



Join Together Atlantic County

Stockton University SRI & ETTC

10 W Jimmie Leeds Rd

Galloway NJ 08205

January 10, 2023

11:00am – 1:00pm

Attendance/Sectors & Agencies Represented:

Youth:

Parents:

Law Enforcement:

Govt Agency: Doug Mercer (Atl. Cnty. Substance Abuse Unit)

School:

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

Healthcare: Rebecca Broome (SJFMC)

Religious/Fraternal Org.:

Business: Mike Devaney (Calico Enterprises)

Media:

Civic/Volunteer:

Other Org: Sonya Rodriguez, Ken Litwak & Jesse Dariano (JBRC), Sean Kolins (Seabrook), Nakisha Wakefield (Behavioral Crossroads), Gretchen Halfpenny (OFRT), Kim Burns & Carlo Favretto (Tobacco Free for a Healthy NJ), Natalia Leusner (Cape Assist), Rachel Campbell (SJ AIDS Alliance),

Staff: Laurie Smith, Bob Zlotnick, Nina Sciore, Kathy McFadden

Guest/Other: Melissa Ortiz (Stockton University)

Introductions/Minutes:

Sean opened the meeting, welcomed the attendees, introductions were made, and an icebreaker was completed. Minutes from the November meeting will be approved via email and then posted on our website, jtacnj.org.

Internal Coalition Business/Grant Updates/Website Updates:

Grants- At the end of September we began year 9 of our Drug Free Communities Grant. Everything is going well and you will hear updates of the other grants throughout the meeting.

Communication- Reminder Stacy is now sending the Thursday email so if you have anything please email it to her. Also, we are working on an end of year newsletter so if you have anything you would like to include let us know.

Website Update- Nina reported that she is updating the JTAC website and is also updating the resource pages, since a lot of the information was outdated.

Cape Atlantic Bridge Coalition (CAB): Stacy reminded the group that this is the regional Cape Atlantic Bridge Coalition that meets twice a year with members from this group as well as the coalition in Cape May. The October Meeting was held on Zoom on the 25th there was about 30 people in attendance and had a presentation from the 2nd floor helpline.

School Resiliency Training-Stacy reported that we have our last PreK-Elementary school staff resiliency training being held tomorrow afternoon on Zoom. This is the last of a 4-part series. On average we have around 50 school staff in attendance but over 700 are registered to then receive the recordings.

Bob requested that at the next meeting in the spring, we walk over the parkway bridge between Cape May and Atlantic County to symbolize that we are one coalition that serves 2 counties.

Partnership for Success (PFS)/Opioid Athlete: Stacy reminded the group PFS stands for our Partnership for Success Grant. Part of the grant was a collaboration between our coalition and the CIACC, Children's Inter-Agency Coordinating Council. Partnering with CIACC, a logic model was created and turned in, "use of marijuana among youth in Atlantic County", was chosen as the problem statement. We are still waiting on feedback from our final logic models that were submitted. There were some staffing changes at the state level so we are just waiting on further information.

Kathy reported that at a meeting a while ago, they stated that they would start meeting quarterly in the next year and we don't know who is leading that, and no one has provided information regarding those meetings.

Stand Up and Rebel (SUAR): SUAR is our youth substance use prevention school group.

Kim reported that they currently have 6 schools that are doing SUAR, most meet monthly and do activities around the school. Thursday is the Great American Smokeout, and a lot of schools are doing something on that day to bring awareness to the vaping issue, they will be doing awareness events and providing information and resources. There was a county meeting at the end of October, a fall fest kick-off for school, held at the park in Mays Landing. At the end of this month, they will have a regular meeting and a holiday celebration mid-December.

Opioid Task Force:

Naloxone overdose rates/trainings: Brian reported the county is still doing their Narcan trainings, there are 3 different trainings, longer versions are about 40 mins long, abbreviated versions for those working

in the addiction field or medical field which are about 20 mins long, and they have on the spot trainings. So far, they have trained a few hundred since the beginning of the year. If anyone is interested in any trainings, please contact Brian Wilson.

Naloxone resource card/website: Nina reported that she had the cards printed, there is a QR code on the back that links to the JTAC website's Narcan page. The website contains all the same information that is found on the card. The cards will be distributed at health fairs and local pharmacies. Nina passed around the card for the group to see. If you would like more cards for your organization, please contact Nina.

Opioid Fatality Review Team (OFRT)- Gretchen reported that yesterday they had their case review meeting, they have reviewed 83 cases. They have completed their end of the year report, which was sent to the state. It contains a summary of the data and recommendations that they came up with for year 2, as well as the recommendations for year 1. Dorothy Bowker has moved into a different role, she is conducting the next of kin interviews and she had one completed for the meeting they had yesterday, which was her first interview.

They are planning to do a motel outreach; they have noticed that 20% of descendants that passed away from an overdose passed away in a motel along the White Horse Pike and Black Horse Pike. They want to begin providing motels with information, more information to come.

Bob added that they finished the second grant year and they went above expectations. They reviewed 72 cases by the end of the second year. He encourages anyone who hasn't participated in one of the case review meetings to attend to see the work that is being done. If anyone is interested in attending a meeting or becoming a member of the OFRT, please contact Gretchen Halfpenny.

OORP: Scott Gras reported that he saved a life on Friday night after leaving the hospital. He was happy that he had the training and the resources available to administer Narcan and get a pulse after a gentleman overdosed on the sidewalk.

He states the number of overdoses is increasing, every patient that is seen at the hospital for an overdose is given a Narcan kit at the time of the visit.

Recovery Centers: Jesse Dariano reported that they have meetings Monday- Friday 9am, Tuesday & Thursdays at 10:30am-11:30, men's group on Tuesdays, women's group on Thursdays, and a 12pm group. They are fully staffed and they have transportation available.

In Atlantic City, they have groups Monday-Friday, Tuesday and Thursday they have evening groups. Karaoke on Thursdays and game night on Saturday.

Ken Litwak is currently the President-Elect of the NJ Addictions Professionals Assoc and will be President of the group starting in January.

Interventions/Updates:

Deterra/Locking Medicine Cabinets- Nina reported that JTAC is still distributing Deterra bags, there is an order of the locking medicine cabinets that should arrive right after Thanksgiving. There is a waiting list and they will be distributed as we get them in.

Stigma Free Campaign- Gretchen reported that on October 4th there was a legislative networking

breakfast at the Carriage House, had over 100 people in attendance. The speaker was Rebecca Leone from Passaic County. If you missed or want to watch it again it is on the county website, along with the resources that were made available at the event. There are toolkits available for different sectors. A follow-up meeting on Zoom will take place on Thursday, November 17th at 3:30pm for the purpose of moving forward and planning the next steps of each sector. If you attended the event, you should receive an invitation, if you would like to participate, please let Gretchen or Stacy know.

Stacy said we do have toolkits available and she encouraged anyone who would like one, please contact her or Gretchen.

Realtor and Funeral home outreach: Stacy reported that materials will be finalized next week, and will be sent out to the printers. A mailing will be done and follow-up calls will be made. Laurie spoke to a realtor at an event and was invited to do a short presentation regarding removing medications during an open house at a realtor agent meeting in the office which will have around 40 agents in attendance. She also spoke with a local funeral home and they are interested in sharing the information in packets for the families of how to dispose of medications after the loss of a loved one.

Faith-Based Training- Stacy reported that they had a presentation on gambling with Ken Litwak on October 19th it was very informative. If anyone is interested in the recording, please reach out to Stacy.

Stockton Service Learning Class- Stacy reported that Laurie currently has 22 students in the Drug and Alcohol Peer Education Service Learning Class. They are rotating throughout the semester on several projects. Each student had to interview someone regarding a substance use disorder, either someone in recovery or a family member or friend. Nina is uploading these interviews to the Library of Congress StoryCorps website. Students also had to participate in the Stranger Project, tabling on campus and posting people's thoughts about addiction. They also had to oversee the Above the Influence social media outlets for two weeks posting information about stigma, substance use prevention and positive messaging. Lastly, each student had to create a PSA regarding stigma or substance use disorders. The PSA could be done for radio, video, fliers or an infographic. They have created some amazing PSA's the coalition will be able to use.

Peer Educators LollaNoBooza event - Stacy reported, the coalition co-sponsored and attended LollaNoBooza at Stockton they had over 400 students in attendance and lots of participation in scheduled activities throughout the night.

Jeopardy- Stacy reported that Laurie and Nina went with the Stockton peer educators to present the peer ed Jeopardy program at Mainland Regional HS on October 25. They presented 8 times covering the entire sophomore class. They will be presenting at Eagle Academy on December 9th and to an entire grade at EHT HS on December 15th.

Alcohol & Drug Treatment Resource Guide – Stacy brought some today for them anyone to take and the updated ones will be sent to the printers next week with a new section that includes the Narcan resources.

Billboards- Stacy reported that the underage drinking PSA billboard should be up on Rt. 50 in Mays Landing.

Nina reported that they created a billboard with Hope One on fentanyl, and it is up on the Black Horse Pike as you enter Pleasantville heading east. She passed around a photo of the billboard.

Radio PSA's- Stacy reported for Laurie that they purchased radio ads through January and have spots currently running regarding JTAC resources. PSA's will rotate with opioid information, drugged driving and underage drinking and marijuana prevention.

Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day- Stacy reported the final numbers, a sample resolution was sent to 21 municipalities, and 20 resolutions were received. A sample toolkit was sent to 124 faith-based organizations and 26 athletic directors and/or trainers. We sent 2,000 doorknockers to Stockton, 200 to Mainland High School and 50 to Pleasantville City Hall.

Legislation Updates:

Sen. Polistina bill- There is a bill to amend the Cannabis legislation regarding police and youth interaction.

Tobacco Updates:

Quit Center-Kim reminded the group about the Great American Smokeout is on Thursday, she brought Quit Kits for anyone that is interested. Tomorrow they will be dropping off materials. They also have lawn signs and brochures for the Great American Smokeout. With the tobacco grant, they cover 7 counties and they will be distributing as much as they can. They have a social media countdown and resources on the tobaccofreenj.com website for the Great American Smokeout.

They are working hard to make their services known all over the county, they are providing over-the-counter nicotine replacement therapy and counseling for interested residents in Atlantic County. All services are free of charge. They have 2 in-person groups in the Mays Landing office, an 11 am with 4 individuals and a 12pm group with 10 individuals. A lot of the people joining the in-person groups come after they quit and encourage the rest of the group. They do in-person groups, virtual and telehealth to meet the needs of all clients.

Incorruptible Us- Kim reported that the youth are participating in the Great American Smokeout, they created a digital backpack that has resources for adults and students. The 2022 Annual National Youth Tobacco Survey has been released, the results support that we are still in a youth vaping epidemic. 1 in 4 youth use e-cigarettes daily, that has increased since last year.

NJQUITS- Kim reported that this is a college/university grant, they have had 2 universities that decided to go tobacco free. All 3 of Rutgers campuses will be 100% tobacco free in January. Once that takes effect, it will persuade other universities to go tobacco free. Rowan will also be smoke free soon, just waiting on the announcement. Stockton's has started an administrative task force; they have been doing a lot of outreach with the students and are excited to see some change. They completed a beach cleanup at Stockton University at the Atlantic City campus with over 50 individuals in attendance.

Bob asked about community colleges, Kim reported that she reached out and didn't receive an answer. Working Well Tobacco Free – Kim reported that they work with any businesses that want to adopt any kind of tobacco policy, or smoking policy. They work with all business sectors, with an emphasis on behavioral health centers.

Kim reported on point of sale, they just unveiled a new toolkit on tobacco retailers. There were some laws that we passed during covid and they are still not being enforced. There are many violations among vape retailers. They now have new Breathe Easy signs, and they also have them in Spanish. She provided brochures and information.

New Business:

JTAC Conference/Event- Stacy reported for Laurie that they will begin planning an event for 2023 regarding opioids, marijuana, underage drinking and stigma. If you would like to co-sponsor and help plan the event, please contact Laurie.

Pharmacy Outreach- Stacy reported they are going to reach out to some of the smaller pharmacies with materials including the Narcan resource cards.

Stockton Poster- Nina reported due to an issue at another college regarding fentanyl, Stockton reached out to Laurie about posters or information for students. Posters were created and will be printed and hung up on campus along with other materials being distributed. She brought samples of the poster to pass around.

Sticker Shock Project- Stacy reported that this is where we go into the liquor stores with high school students and place stickers on cases of alcohol with information about the penalties on providing alcohol to those under 21. We are scheduling an event before Christmas with Mainland Regional HS students and will be distributing brown bags with the sticker on them next week for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Caregiver Event- Stacy reported that Laurie tabled at a caregiver coalition resource event and presented on medication safety and disposal. She made a lot of contacts including the realtor and funeral home locations that want to participate with us.

Senior Center presentations- Stacy reported that we will be contacting the senior centers over the next few months to set up presentations with them regarding medication safety and disposal and distributing Detera and locking med cabinets.

Drugged Driving Awareness Month- Stacy reported that it is December. Melissa, our Stockton intern, is working on this campaign.

Upcoming Events/Announcements/Information:

Laurie will email the List of 2023 Meeting Dates

Street Drug books- Stacy brought Street Drug books for each attendee today if you would like more please contact Laurie.

Bob reported that Atlantic Prevention Resources has a monthly radio show, live on the air radio, and if anyone has a special project or program you'd like to promote for 15-20 minutes on the radio, you can come into the studio or over the phone, please contact Bob. It is on the second Tuesday of each month from 9:00-10:00am.

Jesse reported that John Brooks received a grant for a mobile methadone unit, they will be able to go into the "hot spots" and engage with people. They will have a clinician provider and a recovery coach, to

get people into treatment. The bus is in production right now and there will be more information to follow.

Gretchen asked if it will be like the Hope One van as far as advertising goes, some places may not be as accepting of that kind of advertising. Jesse believes it may be a plain white van.

Next meeting: January 10, 2022, location TBD

Motion to adjourn meeting 1st Kathryn Saxton-Granato, 2nd John Roy,
Meeting Adjourned.