



Join Together Atlantic County

Virtual Zoom Meeting - July 14, 2020

11:00am – 1pm

Attendance/Sectors & Agencies Represented:

Youth: Katherine Jaques (Buena Regional HS, SUAR)

Parents: Scott Gras (Parent/Hope One)

Law Enforcement: Chief Bruce DeShields & Sgt. Jennifer Cugini (Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office)

Govt Agency: Jen Pielhau (Atlantic County Municipal Alliance), Nigel Newman (NJ National Guard)

School: Michael Levin (Stockton University), Donna Marie McElroy (Atlantic Cape Community College)

Youth Service Org: John Roy (Care Management Org.), Kathryn Saxton-Granato (Children's Inter-Agency Coordinating Council)

Healthcare: Lisa Celebre (AtlantiCare), Danielle Bartsche (Poison Control Center), Stephanie Weaver (Southern Jersey Family Medical Center)

Religious/Fraternal Org.:

Business: Wynston Whitlow (Behavioral Crossroads)

Media:

Civic/Volunteer: Dorothy Bowker (Retired/EAGLE Academy)

Other Org.: Ken Litwak (800 Gambler), Jody Fernandez (Southern NJ Perinatal Cooperative); Carlo Favretto, Jr., Ashley Hulek, & Kim Burns (APR/TFHNJ), Sean Kolins (Seabrook), Jesse Dariano (JBRC/All Roads Recovery Center), Victoria Reigle (Helping Hands Behavioral Health)

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

Guest/Other: Courtney Gradzki & Ryan Palmer (New Jersey Prevention Network), Barbara Sorace, Alicia Gambino

Meeting began with a methamphetamine presentation by Temerity Berry of Cape Assist and Lt. Joe Landis of the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office.

Introductions/Minutes:

Laurie opened the meeting, welcomed the attendees and introductions were made.

Minutes from last meeting were approved through email and will be uploaded on the JTAC website.

Internal Coalition Business/Grant Updates:

Drug Free Communities (DFC) – The grant is being moved from SAMHSA to the CDC, application for year 7 was submitted in mid-April and we are awaiting our Notice of Award.

STOP ACT – is remaining under the SAMHSA and is for underage drinking prevention, we received Notice of Award for Year 4.

CARA Grant – The grant is also being moved to the CDC; It is for opioid prevention and some reporting has changed. The meth presentation that was done in this meeting was done under this grant.

Opiate Athlete Grant – This is a state grant that focuses on athletes and the use of opiates. We are in our third year of this grant which ends in October. At the end of August, we will be hosting an athlete presentation for students and parents, Sgt. Cugini of the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office will be helping us with the presentation. We will also be doing a several month series in Glory Days magazine for fall sports on opioids and athletes. If anyone would like to volunteer to help with these events, please reach out to Laurie.

Partnership for Success (PFS) – State grant; working with Children's Inter-Agency Coordinating Council to conduct a needs assessment to look at substance use services and how it correlates with the Children's System of Care (CSOC) to see if there is any type of additional trainings we can offer for ACE's and trauma. We had our first workgroup meeting on July 8th with about 8 people in attendance and we started the first couple sections of the needs assessment. Next will be looking at data and the ultimate goal is to create a logic model and submit it to the state. Some school trainings and drug and alcohol trainings are being done under this grant as well.

Cape Atlantic Bridge Coalition (CAB):

Regional coalition state grant, JTAC partners with Cape May County's coalition. With training being virtual we were able to allow more attendees to register for the school resiliency training. Most registrations are from southern New Jersey but there are some registrants from other parts of the state, country and a few from other countries as well. The first of two 3-day trainings is being held this week and has had about 198-206 people in attendance, the second session is being held July 20-22. These trainings help school staff in Atlantic/Cape May County learn different ways to teach and work with children with Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) and those who have experienced trauma. The trainings are used to help educators build resiliency teams in their schools. Michael McKnight and Dr. Lori Desautels of Butler University do the training and on July 16th they are doing a similar training for PreK-elementary grade educators to talk about the specific challenges they will be facing with that age group.

Stand Up and Rebel (SUAR)/Incorruptible.Us:

The high school youth group has been staying as active as possible the last couple months despite all meetings and activities being virtual. They did a series of senior recognitions in June and held their

monthly meeting. At the June meeting, seniors had the opportunity to speak about their experience and give advice to the younger students. Pizza was ordered for the seniors because dinner would normally have been provided. There were 14 graduating seniors from Egg Harbor Township and we went to each of their homes and presented them with balloons and a scholarship check. Pictures were posted on the Atlantic Prevention Resources and the Incorruptible.Us.Atlantic Instagram pages. We are now focusing on recruiting new members and the next meeting for middle and high school students is this Thursday from 4-5 p.m. Each student that brings a friend to the next meeting will receive a \$10 gift card for themselves and their friend will receive one as well. If you know any youth that would be interested in joining, please contact Carlo at cfavretto@atlprev.org. There is also a Google form on the JTAC website (www.jtacnj.org) that can be filled out to join.

Opioid Task Force:

Naloxone Training – Urban Treatment Associates is still offering trainings/kits and so is Hope One. Hope One is back out on the streets and offering trainings/kits as much as they can for anyone who needs them.

Hope One/AC LEAD – Hope One is back up, fully functional and in the office every day. They are doing street outreach three days and two nights a week. The Helping Hands grant allowed them to hire two additional part time recovery specialists (Douglas Martin and Vinny Kirkland) to do night outreach. The night outreach is being done at various locations on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 5-8 p.m. They are hosting their 2nd annual Hope One celebration on September 26th at Lake Lenape. The AC Lead program is still up and running and recently had another graduate and added two additional participants.

Atlantic County Municipal Alliance –Funding is still frozen as of March 23rd until at least September 30th. Municipal alliances are having a reduction in their funding so they are re-doing their municipal plans and amending their budgets.

Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office – Data shows an increase in overdoses during COVID-19 with 9 fatalities. There also appears to be an increase in individuals declining to go to the emergency department after an overdose and admissions are down as well. Laurie posted the overdose stats in the chat box.

Opioid Town Hall – This was scheduled in March with Shore Medical Center but had been canceled. We still haven't set anything up with Shore Medical Center but the Absecon Police Department did reach out about doing something virtual in the schools this fall.

Interventions/Updates:

CADCA Mid-Year – The national coalition mid-year training is being done virtually for four days at the end of the month.

Parent Presentations – 5 parent presentations are scheduled, the Greater Egg Harbor School District is offering three sessions (Oakcrest, Absegami and Cedar Creek) and we are doing two 15-minute child break sessions with the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey. The 15-minute child break helps teach parents how to discuss drug/alcohol use with their child in just 15 minutes. Fliers for the 15-minute child break will be sent out. The two sessions are being offered through zoom and are scheduled for July 30th at 7pm and August 5th at 2 pm. Stockton students recorded a presentation on underage drinking and once it is edited, it will be shared with schools for parents to view on JTAC's YouTube channel.

Underage Drinking Radio Town Hall – A couple of weeks ago, Bob hosted a radio town hall on Harry Hurley in the Morning about underage drinking and parenting during COVID-19. The guests were Kathy McFadden (APR), Jen Pielhau (Atlantic County Municipal Alliance Coordinator) and Chief Donna Higbee (Galloway Twp. Police Dept.). Laurie thanked everyone who participated.

We Check for 21 – This training is typically done in person but we are doing it virtually this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. A YouTube link for the recording is available on JTAC's website and Facebook page. The flier was shared through Facebook messenger and we did a mass mailing to over 300 restaurants, bars and liquor stores in Atlantic County. Cape May County also shared the link with their licensed establishments. The recording is available until July 31st and has already had 188 views so far. We are still offering the blacklights and ID guide books for any participants, details are provided in the video.

Youth Summit – All presentations have been recorded and will be sent to the schools in the fall.

Pharmacy Outreach – Over the next few months we will be doing our different summer outreaches. Brian has been visiting pharmacies over the last few weeks and going over proper drug disposal and giving out Deterra and other materials (rack cards, magnets, stickers, etc.) to be given out to customers. He visited 39 out of 55 pharmacies in the county and 25 have agreed to distribute Deterra. We will be visiting veterinarian and hospice offices next.

Prescription Drop Boxes -We have been using social media to promote reaching out to drop box locations before going because some boxes are currently unavailable due to COVID-19. We do know that the Galloway Police Department is still accepting medications and Brian found out that Walgreens in Egg Harbor Township allows liquids, creams, lotions and aerosol cans which isn't allowed at any of the other locations.

Deterra/Locking Medicine Cabinets – We have plenty of Deterra on hand, we recently purchased an additional 3,000 bags after distributing about 2,800 over the past few weeks. Locking medicine cabinets are still available through a no contact pick up, contact Brian (bwilson@atlprev.org) or call the office 609-272-0101 to set up a time.

Middle School PSA Contest – Deadline for submissions was extended to July 31st and photo submissions are being accepted. If you know anyone interested, please share this information with them and contact Amber with any questions (acutano@atlprev.org).

Newsletter –Amber is working on the JTAC newsletter, if anyone has any information to add, email her at acutano@atlprev.org. She put her email in the chat box.

In-person Retreat – The retreat will probably be canceled this year but we will possibly be doing something different (specific training) for our September meeting.

JTAC Website (www.jtacnj.org) – Brian and Amber have been updating and adding a lot of new information (parent/teen resources, Stand Up and Rebel (youth coalition) page, faith based and LGBTQ+ information, etc.) to the website. Check it out!

NJPN Conference – Everyone who attended agreed the set up was great and so was the conference. Laurie and Courtney reminded everyone that workshops are available until the end of the year.

Tobacco Update:

Atlantic Quit Center – There are 11 quit centers across the State of New Jersey that provide cessations services in different counties and are funded by the New Jersey Department of Health, Office of Tobacco Control. The center in Atlantic County receives its funding through Atlantic Prevention Resources and they have fully transitioned to telehealth after the stay at home order was issued. They are continuing to take phone calls and are currently running 4 zoom groups (open and closed). Groups are usually 6 weeks long and follow a specific curriculum. They are available for presentations (treatment facilities, groups looking to quit, etc.) and can also meet with people individually if preferred. Free Nicotine Replacement Therapy is available (patch, gum, lozenges, etc.), Kim put her information in the chat for anyone who is interested.

Working Well Tobacco Free – They are still working from home but are slowly getting back out to do some things (provide promotional materials/signage). Executive Order 150 requires that any outdoor area where food or drinks are consumed must be smoke-free, restaurants found out about this about 48 hours prior to being allowed to open. Working Well has been offering to assist (free signage, staff education, etc.) with this because the industry has been very overwhelmed. The Smoke-Free AC Coalition relaunched in early May. Casinos reopened with smoke-free restrictions so it has heightened the awareness of second and third hand smoke and increased COVID-19 regulations and risks. The coalition has increased its social media presence (Instagram, Facebook and Twitter) and written letters to casino executives and media outlets. They conducted a survey with over 400 responses and 90% were in favor of the smoke free casino experience. They have also contacted many large nationwide organizations such as American's for Non-Smokers Rights and American Lung Association and these organizations are supportive of Smoke Free AC and they really have been making strides. Smoking/COVID education is available to anyone who is interested. Please check out the Smoke-Free AC website and share any ideas that you may have.

Smoke-Free Housing – They are still working from home with quick social distance drop offs as needed. The New Jersey Smoke-Free Housing directory is being continuously updated and can be found on the new web page through Tobacco-Free for a Healthy New Jersey. They will be launching a smoke-free housing pledge with free giveaways.

Eliminate Tobacco Use Northeast Summit – This summit is being held virtually on July 16th and 17th.

New Business:

TIPS – TIPS is responsible beverage training for liquor licensed establishment employees (servers, bartenders, managers, owners, etc.) and Amber completed the 2-day train-the-trainer training last week. We are looking into scheduling some virtual trainings at the end of August. Laurie was already contacted by a business in Somers Point that has about 50 employees that need to be trained.

Marijuana Radio Town Hall – We will be hosting a Marijuana Radio Town Hall on August 11th during Atlantic Prevention Resource's portion of the Harry Hurley morning show. The flier is being put together and Laurie will send it out once it is completed.

Ordinance Mailing – Laurie and Amber will be meeting on July 23rd to go over some details relating to an ordinance packet to send out to municipalities. This packet will include all drug and alcohol ordinances that towns can pass to help reduce substance use in their town (underage drinking, prescription drugs,

marijuana, etc.). We know police chiefs are extremely busy right now but we want them to have the information that we are sending to the council and clerks as well.

Upcoming Events/Announcements/Information:

Stockton – Possibly doing 30% class room sizes but there really aren't any solid answers yet, housing is still up in the air too.

Behavioral Crossroads – They are working on Bridges 30 East. They are offering COVID testing and are still doing telehealth and zoom calls.

800 Gambler – Ken will be hosting a webinar through Stockton about seniors and gambling tomorrow morning at 9 a.m. Registration is available at Stockton's website and Ken put the link in the chat box. They have their annual statewide conference coming up on September 25th and it will be on disordered gambling. This will be a virtual conference and is being offered at an extremely reduced cost of \$25. They have been very busy; internet gambling has increased by about 60% over the last few months. They are anticipating a rush of gambling problems with casinos and sports returning. They think that with casinos being closed, gamblers no longer think they have a problem but issues will resurface with opportunities returning. They are working on creating a virtual version of their 30-hour training that is done four times a year, hoping to go live with it around September 1st.

New Jersey Prevention Network (NJPN) – Conference is still available online.

Atlantic Prevention Resources (APR) – They are currently doing a Strengthening Families Program (SFP) summer group and have already completed 3 full SFP groups through zoom. Most programs will probably have to continue through zoom for some time. They are researching and waiting to hear decisions about schools to determine what they will have to do to continue to provide Forest Friends and Life Skills to the younger students. Most program decisions are kind of on hold but they are still working on things that will hopefully work in a virtual format.

All Roads Recovery – They are still continuing with online recovery groups, Jesse posted their schedule in the chat (fitness, general recovery, faith based, game night, etc.). They are purchasing tents to start face-to-face services on Saturday mornings. They will be following social distancing guidelines but feel this is much needed for members. Once logistics are worked out, Jesse will share the details when they are available.

ACCC – They are planning on going back at 30% capacity in classrooms but will have to wait and see exactly how that is going to work. The president of the college emails updates weekly.

Southern NJ Family Medical – They are offering free COVID testing in Pleasantville and Hammonton which also include antibody testing. They have been very busy so some people have been having a hard time getting through, if you need any help, reach out to Stephanie.

New Jersey Poison Control Center – Still operating state COVID-19 information hotline.

Next meeting: September 8th (tentatively)

Motion to adjourn meeting 1st Brian Wilson 2nd Nigel Newman, Meeting Adjourned