

Pequannock Township Coalition, Minutes of November 2015 Meeting

**PTHS Media Center,
November 11, 2015**

In attendance:

Marianne Albano, Alberta Alleva, Jillian Andresen, Chloe Cogavin, Barbara Cook, Doug Cook, MaryAnn Daly-Couch, Lorin DePinto, Donna Derricks, Melissa Florence-Lynch, Phyllis Minicuci, Michael Portas, Mary Vineis, Dave Wetmore, Cindy Wolkowitz

The meeting was started at 4:30 followed by introductions, housekeeping instructions, participant sign in, collection of new CIA forms, and distribution of meeting packets. Chloe offered to take notes for meeting minutes.

Mary Vineis gave an update on the following Municipal Alliance activities:

- Campus Outreach Money – Mary is trying to get a refund for the \$750 credit (we double paid and they are trying to hold the money). Their programs are \$5000 so this money will not offset the cost of a program.
- We have \$2000 for education of council members and community members, possibilities:
 - Doug Collier (retired DEA Agent) program costs around \$500
 - Epidemic H filmmakers, Mike Mee ('09) and Ken Spooner who are making a film about the current heroin epidemic and are looking for funding. Maureen Morella has a cameo in this film and talks about Jesse and life after his overdose.
 - Sexting/Social Media Presentation – perhaps the one that Rich Hayzler does?

Phyllis thanked everyone who reached out to community members! A warm welcome was extended to all of our new attendees. In the future, we will schedule orientation meetings for any new/interested members so that we will not have to explain the DFC at every meeting. She also thanked Chloe for providing such terrific notes from last month's meeting.

Phyllis gave an update on recent activities:

- Prevention Pinwheels Project was installed by students from SADD, Interact and FBLA. We had excellent media coverage from Suburban Trends (although many of the facts were not quite on target), Daily Record, NorthJersey.com, and WGHT radio. PTHS was the first high school to do the project in Morris County. It would be wonderful if it could be an annual event and expand to include faculty in the installation!
- Parents Who Host banner is displayed on the front of the High School, cups labeled with the message were distributed during Fall sports concessions and another 1000 cups and napkins will be donated for Winter concessions.
- The MAC has 2 additional banners to be displayed elsewhere in town.
- Youth Coalition is a task force involving high school and middle school students. A suggestion was made to somehow involve young adults in the Coalition. Development of a Youth Coalition is a must for continued funding.
- A Resource Kit has been developed for parents who suspect that their child may be using a substance. It contains a 12 panel urine screen, an alcohol oral swab, resources for treatment and support, instructions for using the tests, and information about various substances. 10 drug tests have already been delivered to the Police Department, and

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another 15 kits will be made available to anyone who needs them for free. In the future we may be able to charge people outside of the community a small fee to cover costs. The kit will be advertised via social media, the PTC website, and we will explore other media avenues to promote the resource. Feedback from parents of children in recovery commented that this would have been a very valuable resource to have. Suggestions for adding to the kit are welcome.

- Goal 1, Objective 1, strategy 2: Plan and implement a culturally competent media campaign in order to increase awareness of the Coalition:

Tabling Events at the high school generated a lot of interest. A brief questionnaire was handed out to parents and almost 50 were returned. The results show that we have a lot of work to do getting word out about the coalition, the Rx drop box, and the Overdose Protection Act. One interesting observation is that the vast majority of respondents felt that parents who host underage drinking should have to perform community service in addition to paying a fine. There was quite a bit of discussion about if that could be an environmental strategy that Pequannock could adopt. Dave Wetmore felt that it would not be something that could be done because of existing statutes.

- Have you heard of the Pequannock Twp. Coalition?
 - 7/49 said yes
- Are you familiar with the Overdose Protection Act?
 - 2/49 said yes
- Do you believe marijuana is harmful to youth?
 - 49/49 said yes
- Have you ever used the permanent prescription drop box located in the lobby of the Police Dept.?
 - 5/49 said yes, many said that they didn't know that it was there
- What do you think is the best way to address underage drinking on private property?
 - 25 said fine, 24 said community service, 12 said both
- Do you think that underage alcohol and prescription use should be addressed in Peq. Twp.?
 - 49/49 said yes
- Goal 2, Objective 1, Strategy 1: Town wide awareness campaign using social media and internet:
 - The new PTC website is up! www.ptcmorris.org will be a resource for the community and a way to publicize events and initiatives. A suggestion was made to put the survey we handed out at high school tabling events on the website, and also on the town website.
 - Our Facebook page has 30 likes. Thank you to everyone on the Coalition who "Liked" it.
- A student 4 Core Measure Survey was approved by the Board of Ed on October 26. Each parent must give consent for their child to take the survey. The survey is completely anonymous, must include at a minimum of two high school and 1 middle school grades, and will address marijuana, tobacco, alcohol, prescription drugs, and e-cigs. Parent consent

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forms will be sent out 2 weeks prior to the survey, and we must have at least 30% of each grade complete the survey in order for the data to be valid. Incentives in the form of gift certificates will be given out (via a drawing) to parents who return the consent forms.

- National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week is coming up – January 25 – 31st and we should think about activities for that week.
- Phyllis explained “In Kind” and that everything we do has value, and that as part of our funding we must “match” the amount of the grant. Volunteer tracking forms were distributed. There should be completed and returned at each meeting. Any time we spend working on Coalition business, mileage to and from events, donations of space, materials, etc. should be noted so that the Coalition can be credited appropriately.
- Phyllis asked each member to please complete a brief questionnaire about their interests and strengths and training that they would like to have. This is so that we can make appropriate use of each member’s talents and place them in the type of coalition work that is most meaningful to them. It will also help us develop working groups for certain issues.
- Jillian talked about a comedy night being held by HOPE in March and asked for suggestions for location because students would like it to be somewhere other than the PTHS cafeteria. The Little Food Café was suggested. PTC is only allowed to provide \$2.50 per person toward food but can provide other incentives and materials. It may also be a good venue to survey students and incentives could be raffled off, such as a tablet or other device.
- Cindy Wolkowitz thanked the MAC for their support with Keith Hawkins, a speaker who recently gave a program at PVMS.

Our next meeting will be December 9th at 4:30 in the PTHS Media Center. Phyllis will provide an update on the budget at that time, if possible, depending on the final accounting figures being available from the Coalition’s fiscal agent.