

Join Together Atlantic County

July 27th, 2015 10:00am – 1:00pm
Atlantic County Health Department
Stillwater Building, Bridge Meeting Room
201 S Shore Road, Northfield NJ 08225

Attendance/Sectors & Agencies Represented:

Youth: Yasmin Bruce, Sarah Woltmann

Parent: Laurinda Hendrix, Kim Burns

Law Enforcement:

Govt Agency: Charlie Kerley (Atlantic County Division of Public Health), Rhonda Fitzgerald (Atlantic City Health Depart.), Lily Britton (NJ Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services)

School: Donna Marie McElroy (Atlantic Cape Community College)

Youth Service Org: Kathryn Saxton-Granato (CIACC), John Straughn & George Dannenhauer (Atlantic County TRY-IT)

Healthcare: Joia Di Stefano (Cape Atlantic Coalition for Health, Shore Medical Center), Karen Woltmann (AtlantiCare)

Religious/Fraternal Org.:

Business:

Media:

Civic/Volunteer: John Livezey (Brigantine Municipal Alliance)

Other Org.: Tracy Smith (NCADD, Hope All Day)

Staff: Bob Zlotnick, Kathy McFadden, Brian Wilson

Guest/Other: Robin McClain (Atlantic Prevention Resources)

Introduction/Minutes

Minutes were reviewed from the previous meeting. Motion to approve minutes – 1st Kathryn Saxton-Granato, 2nd Bob Zlotnick.

Internal Coalition Business

PRIDE/YRBS Survey - Our plan is to partner with Atlantic County Health Department to move forward with these surveys. Laurie and Bob Widitz are tentatively scheduled for the superintendent's round table meeting coming up in September.

Sustainability Plan – A sustainability plan need to be completed and submitted to SAMSHA as part of the Federal DFC requirements for year three which will begin in October. Laurie recently attended the third week of the CADCA training academy down in Mississippi which focused primarily on sustainability. We anticipate starting a group to work on the sustainability plan come September. CADCA recently developed three webinars on sustainability, and we plan on utilizing these to help us in our process of developing a sustainability plan.

Intervention/Updates

Stockton Day of Service is on 9/12/2015 - Laurie will be attending and has asked if anyone is interested in helping to present about the coalition they are more than welcome to and to contact her. She will be asking Stockton Police Department to assist. The presentations will be given for an hour 3 to 4 times on this day. Part of the presentation is having the students continue with projects and recruiting them for service learning, work-study, internships and or volunteering. Laurie has begun discussions with Stockton in regard to having safes be implemented to residential life. At this time Students have no way of securing personal property and more importantly any prescription drugs that they may be taking. This may be a project that the students will be able to assist with and will cover policy change. The students of Stockton will be a valuable resource. We are very excited to continually have the opportunity to work with Stockton University.

Drop Boxes – Six permanent prescription drop boxes have been purchased through the Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey and American Medicine Chest Challenge. Our goal is to have these drop boxes placed into six different Police Department throughout Atlantic County. After the six have been successfully placed we may look into purchasing additional ones. So far we have had success in placing three of them into the following location Buena Vista Township City Hall, Mullica Township Police Department and Egg Harbor City Police Department. Buena Vista Twp. is the first drop box location in the state that is not located inside of a police department. We have made contact with a few others that include Stockton, Hamilton, Galloway and Absecon Police Departments.

Stockton new student organization – A student from the spring service learning class approached Laurie in regards to him needing a semester long honors service learning project. Laurie asked him if he would be interesting in starting a student organization for the prevention of alcohol and drug abuse. The student agreed that this was a good idea. Laurie met with a core group who will be the founders of the club. Also the students found an advisor and are working on a Constitution and presentations for student development to have the club formally recognized by Stockton University. The club will not only encompass alcohol and drug abuse but also bullying and violence prevention. The addition of bullying and violence was added to encompass the Green Dot Program which is already in existence and is run by the advisor Laurie Dutton.

Youth Recovery Meeting Work Group – A work group met in regards to starting back up what was known as STEPS this time at the Hope All Day Center in Galloway Twp. The group will be a youth recovery/support group that will meet on Wednesday nights. This will tentatively be starting in September and will include activities such as food, games and bonfires. There is much concern about transportation. Conversation about possibility of having the program in the schools, but we approached this before and there was issue with kids coming to certain school that didn't belong to that district. Tracy would like to be involved and help out again with this group. Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated. Laurie also would like coalition members to volunteer to help out with this program.

We Check for 21- Laurie is waiting on confirmation from Stockton for a date/time

2015 Board "Walk": for Recovery

This is the 3rd annual Walk. First year was the walk with light refreshments and speakers. The second year was 5 times bigger, with a barbeque and games after the walk. This was handled by the John Brooks Recovery Center, who will not be participating this year. There is concern that the numbers of participants will go down from last year.

Options:

1. Stay in AC and walk on the boardwalk, like was done the last 2 years
2. Take a recovery group to PROACT Walk in Philly on Sept 19, 2015
3. Take a recovery group to the NJ Recovery Walk in Jersey City on Sept 26, 2015.
4. Take a recovery group to Camden, walk across the Ben Franklin Bridge and meet up with the PROACT walk in Philly on Sept 19, 2015

After much discussion the vote was to keep the walk in AC. This will be the best option to continue to unite Atlantic County and make it our own representation. It was suggested that a survey be taken at the walk, by the participants on what they would like to do in 2016. It is imperative that all work diligently to promote the Walk.

Tracy mentioned the Walk in DC on October 4, 2015 and encouraged all to attend.

SUAR Updates

Kim Burns leads SUAR. This club encompasses teens in grades 7 through 12. At the moment there are 3 schools that participate: EHT, Buena, and Oakcrest. They do community service and promote prevention of alcohol, tobacco and drug use.

SUAR Leadership Camp will be held every Thursday in August of this year. The youth are educated on Leadership training through educational activities.

The recent suicides of youth were discussed and the number for the Child and Family Counseling Center was given: 609-653-8850. Please note and distribute.

OTC Grant: Crossover projects with regional coalition grant

State funding was cut. There are now 3 grants statewide. APR is not qualified, so we have partnered with NJPN. We are working on: Ordinances for Parks and Rec areas to pass; Point-of-Sale component. Stores will be surveyed and Rutgers will take the data and make recommendations;

The 2nd grant incorporates making the workplace and multi-unit housing smoke free. Things are progressing. Recently places in Pleasantville and Millville have gone smoke free and there are currently 867 places that have already gone smoke free.

Upcoming Events

August 4, 2015: National Nights Out. Thanks to John Livezey JTAC will have a table at the Brigantine National Night Out. APR will be participating at multiple locations that night.

John Brooks sponsoring Trainings on First Aid for Heroin overdose. They will have kits to hand out. A flyer was distributed.

August 8, 2015: Run for Recovery sponsored by the Serenity House

August 15, 2015 9:00pm at the Comedy Show. This is a fundraising event for the Serenity House.

Tracy informed the group about NCADD and their work on parity. They are looking for NJ Coalition approval and are lobbying for health insurances to cover the cost of mental health and addiction treatment.

Board Leadership training will follow this meeting presented by Kathy McFadden and Lori Singly.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 14th, 2015, New Day Family Success Center

Motion to adjourn the meeting – 1st Laurinda 2nd Katherine Granato.