

Atlantic County Region Specific Coalition

Meeting Agenda

November 14, 2023



Attendance/Sectors & Agencies Represented:

Youth:

Parents:

Law Enforcement: Katherine Valdivieso (Counterdrug Task Force), Sarah Monteiro (Counterdrug Task Force)

Govt Agency: Brian Wilson (Atlantic County Gov.), Rachel Pauro (Atlantic County Sheriff's Office, Hope One), John Armato (Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse)

School: Ashley Sullivan (ACCC), Donna Marie Elroy (ACCC)

Youth Service Org: Laurie Smith (Acenda NJ4S), John Roy (Cape Atl. CMO), Timmia Dreher (Acenda NJ4S)

Healthcare: Amanda Gan (CDC Foundation), Jesse Dariano (AtlantiCare), Stephanie Weaver (Southern Jersey Family Medical Center)

Religious/Fraternal Org.:

Business:

Media:

Civic/Volunteer:

Other Org: Gretchen Halfpenny (OFRT),

Staff: Nina Sciore, Kathy Harvey, Anna Peterson, Jennifer Pielhau, Bob Zlotnick

Guest/Other: Coty Miles (Pro Recovery Solutions, LLC), Mahidul Bhuiyah (NJPN), Miquia Delvalle (Council on Compulsive Gambling of NJ)

Jenn introduced the coalition and passed around a sign in sheet today. On the agenda today is to pinpoint the communities our efforts will be focused in, decide on a name, and identify key people we may need to include.

Jenn stated that JTAC will still provide services. Bob reported we will be applying for the Drug Free Community funding again for a different community.

Bob opened up the conversation of where we want to form the new coalition. APR can not decide on location, the entire coalition needs to decide. The decision should be made based on a needs assessment and overdose rates. The communities should also touch geographically. The rationale should make sense to the reader of the grant application. Bob reiterated that if there is need in another community, we will not deny them.

Jenn has been in contact with other coalitions that have applied for the grant and asked what other factors went into the decision. Other coalitions have:

- Looked at community assets where there was already a group of active stakeholders.
- Looked at community readiness
- Considered the communities high risk factors: racial ethnic minorities, no recreation centers, high amount of advertising for alcohol.

Jenn reported that the other coalitions she reached out to chose one community. Bob mentioned that these coalitions are in North Jersey where the communities are much larger.

Based on the needs assessment we have looked at
Somers Point
Pleasantville
Egg Harbor Township
Galloway
Egg Harbor City
Hamilton

Jenn reported we looked at Somers Point based on overdose rates and pleasantville due to the needs assessment. She opened the conversation up for comments from the group.

Laurie reported Galloway and Egg Harbor Cities are good communities due to the contacts the coalition has already and the two high schools. Somers Point only has a k-8 school.

Gretchen mentioned that the EMS is combined for Egg Harbor City and Galloway. Gretchen said that there is also a high need in Pleasantville. She brought up the concern that it does not geographically touch.

Bob mentioned that Egg Harbor Township connects the communities.

Southern Family Medical Center rep mentioned that the need for Narcan is high.

Laurie also mentioned Stockton is in Galloway. She mentioned a large number of the county's hispanics reside in Egg Harbor City.

SFMS mentioned Egg Harbor Township also includes a lot of the motels on the Black Horse Pike and West Atlantic City. By including EHT we also have another high school.

Bob reiterated that we will still be servicing other communities.

The group weeded out Somers Point and hamilton.

The group did not decide on a name.

Jenn asked if there were any other contacts in those communities that we should invite that are not already on the JTAC mailing list. Gretchen replied that we should have a separate meeting with the key stakeholders, faith based, sheriffs, etc. in our 4 towns.

Our next meeting will be virtual in December, TBD.