



## Join Together Atlantic County

Virtual Zoom Meeting – September 14, 2021  
11:00am – 12:00pm

Attendance/Sectors & Agencies Represented:

Youth:

Parents:

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

Govt Agency: Jen Pielhau (Atl. Cnty. Substance Abuse Services), Angelo Ragonese (NJ DMHAS), Sofia Noncent-Johnson (NJ DCF)

School: Loretta Grisi-Dicker (ACCC)

Youth Service Org: Kathryn Saxton-Granato (Atl. County CIACC), John Roy (Cape Atlantic INK), Jay Tunncliffe (EHT HS Teen Cntr)

Healthcare: Scott Gras (AtlantiCare), Stephanie Weaver & Rebecca Broome (SJ Family Medical Cntr)

Religious/Fraternal Org.:

Business: Mike Devaney (Calico Enterprises), Victoria Foley (Helping Hand Behavioral Health)

Media:

Civic/Volunteer:

Other Org.: Jesse Dariano (All Roads Recovery Center, JBRC), Dorothy Bowker & Gretchen Halfpenny (Overdose Fatality Review Team), Ken Litwak (JBRC), Natalia Leusner (Cape Assist)

Staff: Laurie Smith, Bob Zlotnick (JTAC/APR)

Guest/Other: Stacy Samaroo (Intern ACCC)

**Introductions/Minutes:**

Laurie opened the meeting, welcomed the attendees and introductions were made. Minutes from the July meeting were approved via email and will be posted on our website [jtacnj.org](http://jtacnj.org).

**Internal Coalition Business/Grant Updates:**

Grants: Drug Free Communities (DFC)- the year 8 renewal was completed, and submitted August 31, 2021 by Bob. STOP ACT (underage drinking) – will be ending soon, and we will be applying for the no-cost extension for some of the funding but we will continue with underage drinking initiatives under other grants. Opiate Athlete grant with the state has ended but it will be continuing through other funding.

Staffing/Employment Opportunities- Atlantic Prevention Resources are trying to fill 2-4 full-time positions. 2 for coalition staff/2 for prevention programs. Prefer experience in the non-profit field with a bachelor's degree. John Roy asked Bob if he has job descriptions available, Bob said he does and will send them to Laurie for the JTAC Thursday email.

Marketing/Media Committee- We currently have three billboards up in Atlantic County. One billboard is for our underage drinking contest winner which is located on Somers Point Mays Landing Rd. The second one is regarding opioids and it is located on the Black Horse Pike near Storybook Land and the final one is about JTAC as a resource for the community, and it is located on the White Horse Pike.

Communications- The Thursday JTAC Updates/Member News email goes out not to just active coalition members but over 250 people on the mailing list so feel free to email Laurie anything you would like to share. The next newsletter will come out in November, let Laurie know if you would like to contribute anything. Stockton students will be posting to social media this semester.

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

School Resiliency Teams (SRTs)- We are doing resiliency among our youngest students, from Pre-K-Elementary, 1 hour training every Wednesday from 3-4pm. If you register you will be sent the recordings of the presentations.

Rutgers will be sending out an annual survey, which will be sent to the coalition coordinators and Laurie will send it to the active members. The survey is anonymous.

**Partnership for Success (PFS):** State grant with part of the focus working with the Children's System of Care (CSOC), specifically the Atlantic County Children's Inter-Agency Coordinating Council.

CIAAC workgroup meeting is coming up, we are working on our problem statements.

Kathi informed the group that members of the CIACC had been going to schools to do presentations and this did not happen in the past year due to COVID. We began recording the presentations. The last one was on the Psychiatric Intervention Program (PIP) which included a mental health screener and a doctor, and they described what they do at their organization and how they work with youth. We will have the video edited and uploaded to the JTAC website in a few weeks. We will be looking to schedule 2-3 more segments on different services.

**Stand Up and Rebel (SUAR):** Fall Festival is on September 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm at Gaskill Park, Mays Landing. There will be pumpkin painting, and it's the first kick-off of SUAR for the year. School groups are starting back up in EHT, Buena Regional, and Oakcrest, they are accepting new members, and students from other schools in the county can attend.

#### **Opioid Task Force:**

Naloxone Trainings- Jen said the county is still providing Naloxone trainings and kits. They are hoping to expand the Narcan training in the next couple of months.

Lindsey was unable to unmute her phone so Laurie gave her update. The current numbers for Hope One are 710 people into treatment, 582 Narcan trainings year-to-date, for the month of August they had 110 call-ins just to dispatch, and have had 218 DMI responses year-to-date. They do not have anyone currently in the AC LEAD program but they are working on outreach to police departments.

AtlantiCare's Opioid Overdose Recovery Program (OORP) - Scott reported they have been seeing an increase in calls. Every client who has overdosed is given a Narcan kit, there is an increase of overdoses in the past few weeks. Scott asked if anyone has any information about Fentanyl being vaped through a vape pen. Laurie will check with Chief DeShields, Bob mentioned that has repercussions with second-hand vape containing Fentanyl.

Overdose Fatality Review Team (OFRT)- Dorothy reported they are finishing the first year of the grant. They have great members on the team, they are waiting on news of the continuation, which they should be getting, they will find out in the meeting with the state later today. 17 cases have been reviewed and they are putting it all together and hope to share it with groups in the future.

Opioid Resource Page- Laurie needs to check to see where we are on adding organizations and publishing the webpage. Once it is published it can be viewed to see if there are any opioid prevention, treatment, and recovery resources that are not listed.

August 31<sup>st</sup> was International Overdose Awareness Day- JTAC had a table at the Hope All Day Recovery Center vigil that evening.

Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day is being held virtually again October 6<sup>th</sup>, Stacy is coordinating the project for JTAC. She is reaching out to the municipalities for proclamations and she will be emailing athletic directors, faith-based organizations and community organizations with information. 2,000 of the door knockers were dropped off to Stockton, the peer educators will be putting the doorknockers on all student residential rooms.

#### **Interventions/Updates:**

Prescription Drop Boxes/Deterra/Locking Medicine Cabinets- Everything is going well with these projects. Bob had a great idea to have the places that request locking medicine cabinets the most, be delivered 15-20 at a time to be a depository for their clients. Several of the organizations are holding them in their own offices to distribute to clients and then call us when they run out.

Faith-Based Outreach- The last faith-based meeting was held in July via Zoom. The meeting went well, the different organizations that were present were given the chance to present on their resources and

organizations. The attendees presented information regarding their own prevention, treatment and recovery activities including alternative activities they offer to youth in the community. Those activities and events will be listed on the JTAC website.

**Pain Management Event-** We co-sponsored a pain management and opioid epidemic event at Great Bay Country Club on July 14<sup>th</sup>, with Shore Medical Center and a few other organizations. 25-30 people were in attendance.

**Stigma Campaign-** The group that worked on the Ending Stigma and Unlocking Resources event discussed doing a county-wide stigma prevention campaign. This has been done in some other counties, individual municipalities sign on to be stigma-free. The municipalities do different events and help educate the community about substance use disorders along with mental health disorders. We will be contacting the Commissioners for a county-wide resolution.

**Sticker Shock-** We did hold a sticker shock for Labor Day weekend, placing stickers on brown bags regarding the consequences for purchasing alcohol and giving it to anyone under 21. The bags were then delivered to 3 liquor stores, in the county.

**Community Resiliency-** On October 14 & 15<sup>th</sup> there will be a 2-day, virtual, community resiliency training. The training is open to all community organizations throughout Atlantic County, it's not just for those working with youth. We will be talking about community resiliency, for youth and adults, including adults who have experienced trauma.

**Pharmacy/Veterinarian/Hospice Outreach-** 50 pharmacies were visited, and the veterinarians will be visited in the next couple months. For the hospice outreach, a letter is mailed once a year, the hospice organizations continuously call us when they need more Deterra and other materials.

**Legislation Updates:** The municipalities had until August 20<sup>th</sup> to pass cannabis ordinances, about 50% did pass some sort of licensure in their town, and about 50% of the others did opt out at this time until they received further information from the state. Updates will be reported at the next meeting.

**Tobacco Updates:** Great American Smoke Out is November 18<sup>th</sup>, resources and toolkits are being developed. For more information contact [tobaccofreenj@atlprev.org](mailto:tobaccofreenj@atlprev.org)

**Working Well Tobacco Free (Smoke Free AC)-** Available to assist worksites of any type in tobacco compliance, cessation services and policy implementation or revision. This year we have added a focus towards supporting behavioral health facilities, to implement policies. There is a lot of movement with the casino policy change in regards to smoking. There is formation of a group called CEASE Casino Employees Against Smoking Effects, has approximately 2,000 members on Facebook. For more information contact [tobaccofreenj@atlprev.org](mailto:tobaccofreenj@atlprev.org).

**Smoke Free Housing-** Continuing to work with the NJ Prevention Network and the PHLC to reach or hire an attorney to assist with smoke free housing legal aspects. For people who are in condominiums, apartment complex, multi-unit housing, whose neighbors smoke in their homes, but the smoke enters their property through outlets and such.

**Youth/Incorruptible Us- Don't Get Vaped-In Training** in 2 days, from 9am-noon. There is an adult to adult curriculum and an adult to youth presentation, more info at [incorruptible.us](http://incorruptible.us) or please forward all

contacts to Carlo Favretto Jr., Cfavretto@atlprev.org There will also be a Don't Get Vaped-In presentation for students at Stockton on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Quit Center- All groups are still virtual they have individual and group counseling; an open community group meets virtually on Wednesday nights at 6:30. Also have availability for individual clients. Still providing Over-The-Counter Nicotine Replacement Therapy to clients as needed. Program has been doing very well through the pandemic, we are meeting our goals every week. Working with Treatment Centers to offer virtual groups to clients interested in quitting. Contact 609-804-QUIT.

### **New Business:**

Stockton Service Learning Class- The class has started back in-person with the students. We have three groups of students this semester. The 1<sup>st</sup> group will be working on the stigma campaign, on-campus, and throughout the municipalities. The 2<sup>nd</sup> group will be coordinating the Above the Influence social media posts, which is done every semester. This group will also be doing interviews for the StoryCorps Project which is connected to the Library of Congress. If the students cannot find someone who has been affected by a SUD to interview, Laurie will reach out to the group to help find someone. The 3<sup>rd</sup> group of students will be working on a cannabis social norms campaign on campus. Due to Stockton receiving federal funding they are not allowed to have cannabis or marijuana on campus even if the state has legalized cannabis recreationally. They will be also doing some radio PSA's and billboards, that can be used throughout the county.

Bob asked if Stockton is allowed to grow marijuana on campus? Laurie is unsure and can ask Laurie Dutton at Stockton. Bob will check with an APR board member who is involved with the farm at Stockton and report back to the group. Laurie mentioned the recreational cannabis law does not allow people to grow cannabis at their homes.

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

NJ Prevention Network had a Peer Recovery Summit on September 1<sup>st</sup>, it was very informative. You are able to still register for it and watch the workshops on njpn.org.

Ken discussed that John Brooks Recovery Center has expanded hours for admission and dosing of medication assisted treatment. They have daytime and evening admissions available, evening from 5pm-11pm, walk-ins are accepted, as well as appointments. Available on Saturday evenings as well. We are trying to break down the referral process, to make it much easier. For more information contact litwak.kenneth@jbrcnj.org.

Jesse shared that All Roads Recovery Center are expanding their hours as well, also hiring an evening coach to handle the evening groups. They are starting some unique groups regarding MAT, anxiety, depression, LGBT, the groups are covering what the members are requesting. Allroadsrecovery.org for more information. Beach bbq event is coming up, donations are accepted, please come and support the event, it will be on the beach in AC located at Albany Ave. For more information contact Dariano.jesse@jbrcnj.org.

Loretta with Atlantic Cape Community College shared that ACCC is offering 3 credits free this semester, as well as, free laptops, targeting those in reentry, coming out of treatment, displaced workers. There

are 13-week class starting September 20<sup>th</sup> and 8-week classes starting October 25<sup>th</sup>. Microsoft Word or Microsoft Excel online classes are available, Idicker@atlantic.edu, email Loretta directly and can help setup students for this semester.

APR is having their annual fundraiser, bocce tournament, all ages can play, on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at Beacon Church in Galloway. It is an indoor event and masks are encouraged. Breakfast and lunch will be provided, entry is \$50 per person or \$200 for a team. Sponsors and raffle donations are needed. The event is held in honor of Meg Linzer, former APR Board President.

Rebecca Broome with SJ Family Medical Center introduced herself. They held their event for National Health Center Week last month. She informed the group they do have COVID testing available at 3, soon to be 4 of their sites, once a week. They also have vaccines available, if any organizations are interested in having vaccines at an event, just contact them.

**Next meeting:** Retreat, November 9, 2021, virtual or in-person, TBA

Motion to adjourn meeting 1<sup>st</sup> Kenneth Litwack , 2<sup>nd</sup> John Roy, Meeting Adjourned