



Join Together Atlantic County

Virtual Zoom Meeting – March 9, 2021

11:00am – 1:00pm

Attendance/Sectors & Agencies Represented:

Youth:

Parents: Francie Josephsen

Law Enforcement: Lindsey Komar (HopeOne/AC LEAD, Atl. Cnty Sheriff's Depart), Ed Bertino (EHTPD)

Govt Agency: Jen Pielhau (Atl. Cnty Substance Abuse Services), Dr. Wilson Washington (AC Health Depart), Assemb. John Armato (NJ Legislature), Angelo Ragonese (DMHAS), Sofia Noncent-Johnson (DCF)

School: Michael Levin (Stockton University), Donna McElroy (ACCC)

Youth Service Org: John Roy (Cape Atlantic INK), Kathryn Saxton-Granato (Atl. County CIACC)

Healthcare: Katie Mannino (Southern Jersey Perinatal Cooperative), Dylan Wulderk, Scott Gras (AtlantiCare), Christine Bracey (Shore Medical Center)

Religious/Fraternal Org.:

Business: Mike Devaney (Calico Enterprises)

Media:

Civic/Volunteer: Virginia Williams (Intern ACCC)

Other Org.: Ken Litwak (Kindbridge), Rachel Campbell (SJ AIDS Alliance), Ashley Pushman (Tobacco Free for a Healthy NJ), Kim Erichsen (Cape Assist), Danielle Bartsche (NJ Poison Control Center)

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

Guest/Other: Dorothy Bowker, Gretchen Halfpenny (OFRT)

Introductions/Minutes:

Laurie opened the meeting, welcomed the attendees and introductions were made. Minutes from the January meeting were approved via email and will be posted on our website jtacnj.org.

Internal Coalition Business/Grant Updates:

Drug Free Communities (DFC): Federal grant, Year 8 renewal is coming up and begins in October.

STOP ACT: Federal underage drinking grant, ends this year.

CARA: Federal opioid prevention grant, ends this year.

Opiate Athlete Prevention: State opioid prevention grant specific to athletes, ends this year.

Cape Atlantic Bridge Coalition (CAB): Regional grant in combination with Cape May County

School Resiliency Teams- The second Administrator's Academy was held on March 3 for administrators in Atlantic and Cape May counties and there were 125 participants. The next one is scheduled for April 14th. Some schools that do not have resiliency teams have had administrators in attendance so we are hoping more districts will come on board for the three-day training in the summer.

Partnership for Success (PFS): State grant in which we collaborate with the Children's System of Care (CSOC) through the Atlantic County CIACC.

CIACC Workgroup/Needs Assessment- We had until the end of February to submit the first two sections of our needs assessment. For the first section, we collected nine needs assessments done by other organizations throughout the county. We gathered a lot of interesting data and Amber went through the assessments, picked out what was needed, the workgroup reviewed the information and it was submitted. The second section was looking for programs that are done by other community organizations in the county. There wasn't as much feedback as we liked but Angelo told us we can continue to update and add to this list up until May.

System Partners Presentation – Members of CIACC usually go to schools to share information on youth and family services that are available. They decided to offer this virtually this year. They are going to start with a two-part mini-series and offer more later on to help build the community's understanding of the resources that are available for youth and families. Cape May county will be holding something similar. We will be recording our presentations and offering them on the JTAC website.

Ken Litwak was nominated and selected to be chairperson and Sean Kolins will be co-chairperson starting next meeting.

Committees – Membership committee meeting will be on March 24th, Marketing and Media Committee meeting will be March 25th, and Strategic Planning meeting will be March 30th. The Strategic Planning meeting will be going over interventions and how we will be utilizing grants and other funding to continue interventions we were doing under the grants that are ending. Sustainability Committee will be

meeting April 15th. Under the DFC grant, a sustainability plan has to be submitted, was last done in year 4 and has to be submitted again in August.

New Jersey Prevention Network Conference is on April 29th and 30th, Laurie is waiting to hear about other scholarships so if you are interested reach out to her. The registration fee is \$125 for a limited time and then will increase to \$150 which includes both days and workshop recordings may be available afterwards for a limited time.

Stand Up and Rebel (SUAR)/Incorruptible.Us: Kathy McFadden reported that the SUAR group continues to meet monthly on Zoom. Last month the focus of the Zoom meeting was prescription drug misuse and a few of the youth gave presentations. Students from Buena, Oakcrest, Egg Harbor Township and Absegami attended the meeting. Last month, was also American Heart month so some students submitted pictures of themselves engaged in their favorite heart healthy activity and they were uploaded to the incorruptible.us.atlantic Instagram account as part of the My Heart, My Life challenge. They hosted their first game night, where students were able to come together and play games and were joined by some Middlesex County incorruptible.us members. This gave the youth a chance to socially interact with each other safely and they are looking to have another game night at the end of March. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 16th via Zoom. The topics will be Take Down Tobacco and National Drug and Alcohol facts week.

Opioid Task Force:

Naloxone Trainings –

Hope One/AC LEAD – Lindsey Komar reported for both programs. AC LEAD has one participant who is doing very well and is in treatment now and has asked to stay longer which is great. They are making plans on how to better advertise the program within the police departments. Hope One is in the process of scheduling Oxford Houses to train them in Narcan and they are always available to do trainings at their outreach events as well. For the year, they have trained 155 individuals. Hope One continues to go out in the community linking those who suffer with substance use disorder and mental health and linking them to treatment, offering Narcan trainings, helping clients with sober living funding if needed and responding to overdose hospital refusals. In total they have responded to 64 individuals and offered them services. The Ocean Inc transportation program has been a huge help in transporting clients to treatment. They have had 3 people successfully move into their own apartments after completing treatment and the continuum of care which is very rewarding.

Atlantic County - Jen Pielhau reported that they are available for virtual trainings and she is going to send Laurie a blurb to send out with the weekly Thursday email. They are short staffed at the moment but if there is a request for training they can do them.

South Jersey Aids Alliance – Rachel Campbell reported that through the Syringe Access Program (SAP) they have distributed approximately 260 Narcan kits so far this year. When clients come in to exchange their syringes, they ask if they have used their kits and it seems that most of them have, some clients have either lost theirs or want an additional kit. For the most part it seems that they are being used and they are receiving replacement kits.

Overdose Fatality Review Team (OFRT) – Dorothy Bowker reported that they just had their kickoff meeting yesterday for the OFRT. Almost everyone that was invited joined the meeting, they currently

have 13 members plus staff. They discussed the process and went over forms they need to use throughout the process. Both the medical examiner and social worker from the state attended and gave some great information from their experience because they have done this for a long time. They are looking forward to their first case review meeting which should be held next month. They are still looking for a few more members, Dorothy will be reaching out to recovery court and Gretchen reached out to DCP&P and they still need one more school staff person.

AtlantiCare's Opioid Overdose Recovery Program (OORP) - Dylan Wulderk reported that as of the end of February 2020, they have responded to 58 overdoses in the emergency departments (AtlantiCare & Shore Medical Center) throughout the county. They also responded to 9 EMS refusals so far this year.

Athletes and Opioid Prevention – Laurie just reminded everyone that the opioid and athlete prevention videos have been posted to the JTAC website under the opioids and athletes tab. They have been emailed out to several groups and Laurie will be making some follow up calls this week and sending them out to recreational organizations and school nurses.

Stigma Forum/Opioid Resource Fair - We are planning to do a two-part event in the near future. The one event will be on stigma and the other will be an opioid resource fair like we have done in the past in-person at the library and county building. We will invite any organization in Atlantic County doing anything as it relates to opioid prevention, treatment and/or recovery and they will have a chance to highlight their services and provide their resources to share with the public. If anyone is interested in being part of the small workgroup for these two events, please reach out to Laurie.

Interventions/Updates:

Prescription Drop Boxes – Finalized totals for 2020 is 2,562 pounds which is really good considering the circumstances surrounding COVID. That brings us to roughly 13,000 pounds from our boxes since 2016. Hamilton Police Dept. was installed at the end of January and is available 24/7. Brian is currently working with Bellevue Pharmacy in Hammonton. He met with them last week and then over the weekend they contacted him and said they would like to proceed with the drop box. He just received their DEA certificate this morning and will be ordering the box later today. It should be installed and available for medication disposal in about 3 weeks.

Deterra/Locking Medicine Cabinets – Back in January, Brian approached Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals to see if they had any sponsorship programs to assist the smaller independent pharmacies with the cost of the liners for the drop boxes. Unfortunately, they said they don't have any such programs at this time but they did have an abundance of Deterra available which they ended up donating 5,000 bags to us. We are restocked and have plenty of locking medicine cabinets available. If anyone is interested in either the Deterra or the medicine cabinets, contact Brian.

Parent Presentations – After we did the 15-Minute Child Break presentations in the fall, we had a 22-minute recording done by The Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey for that video and they allowed us to send it out and share it with the community. A lot of different community organizations shared this with parents and Laurie was informed the video had 91 unique views.

Physician Outreach- In December we sent out a packet to about 200 physician's offices in the county. The packet included information on locking medicine cabinets, Deterra, posters, etc. Amber will be

starting to do follow up calls shortly to make sure they received the information and if they are interested in any of the resources.

Ordinance Packet – We were working on an ordinance packet for all of the municipalities in the county but are now putting that on hold due to the marijuana legislation. The legislation may change some of the ordinances that we usually send out so we are going to hold off until we get some more guidance on how to move forward.

Faith-Based Meeting- Amber and Brian are hosting a faith-based meeting this Wednesday, March 17 at 10 a.m. Carlo Favretto from Atlantic Prevention Resources will be doing the “Don’t Get Vaped In” presentation and going over information for the Atlantic Quit Center. If anyone is interested, please reach out to Amber or Brian.

Stockton Service Learning Class – Laurie and Brian are working with four different groups that are working on projects for the coalition. The first group is the ATI/Stigma group. This group is working on the Above the Influence campaign and running the social media sites for the semester by posting different things and creating posts relating to the campaign. They are also working on a stigma presentation that they will be facilitating on campus with university students. The second group is working on revamping a former Stockton club called Rise Above. This peer-to-peer club is similar to our Stand Up and Rebel youth coalition but is just for Stockton University students. The club focuses on alternative activities for students to participate in, instead of partying and drinking. This group is also continuing to work on our toolkit which was started last semester relating to different alternate activities that are being done across the country at different universities and colleges. The third group is working on a marijuana social norms prevention campaign. In addition to the prevention campaign, this group will be working to help educate students understand the difference between Stockton’s marijuana policy and state legislation. Since Stockton receives federal funds, no matter what the legislation is in New Jersey, marijuana would not be allowed on campus. The fourth group is the JTAC marketing group. This group is creating different materials and objectives for the coalition. Before COVID we were planning on doing outreach to different community organizations (Elks, Masonic Lodges, etc.) but this did not happen due to shutdowns. This group is working on creating a presentation for these organizations about the coalition and different materials we can provide to them.

Company Newsletters – Periodically we reach out to some of the larger employers in the county to see if we can have some information placed into their employee newsletter or on their website. The information is to remind people about safely securing and properly disposing of medication including free locking medicine cabinets, Deterra and drop box information. Brian recently reached out to Local 54, AC Chamber, ACUA, Borgata, Ocean, Golden Nugget, Caesars Entertainment, etc. We are hoping these businesses will put something in their newsletters or on their websites in the coming weeks.

Translation Services – We had all of our JTAC materials (brochures, rack cards, treatment resource guides, etc.) translated into Spanish. Brian and one of the interns will be reaching out to all of the Hispanic community organizations throughout the county to distribute these materials. Bob had Brian share some of the materials with the group. He is very excited about this because the coalition has been working hard on getting this done for a long time. Bob thanked Brian and Laurie and anyone else who helped get this done. If anyone is interested in these materials, reach out to Brian or Laurie.

Vicinage Partnership Forum – This three-hour long forum is being held tomorrow starting at 9:00 a.m. This forum will bring together different juvenile justice system organizations, community organizations,

and school personnel. Temerity Berry, Cape Assist will be presenting on GenZ and Michael McKnight will be presenting on resiliency. Atlantic County Prosecutor Damon Tyner, Cape May County Prosecutor Jeffrey Sutherland and Middle Township Police Chief Chris Leusner will also be discussing resiliency and trainings within their offices and their different agenda items for the coming year. As of yesterday, 122 were already registered for this event. Laurie sent this information with the Thursday email and registration is still open for anyone who is interested in attending.

Legislation Updates:

A2280 Brokerage Bill - Assemblyman Armato informed us that this bill was signed into law and thanked everyone on the call. He said the more information that his office has, the better it helps them know the need and how they can help with legislation relating to these types of issues. This legislation idea came out of a similar bill in Florida.

The health committee met yesterday and two bills were advanced, one was for overdose fatality review teams and the other was for EMS to be able to dispense Narcan. This means that if EMS or medics go to a home and they revive the person with Narcan but then there is a refusal to go to the hospital, the EMS or medic will have the ability to leave them with another packet of Narcan. There is some push back on this bill because it also includes language requiring EMS to give an informational pamphlet. Some organizations are against leaving literature but language may be able to be changed to make this an option as opposed to a requirement. 3,046 lives lost last year due to overdose which is up about 20 from last year.

Marijuana Legalization – Last week Laurie sent out the three pieces of legislation that passed along with some Attorney General initiatives that were sent out. We are kind of on hold right now and are holding off on presenting at any events because we do not want to give out any misinformation with everything changing so quickly. One of the biggest issues with the legislation was that police officers are not to notify parents, on a first offense, if the child is under 18 and caught with not only marijuana but even if they had alcohol. There are already clean up bills in the assembly and senate to fix some of this legislation. Brian shared an article from Patch.com that the first offense notification issue was in the process of being changed and Governor Murphy vowed that he would sign the legislation to change this. There is a lot that can be done by municipalities even though some things are changing still. Assemblyman Armato shared that this bill had a lot of information in it and that there will be a lot of clean up bills relating to it. Ed Bertino from EHTPD discussed how he did read the article that was shared about the parent notification being amended but said there was still concerns relating to probable cause. One of the legislators commented in the article that they didn't think they were going to change the probable cause to search a juvenile. In the past, if an officer approached juveniles and there was an odor of burnt or rolled marijuana amongst them, that would have been probable cause to conduct a search. They don't think that the new portion of the law will get changed to allow this. Ed's personal opinion is that this will encourage drug dealers, cartels, etc. to seduce children and juveniles to get into the drug game because they would be less of a liability for law enforcement. Laurie said that the first bill didn't have anything in it about personal cultivation but there is now a bill to try to allow that. There are a lot of different options for municipalities (public areas, delivery, etc.) but we still need clarity on a lot of things. We are planning on holding an event but are just waiting on some of the changes to be clear before doing so. Laurie will continue to update everyone with any changes as they happen. Next week Laurie will be attending New Jersey Prevention Network's policy meeting for coalitions about what we can be doing right now.

Tobacco Update:

Working Well Tobacco Free – Per the state, they are adding a focus towards working with behavioral health facilities. They now have materials and information specifically for this greatly underserved population that has extremely high smoking rates. If anyone wants more information, please reach out to Ashley. On March 25th at 10:00 a.m., Working Well will be holding a networking group meeting.

Smoke-Free Housing- Smoke Free Housing Pledge is still running - includes free giveaway items. Preparing for a Tobacco Free Tuesday Webinar - Breathe Easy: a guide to smoke free housing policy on March 16th.

Smoke Free AC - Casinos have been smoke free since they reopened in the summer. April 15th will mark the 15th anniversary of the implementation of the smoke free air act. They are working towards an event, virtually and possibly in person to raise awareness of the casino exemption in this now 15-year old act.

Youth – Carlo has been busy doing Don't Get Vaped In presentations for schools and parents. Statewide training last week. They are working with schools on changing policy and implementing the Aspire program, and keeping youth involved.

Atlantic Quit Center - Still providing telehealth services for clients looking for help quitting tobacco products. Clients have the option of individual and/or group counseling services over the phone or via Zoom. There is currently an open community group every Wednesday night at 6:30 via Zoom. We also have ongoing closed groups for both men & women at John Brooks Recovery Center. We plan to start working with those attending Atlantic County Recovery Court again soon.

This is Quitting - Tobacco Free for a Healthy NJ is partnering with the Truth Campaign - This is Quitting is a free texting support program. NJ Youth selected VAPEFREENJ to be the keyword to enroll. Text VAPEFREENJ to 887-09 for help quitting vape products. #ReachOut #TobaccoFreeNJ

New Business:

Stockton Peer Ed Presentations/Events – The peer ed students have been very busy getting a lot of stuff done on and off campus. They are working on creating a billboard for the coalition and PSA's that will be turned over to our marketing committee and used throughout the county. They turned the high school Jeopardy game into an online version using Kahoot and we will be doing presentations with some schools in the coming months. They usually hold a Halloween event with over 600 students in attendance but that couldn't happen due to COVID this year. Since Stockton cancelled spring break this year, they decided to do a programming event in the spring instead. On April 6th they will be hosting Spring Fling which will be an all virtual event that will include escape rooms, and Kahoot challenges. They are also having a movie screening from Demi Lovato about mental health and addiction in April to promote wellness and addiction throughout the college.

Middle School Underage Drinking PSA Contest – We are in the process of updating this information and getting it out to the schools in the coming weeks.

Presentation: A presentation was given by Danielle Bartsche, Health Educator, NJ Poison Center (NJPIES). She informed the group on the services offered by the agency and stats related to substance use.

Upcoming Events/Announcements/Information:

Atlantic City Dept. of Health – Dr. Washington reported that Atlantic City’s OFRT had their first case review and some attendees on the meeting were involved. They will be partnering with the Atlantic County team.

NJ Food Program for City of Atlantic City on Tuesday’s at City Hall and Friday’s at City Hall or Soldier’s Home. They distribute boxes of food starting at 11:00am, food distribution is usually done in about an hour and a half.

55 and Older Program to help people 55+ who may not be able to pass a background investigation. If you know anyone in Atlantic City who may be interested in this program, please let Dr. Washington know. They work with NJ State Department of Labor and are able to help them find employment. They start them at \$12 per hour and they are paid from \$12-\$16 per hour and they work minimum number of hours per week. They are not considered city employees but volunteers with an incentive. Their hours are reported through AC Health Department to the state. This program is helping people build working relationships and many go on to permanent employment afterwards.

South Jersey Aids Alliance – New Jersey Aid’s walk is coming up on May 2nd part of the event will be held on the Atlantic City boardwalk and part will be held virtually. Rachel will share more information with Laurie when it becomes available.

Ken Litwak put his personal email in the chat if anyone needs to get a hold of him.

APR School Programs – Starting a Strengthening Families program on Wednesday night for 8 weeks on Zoom in Egg Harbor Township at the end of March. Blake Rossetti from Miller school is recruiting families so if you know an EHT family with 10-14 year olds you can let them know about the program.

AC Parent Resource Center – Francie shared her email in the chat and asked that if anyone has any flyers or programs that they think will benefit Atlantic City families, please contact her.

ACCC – Donna is in the process of starting to look for internships for the fall semester and will begin meeting with students mid-April. If anyone has a position for a student intern for 135 hours for the fall semester, please contact her.

APR – October 9th will be the annual Bocce tournament. Bob shared a link in the chat for WPG Talk Radio article that Harry Hurley did on the OFRTs.

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Motion to adjourn meeting 1st Ken Litwak 2nd Donna McElroy, Meeting Adjourned