the first week in January with Laurie. If anyone is interested in attending one of the other two weeks, contact Laurie. She indicated that if member chooses to attend they wouldn't have to stay the entire week, but instead they could go until the end of class on Wednesday.

NJIH - Kathy and Bob decided not going to apply for this grant. The first year of the grant would have required members to attend a week training and the grant was non-specific in requirements of interventions.

Committees:

Laurie would like all 4 of these groups to meet within the next month and to report back to the group at the next JTAC meeting which will be in May.

Membership Committee – Kathy said the membership training in January was successful, attendees included municipal alliance members. The next membership training will be at our meeting in May and Lori Singley will be presenting.

Marketing Committee – Bill Lynskey from Glory Days explained the purpose of Glory Days Magazine, to highlight local high school sports and related topics. Many students, parents and the public view this free publication that can be found at Wawa and other stores with newsstands. It is in over seventy different locations. JTAC currently has an ad in Glory Days about prescription drug abuse and proper disposal.

Program Committee –

Finance Committee –

CADCA National Leadership Forum:

CADCA National Leadership Forum was held February 2nd through the 5th. Laurie attended this training along with Bill Lynskey. Bill discussed his experience at the conference and how amazed he was at the diversity of the attendees and the topics covered. In his position at Glory Days he doesn't get to see a lot of the different issues that surround us in our community. This event did a great job at exposing him to the many issues from suicide to substance abuse and how to combat these issues. There were many nationally known experts as well as policy makers. On Capitol Hill day Laurie and Bill were able to meet with Senator Menendez staff and with Congressmen Frank LoBiondo.

August is the mid-year CADCA training in Minneapolis

Regional Coalition grant:

Cape Atlantic Bridge Coalition Meeting was held on February 25th at the Ocean City Library. The following topics were discussed:

Senate No. 2366 – Will require healthcare providers to inform their patient of the potential risk of developing a physical and or psychological dependence of the controlled dangerous substance before prescribing and also informing them of alternative treatments that may be available to them.

Opiate Helpline – Mental Health Association of New Jersey has setup a helpline specific for opiate addiction. NJ Connect is a free confidential call line, the number is (855) 652-3737.

Coalition to legalize marijuana – There is a grassroots coalition in New Jersey that is gaining momentum pushing for the legalization of marijuana. NJPN contacted APR to see if we heard of any protest in the southern portion of the state. As of now we haven't seen any sort of protest or coalition activities in support of legalization of marijuana. JTAC members are encouraged to keep an eye out for any similar activity.

Marijuana schedule change – There has been a recent movement to have marijuana removed from the schedule 1 controlled dangerous substance category. Members discussed their thoughts on these issues.

Interventions/Updates

Stockton Service Learning

This semester the Stockton University Drug and Alcohol Peer Educator Service Learning class are once again helping with many different JTAC projects. There are 5 groups with 7 students in each group and an additional group from another class with 2 students participating. The groups all sent a representative today to discuss their projects and one group will be giving a presentation at the end of the media on current social media sites.

Town and Gown Relations – Help reduce advertising and encourage policy change with advertisements pertaining to alcohol. They are conducting an advertisement scan around Atlantic County, researching local laws/regulations for advertising and then will reach out to local municipalities to help curb and or reduce alcohol advertisements.

Reaching out to non-college peers – Goal is to figure out where 18-25 non college young adults are working and socializing and how to target them for different substance abuse prevention education events.

Natural Helpers – Is responsible for the overnight Lock-in for SUAR high school students which will take place at Stockton University 7:00pm Saturday-7:00am Sunday on March 21st -22nd. They will conduct many fun activities for the high school students that will focus on substance abuse prevention/education.

Youth Summit – Group will be conducting a workshop throughout the day during the April 21st youth summit held at Stockton University. Their workshop will be repeated 6 times and entails substance abuse questions and answers that will be inside balloons that teams will race to pop and match up the question with the correct answer.

Social Media – Group will give a presentation to JTAC members about popular social media sites. This group is also responsible for overseeing “Above the Influence” pages on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for JTAC. They will continually post and update these sites and help increase “likes, and followers”.

Drop/box – This is a smaller group of Stockton students from a separate class that will assist with the permanent prescription drop boxes. They are also editing the design of a sticker to be placed on pharmacy bags as well a flier to post at pharmacies.

12 Steps Support Groups for Youth: STEPS Support Group/Transportation - At this time the STEPS Group is no longer meeting. Dennis who was helping to coordinate this group is no longer with Atlantic Prevention Resources. However, Jake Straughn and Dawn Belamarich are working on this and are trying to get it back up and running. Jake believes having Hope All Day involved will help make it a success.

Marijuana Presentation – Kevin Sabet will be presenting at Stockton University on April 23rd from 4:30 to 6:30 in the Campus Center Theatre. Kevin Sabet is the Director, Drug Policy Institute and Assistant Professor, University of Florida College of Medicine, Division of Addiction Medicine, Department of Psychiatry President, Policy Solutions Group, Inc. He is the author of “Refer Sanity” and will be discussing the myths surrounding marijuana. This is a free event and is open to the public.

Prescription Monitoring Program –As of March 1st 2015 the New Jersey Prescription Drug Monitoring Program requires pharmacist to report prescription on a daily basis. We have sent out information to area doctors/dentist informing them of the program and where to find more information.

Drop Boxes – JTAC purchased six permanent prescription lock boxes with the goal of getting them into local police departments so that residents have a place to dispose of their unused or expired prescription medication. Many local police department have already showed interest and have contacted us. Brian has a meeting with Hamilton Twp. this week to get them started with the process. Each department will need a waiver from the DEA. Some other departments that have shown interest they we will be pursuing are Pleasantville, Galloway, Stockton, Mullica, Somers Point and Absecon.

Police Brochure – We have created a substance abuse resource guide brochure for the EHT Police department with EHT logo on front. In the brochure there is contact information for many different inpatient, outpatient, detox, and adolescent treatment facilities. There are also hotlines other related issues. This allows the police department to successfully help point people in the right direction. We are also having the brochure made with Atlantic County Association of Chiefs of Police logo on the front for all departments to have and to distribute.

Do No Harm physician training – Partnership for a Drug Free NJ would like to offer this event in Atlantic County in June.

Stand Up And Rebel (SUAR) youth coalition

Sticker Shock - was held on March 11th at multiple liquor stores throughout EHT.

Great American Smoke Out –1,200 pinwheels in front of Egg Harbor Township High School

Natural Helpers Lock-in - to be held the night of March 21st into the morning of March 22nd 7pm until 7am. There will be roughly 40 SUAR high school students that will spend the night at Stockton University where service learning students will have activities throughout the night geared toward substance abuse education and prevention utilizing the Natural Helpers Program.

Youth Summit – Youth Summit will be held at Stockton University on April 21st. Many area high schools will send students to participate throughout the day in multiple workshops. JTAC member’s encouraged to come out to see the event and to volunteer.

Social Media Presentation - Presented a general overview of current social media sites, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Reddit and Vine. They showed us how to set up and use. They also discussed the social norms within these social media sites.

Upcoming events/Announcements/Information

Behavioral Crossroads-Outpatient detox/withdrawal management program is running smoothly. Provides short term medication assisted detoxification. This program is available in Egg Harbor Township and Turnersville locations.

Hope All Day- HopeFest – Recovery rally and music festival that will take place on Memorial Day weekend May 22-24th and will be at the Hope All Day Recovery center on 600 S. Odessa Ave. in Galloway Twp. Single day and weekend passes available. Games, vendors, live music, local food, crafts and speakers. You can purchase tickets online at www.hopefest.camp

Hope All Day M.O.M.S Group –Is a group bringing moms together who are in recovery. This group meets every Wednesday from 10am until 11am at Hope All Day.

Discussion group – Is a meditation/discussion group that meets on Sundays from 2:30pm until 4pm at Hope All Day. Meetings are anonymous and confidential.

Yoga – Great addition to recovery. Beginner levels yoga, all ages welcome yoga mats provided if needed.

CASA-Aging Out Day – March 18th, 2015 9am until 3pm at Atlantic Cape Community College Youth ages 14-21. Find out about support for college and trade schools, careers and military opportunities as well as other resources and services.

Atlantic County -Summer Jobs -Atlantic County is hiring for summer help ages 17-21. This is for part-time employment up to 25 hours per week. This will begin on May 1st through September 30th 2015.

WHEA 88.7 FM – New talk radio station program focused on drugs, alcohol, suicide, depression and other addiction. The goal is to save lives and inform the community of the many different resources in our area as well as give organizations revolving around these issues an avenue to speak out and to educate the public on these serious issues. Every Thursday on 88.7FM from 1030am until 11am.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 11th 2015