



## Join Together Atlantic County

Virtual Zoom Meeting – May 11, 2021

11:00am – 1:00pm

### Attendance/Sectors & Agencies Represented:

Youth:

Parents:

Law Enforcement: Lindsey Komar (HopeOne/AC LEAD, Atl. Cnty Sheriff's Depart), Ed Bertino (EHTPD), Jamie Costello (Atl. Cnty. Sheriff's Dept),

Govt Agency: Jen Pielhau (Atl. Cnty Substance Abuse Services), Assemb. John Armato (NJ Legislature), Angelo Ragonesi (NJ DMHAS), Sofia Noncent-Johnson (NJ DCF), Darren Williams (NJ National Guard)

School: Michael Levin (Stockton University), Donna McElroy (ACCC)

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

Healthcare: Scott Gras (AtlantiCare), Christine Bracey (Shore Medical Center)

Religious/Fraternal Org.:

Business: Mike Devaney (Calico Enterprises)

Media:

Civic/Volunteer:

Other Org.: Ken Litwak (JBRC), Sean Kolins (Seabrook), Natalia Leusner (Cape Assist), Danielle Bartsche (NJ Poison Control Center), Carlo Favretto (Tobacco Free for a Healthy NJ), Jesse Dariano (JBRC/All Roads Recovery), Ashley Sudol and Palak Shah (New Jersey Prevention Network), Dorothy Bowker, Gretchen Halfpenny and Brooke Maurello (Overdose Fatality Review Team)

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

Guest/Other: Virginia Williams (Intern ACCC)

**Introductions/Minutes:**

Laurie opened the meeting, welcomed the attendees and introductions were made. Minutes from the March meeting were approved via email and will be posted on our website [jtacnj.org](http://jtacnj.org). Chairperson Ken Litwak chaired the meeting, until he had to leave for another engagement, at which point Vice-chair Sean Kolins facilitated the rest of the meeting.

**Internal Coalition Business/Grant Updates:**

Drug Free Communities (DFC), STOP ACT (underage drinking) and CARA (opioid prevention) are all federal grants, Opiate Athlete grant is with the state. Interventions for these grants are moving forward and will be discussed later in the meeting.

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

School Resiliency Teams (SRTs)- We will be having our last School Administrative Academy monthly training on June 2<sup>nd</sup> for this school year. July 13-15<sup>th</sup> we are hosting a hybrid school resiliency team 3-day training for new teams/members. On July 16<sup>th</sup> we are hosting a one-day refresher for existing teams/members. These events will be held with attendees in-person and virtual at Lower Cape May Regional HS. We are also working on a report to highlight successes of existing teams in both Atlantic and Cape May Counties.

**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.

CIACC Workgroup/Needs Assessment- Our CIACC workgroup has completed compiling data for the needs assessment and CIACC logic models. We are currently in a holding pattern while waiting for further guidance from the state and the logic model training they are putting together for the regional coalition.

CIACC System Partner Presentations- JTAC and the Atlantic County CIACC are partnering on multiple presentations regarding information on the CIACC System Partners and their services. The next one will be held Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup> 1:00-2:00pm and will focus on youth employment and career training. The presentations are being recorded and will be posted on the JTAC website to be shared with the community.

**Committees:** The Membership committee met and is working on updating bylaws and creating a new membership packet.

The Marketing/Media committee met and discussed some upcoming ads including movie theaters, billboards and Glory Days Magazine. We are holding off on movie theater ads until there is an increase in movies and customers. We do have several billboards planned and will be switching the opioid ad in the Glory Days Magazine to an alcohol prevention message.

Strategic Planning and Sustainability committees have not met. An updated sustainability plan is due in August for the DFC grant and strategic planning will meet later in the summer when we are working on the DFC renewal.

**CADCA Mid-Year Conference:** The July 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> conference is being held virtually if anyone is interested contact Laurie.

**Newsletter/Website Links/Information:** Amber is continuously working on a quarterly newsletter if anyone would like to submit an article please email Amber at [acutano@atlprev.org](mailto:acutano@atlprev.org). Brian has been updating the website on a continuous basis if anyone sees anything they think should be edited or added please contact Brian at [bwilson@atlprev.org](mailto:bwilson@atlprev.org). Brian also sends out the Thursday email so if you have any events or information to add to the email also contact Brian.

**Stand Up and Rebel (SUAR):** Stand Up and Rebel continues to meet virtually on zoom once or twice a month, in addition to fun days like game night. Recently, 10 members got together to participate in adopt-a-road with Hamilton Township/Mays Landing. They cleaned up about ¼ mile of road and found trash, alcohol containers, and vaping devices (most notably disposable vapes). The group took photos of trash found, and really enjoyed getting together with each other, safe and socially distanced, to clean up their environment and have lunch. We will be planning an additional event going forward to achieve the adopt-a-road goal. The last meeting had 32 youth on the call and we did a major recruitment push. We will build on this momentum throughout the summer.

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

Naloxone Trainings- Lindsey reported Hope One is available if there are any organizations that would like to be trained. They have a video link where one individual can be trained and then train others (train-the-trainer).

Laurie reported for Rachel at South Jersey Aids Alliance, since January, they have given out 775 Narcan kits, with 251 saves that were self-reported.

Atlantic County Municipal Alliance/Dept. of Health - Jen Pielhau reported they are still available to do virtual trainings, so if anyone is interested, please reach out to her.

Hope One/AC LEAD- Lindsey Komar reported for both programs. AC LEAD is continuing their outreach. They currently have one participant who is doing extremely well and is due to complete the program in mid-June. Hope One has been super busy and had 154 referrals last month. They responded to about 100 DMI (state police report) overdoses, this is when they go out and contact individuals who overdosed and provide them with information and Narcan.

Overdose Fatality Review Team (OFRT)- Dorothy Bowker and Gretchen Halfpenny reported that they had their first case review meeting last month and had another one on Monday. They reviewed two cases last month and three this month. They had great participation, discussions, comments and feedback from everyone. They are starting to come up with some recommendations but their biggest frustrations are surrounding the confidentiality issues and not being able to always get the information they need.

Stigma Forum/Opioid Resource Fair- This will be a two-part virtual event. The first session will be held on Wednesday, June 9th from 2-4pm and will focus on the stigma of addiction. Current confirmed speakers are Gloria Seel, Sr. Dir. Of Addictions with AtlantiCare who will be discussing language and stigma in general utilizing info from Robert Ashford who is a national speaker on stigma. Gloria has trained several

hundred AtlantiCare employees. The other speaker is Dr. Ranieri from Seabrook who will be speaking about Medication Assisted Recovery and the stigma associated with it. We are also working on confirming another speaker. The second session will be a virtual opioid resource fair highlighting different services throughout our area and will be scheduled shortly. A flyer for the event will be finalized and sent out. If anyone knows of any groups that should be included in the resource event, please let Laurie know.

### **Interventions/Updates:**

Prescription Drop Boxes- We currently have 25 drop boxes in the county. Our newest location opened back in the beginning of April and is located inside of the Bellevue Drug Company located at 254 Bellevue Ave in Hammonton. This drop box also allows for disposal of liquid medications which most of the police department drop boxes don't allow. It is available to the public during normal business hours which is on our website. Hamilton Township also received a box back in January and that is available 24/7.

Deterra/Locking Medicine Cabinets- We have plenty of Deterra and locking medicine cabinets available for anyone that is interested. These can be picked up in our office in Absecon by appointment only by contacting Brian. If any organization would like to help distribute the locking medicine cabinets or Deterra we can arrange a drop off.

Faith-Based Meeting- Amber reported that on Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> from 10-11 a.m. her and Brian will be having the bi-monthly JTAC faith-based meeting. Rev. Paul Ascitutto, Jr. from Seabrook will be presenting on the connections between faith and addiction recovery, the 12-step process with spiritual and biblical comparisons, personal experiences working in the recovery field as a spiritual leader and the different spiritual and Christian based recovery programs offered at Seabrook. If anyone needs the registration link or the flyer, please reach out to Amber. She put her email address [acutano@atlprev.org](mailto:acutano@atlprev.org) in the chat box.

Stockton Service Learning Class- Every semester Laurie and Brian work with Stockton's Alcohol and Drug Peer Education Service Learning Class. The project for the class each semester is to work with the coalition on different activities. Laurie worked with two groups, one group was continuing to work on our toolkit which was started last semester relating to different alternate activities that are being done across the country at different universities and colleges. This group was also working on a former Stockton club called Rise Above which was a peer-to-peer club similar to our Stand Up and Rebel youth coalition but for Stockton University students. The club focused on different alternate activities. Instead of starting Rise Above back up the group decided to instead revamp a different group called CLAWS which is a public health prevention group.

Laurie's second group was working on a marijuana social norms prevention campaign. In addition to the prevention campaign, this group has been working to help educate students understand the difference between Stockton's marijuana policy and state legislation. Since Stockton receives federal funds, no matter what the legislation is in New Jersey, marijuana would not be allowed on campus. Both of these group's projects will carry on into the fall with new students. The third group that Brian is working with is the ATI/Stigma group. ATI is the Above the Influence campaign which is a national campaign that spreads awareness about alcohol, tobacco and other drug as well as positive messages. To do this they use social media such as Twitter, Snapchat and Instagram. They create different unique posts and post them on the different social media platforms. Another component of this group was creating a stigma

free campus. They created a power point presentation and presented on stigma to different student organizations on campus and also had stigma free pledge forms signed. The fourth group was the JTAC marketing group. This group was tasked with re-creating a general JTAC overview power point presentation. They also created different billboard ads, posters and different social media posts to be used throughout the year.

Ordinance Packet- Amber and Laurie met in the office last week and went over the ordinance mailing which was previously put on hold. We will now be moving forward with this but there are a couple changes that need to be made before sending them out. Once this is finalized it will be sent out next Wednesday and will also include information on cannabis ordinances. So far, Buena Vista passed to opt out of the cannabis legislation on April 26<sup>th</sup>, Brigantine also opted out on May 5<sup>th</sup> and Port Republic has their first reading to opt out tonight with a second reading in June.

Translation Services- We recently had all of our JTAC materials such as rack cards, posters, treatment resources guides, Deterra, lockbox poster, etc. translated into Spanish. Brian reached out to the local Hispanic organizations and was able to supply a handful of them with the materials along with Deterra and lockboxes for them to help distribute. If anyone is interested in these materials, please contact Brian.

Vicinage Partnership Forum- There were 125 people from community organizations in attendance for the March 10<sup>th</sup> event. They will be meeting again to plan an event for parents on resiliency on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

PSA Contest- Middle school underage drinking prevention contest is underway and ends on May 21<sup>st</sup>. A reminder email will be sent to schools this week and we will be letting them know that we can arrange a pick up for any submitted artwork. Amber received some submissions from Atlantic Christian School yesterday and is looking forward to seeing additional submissions from other schools as well.

Stockton Peer Ed Presentations and Events- Michael Levin reported there are currently 4 Stockton Alcohol and Drug Peer Educators and one just graduated. These students are paid through a Stay Safe and Graduate grant that Stockton gets through the National Highway Traffic Safety. They do a lot of on-campus tabling which will hopefully pick back up in the fall. They also reach out to local high school health classes and educate them on drug and alcohol issues and provide information to the students about Stockton. Annually they hold a Halloween event called LollaNoBooza which usually has over 600 students in attendance, this was not held in 2019 due to COVID. Instead they held a virtual Spring Fling event. The event consisted of online escape rooms, Kahoot Challenges and other activities. It was a pretty successful event.

### **Legislation Updates:**

Assemblyman Armato didn't have much to report, Trenton is in budget mode so many things are on hold right now. He does believe there will be a lot of clean up bills coming out relating to the cannabis legislation. The underage parental notification was the first but he believes this is going to be a long ongoing process, which is normal. He will continue to give us updates as they come.

Educational Presentation on NJ Cannabis Legislation- Laurie gave an educational presentation on the cannabis legislation in NJ and where we are at right now. She reiterated that this information is continuously changing.

## **Tobacco Update:**

General Tobacco- Atlantic/Cape May Regional Tobacco Collaborative meeting will be on 5/19 @ 9:00 and is open to anyone. Please email [Tobaccofreenj@atlprev.org](mailto:Tobaccofreenj@atlprev.org) if you would like receive an invitation and/or be placed on the mailing list.

Smoke-Free Beach Flags are ready for distribution-They will be reaching out to Beach Towns to see if they would be interested in our Beach Flags before the season.

Wildwood Crest-Ordinance rescinded, to allow 15% of beach to be smoking. Huge effort on part of their Green Team. Carlo and Kim presented to them about 2.5 years ago, so it has been a long process.

Tobacco Free Tuesdays-May 25th @ 10am-NJ Quit Resources. Registration will be sent soon

No Menthol Sunday-This coming Sunday, May 16th. There is a toolkit available

FDA Announcement-Media Release-TFHNJ-Ban Menthol/Flavored Cigars

Atlantic Quit Center- The quit center currently has four ongoing groups at JBRC, one evening community group on Wednesday nights, and one new group aimed at helping clients quit Nicotine Replacement Therapy products. They also offer individual counseling sessions. Everything is still virtual - via zoom or over the phone. They are still running their target gift card promotion - each new client will receive a \$25 target gift card and any clients that refer a new client will also get a gift card.

Working Well Tobacco Free/Smoke Free AC- Working Well Tobacco Free is working to expand upon its resources and technical assistance to mental health facilities.

Participation in smoking cessation efforts while engaged in substance use treatment has been associated with a 25% greater likelihood of long-term abstinence

On April 15, 2021, The Smoke Free Atlantic City Coalition along with our National Partners held a virtual press conference via Zoom followed by a 12:00 PM live event in Atlantic City on the Boardwalk at Kennedy Plaza, both in honor of the 15th anniversary of the NJ Smoke-Free Air Act (SFAA). The SFAA was passed to protect workers and patrons across the state from secondhand smoke, with a glaring exception: casinos. On Thursday we celebrated this milestone, but also drew attention to the fact the health of casino employees is still in jeopardy. The SFAA protects most of New Jersey's workforce, protecting *almost* all workplaces, including bars and restaurants, from the secondhand smoke of cigarettes and cigars as well as the aerosol from e-cigarettes. A bill has been introduced in the New Jersey Legislature to close the loophole and require casinos to prohibit smoking, which would finally offer a clean, safe and healthy destination to work and play.

Our work on this day in Atlantic City, as well as the Press Conference hosted by our Tobacco Advocacy Partners earlier in the day, was covered by many news agencies and in several articles. It is possible Murphy has seen our Advocacy Work and we plan to keep this momentum going to KEEP AC Smoke Free!

Gov Murphy was asked about smoking returning to the casinos during 2 of his press conferences last week and Murphy answered by saying, "I've got no opinion yet, we haven't considered the anti-smoking piece, I've seen the advocates make a very compelling case, I was in and around casinos this weekend... but no news on that yet"

Next Smoke Free Housing (SFH) Meeting currently being scheduled. SFH Toolkit is being updated.

Youth Tobacco Action Group (YTAG)/Incorruptible.Us- YAB call occurred on 5/4, and one is coming up on 5/18. Incorporruptible.Us is working on No Menthol Sunday and World No Tobacco Day. This month's topic/theme is Mental Health Awareness Month. SUAR/Incorruptible.Us meeting is planned for Wednesday May 19th at 4pm. Notices for the meeting will be sent out this week -- last month there were 30 youth in attendance! Since last meeting, Carlo has met with Cumberland Regional and Clearview Regional (Cumberland and Gloucester Counties) to discuss school policy change and ASPIRE. Both schools have submitted welcome packets, Carlo got their locations added in ASPIRE, and will be setting their accounts up this week, he received final approval from Clearview Administration. Last week Carlo presented for Pleasantville High School on Thursday and Friday, and got some new followers on Instagram as a result. He will be doing additional Don't Get Vaped In (DGVI) presentations for them at the end of the month. This week he will be doing DGVI presentations for Atlantic City. He is connecting with our local NAACP chapters to organize info for No Menthol Sunday. Carlo was also contacted by the Absecon Police Department to present at their Hooked On Fishing event on Saturday June 6th -- short 30 min presentation and will be able to provide free resources.

#### **New Business:**

Fresh Start Presentation- Laurie and Amber did virtual presentations for an event that Fresh Start Church was having. One was for parents and the other was on current drug trends. Due to some people being unable to attend the drug trends one, we offered the Zoom and answered some questions and provided information relating to recreational and medicinal marijuana. The presentation on current drug trends will be recorded and sent to the church and shared on our website.

Stigma Campaign- In the summer, we are going to start looking into doing a stigma prevention campaign for all of the municipalities in the county. We will be looking to do many things including providing toolkits and having pledges signed. This campaign will work on changing stigma county-wide and help local municipalities understand the importance of changing stigma and what they can do to help.

Opioid Resources- Over the summer, we are looking into doing something relating to the opioid resources that are available in the area. This will be similar to our treatment resource guide and we will have it on our website so that people can look in one place for information as it relates to resources specifically related to opioids.

Prom Outreach- Amber and Brian will be starting prom outreach this week. They will be visiting different tuxedo and dress shops along with florists and nail salons and giving out rack cards with information relating to underage drinking and Parents Who Host Lose the Most information. They will distribute this information and ask for it to be shared with prom customers or placed on the counters for customers to grab. They are looking forward to this outreach because it was unable to be done last year and it is a great opportunity to get out in the community and make connections.

Treatment Resource Guides- Treatment Resource Guides have recently been updated. Brian along with one of our interns Ginger contacted everyone in the guide to make sure their information was correct and also added some new additional resources. The guides were printed in both English and Spanish and Brian picked them up yesterday. If anyone is interested, just reach out to Brian.

We Check for 21- We are going to do this training again this year. This will be a virtual fraudulent ID training by Joe Vasil with Vasil ID training. The training is to help bartenders, servers, liquor store staff, police etc. learn what to look for and how to spot a fake ID. We normally have this in person but last year was the first time we did it virtually and it worked out well. We will prerecord the training and have it up on our website for a select period of time.

TIPS Training- We are setting up two trainings, one will be a morning training and one will be a late afternoon training. We are looking at doing these at the end of the month or the beginning of June. Laurie will share this information along with the We Check for 21 information.

Sticker Shock- We will be doing a Sticker Shock event either around Memorial Day or 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. The stickers warn against providing alcohol to those under 21 and list the fines and penalties relating to doing so. Since we haven't been able to bring the high school students into the liquor stores to sticker large cases of alcohol, we will be stickering paper bags and delivering them to the stores.

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

Egg Harbor Township Police Activities League- Eddie Bertino along with 8 others recently created this non-profit corporation. They are looking to be the community policing arm of the police department. They have a couple programs that they will be doing this summer (flag football, dodgeball, etc.). They are looking for other entities to collaborate and partner with. If anyone would like more information on partnering and/or events, please reach out to Eddie his email is [palofeht@gmail.com](mailto:palofeht@gmail.com). They also have a Facebook page and website with information.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, July 13, 2021 - TBD

Motion to adjourn meeting 1<sup>st</sup> Jen Pielhau 2<sup>nd</sup> Carlo Favretto, Meeting Adjourned

Meeting ended and Laurie did an educational presentation on NJ Cannabis Legislation