

Pequannock Township Coalition, Minutes of April 13, 2016 Meeting

PTHS Media Center

In attendance:

Marianne Albano (parent), Alberta Alleva (civic/volunteer), Jillian Andresen (school), Det. Steve Cicchetti (law enforcement), Chloe Cogavin (school), MaryAnn Daly Couch (healthcare), Donna Derricks (healthcare), Stephanie Drag (other substance abuse), Mike Meyer (parent), Phyllis Minicuci (coordinator), Michael Portas (education), Hannah Sabbagh (healthcare), Alicia Scelso (education), Laura Shamber (religious), Burnadette Day for Mary Vineis (youth serving), Cindy Wolkowitz (healthcare)

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.

The producers of Epidemic H will not be able to attend this afternoon's meeting as previously scheduled due to a family emergency. Please keep Mike Mee and his family in your prayers as his brother was involved in a serious automobile accident this week. They will attend next month's meeting to give us an update on their film.

Phyllis gave an update on recent activities:

- The application for 6-10 funding through the Drug Free Communities program was successfully submitted on March 18. Seventy (or so) new grants will be awarded and we should find out our award status in August. Based on the data obtained in the student core measure surveys, youth focus groups, newspaper and environmental scans, our focus in years 6-10 will expand to include marijuana and e-cigs in addition to underage drinking and rx/OTC medication misuse.
- A reminder - it is important to continue to document your activities on the Volunteer Tracking sheets.
- The fans promoting the Coalition and healthy choices have been ordered for the middle and high school graduations.
- Magnets and fold-over cards with take back info have been mocked up and Chloe will be sending them to the District Manager of the CVS and he will be consulting with his legal department to see if they can be distributed through the stores.
- The Coalition has sponsored signage on the Township Little League fields to increase awareness of the PTC.
- April is Alcohol Awareness Month so we will be posting via social media and perhaps via Suburban Trends if we can get a good contact there.
- CCSHM will be applying for the STOP grant, which specifically addresses underage drinking.
- Please keep promoting the Coalition. Continuing efforts to provide information on social media are very time consuming. Stephanie suggested looking into using tools like Hootsuite to assist in updating multiple social media platforms. We will continue to provide information via the Township webpage, newsletter, the PD Facebook page, and the Parks and Rec social media.

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Mary, for the MAC, asked that anything that needs to be funded be communicated to her ASAP since we are entering the last quarter of her year.

Alicia gave an update on the Pre-Prom Parent's Who Host meeting to be held on May 3rd. Juniors who plan prom are adapting a PowerPoint presentation from Alicia to Pequannock students. Juniors made a flyer to be posted around town. Detective Cicchetti, Let. Fairweather and the DRE Officer will be presenting on local hosting ordinances and drug trends. Raffles are being solicited as incentives to parents who attend: KC Bagel, Curlys, Limousine services, Florists, Nail Salons, local restaurants, and the Coalition will be donating an Amazon Tap Speaker. The PTC will have a table set up outside the event with the Parents Who Host literature.

Jillian and Chloe gave updates on the following SAC/PTHS activities:

- Natural High Comedy Night is moved to May 18th, 6:30 pm in the Cafeteria with pizza, auditorium opens at 6:50, Comedians start at 7. There will be free admission and the Coalition will raffle off an Amazon Tap. We may opt to do a student survey regarding drug use (tbd).
- High school students watched the Chasing the Dragon movie today and were very moved by what they saw.
- The Community Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Morris, which the Coalition is a task force of, awarded Evangeline Witzak a \$500 scholarship for her essay on underage drinking. She will be recognized at the next school board meeting.

Phyllis and Det. Cicchetti updated on the status of the Cellbrite initiative. Our DFC Project Officer approved the funding request and the Coalition will be able to contribute \$3,000 which should cover the training of one officer. The other funding for training and the machine will be organized by the police department and other charitable organizations.

The Pequannock Twp. Street Fair is coming up on June 12, 2106 and the Coalition will have a booth next to the PD. Anyone who can help to work the booth and talk to residents please sign up. This is a tremendous recruitment and outreach opportunity.

There is a Hidden in Plain Sight event being held in Wharton on April 25th. It would be a good idea for as many of us as can go to attend to see what we think of the program. Please let Phyllis know if you can attend. If we like the presentation we can bring it to Pequannock.

Discussion was held surrounding a Drug Take Back event. Possible locations include Cedar Crest, the Municipal Building, and having the events coincide with local events such as Hazardous Waste Day or Shredding Day. The PD has been given permission from the Prosecutor to obtain a mobile drop box! Phyllis will touch base with Melissa (Town Council) to see if there are any upcoming events we can attach a Take Back Day to.

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Phyllis asked Mike Portas to share a recent experience he had with his physician when he asked about the current environment regarding prescription opiates and addiction. He distributed the New York Times article his physician suggested that he read, "Drug Overdoses Propel Rise in Mortality Rates of Young Whites" from Jan. 16, 2006. There was lengthy discussion surrounding the current epidemic and that it has become more prevalent in whites ages 18-25 and the work that CCSHM and many coalitions are doing regarding educating physicians on the current prescribing practice guidelines coming from Temple University research and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Coalition reviewed the remaining goals and objectives and strategies for this grant year. Get Your ID Out campaign will take place in the Fall, continuing efforts to reduce access to rx meds through take back days, and ongoing efforts to survey community members will be the focus through the end of the grant year.

Our next meeting will be held on May 18th at 4:30.