

Pequannock Township Coalition, Minutes of February 10, 2016 Meeting

PTHS Media Center

In attendance/sector:

Det. Steve Cicchetti (law enforcement), Chloe Cogavin (school), MaryAnn Daly Couch (healthcare), Stephanie Drag (other substance abuse), Melissa Florence-Lynch (business), Theodore Loeffler (education), Mike Meyer (parent), Phyllis Minicuci (coordinator), Alicia Scelso (education), Mary Vineis (youth serving)

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

A warm welcome to first-time attendee Stephanie Drag.

Mary began the meeting with updates from the Municipal Alliance. Application for money for next fiscal year has been submitted to the county. Mary met with Dr. Scelso about joint MAC/PTC/PTHS projects. A "Parents Who Host, Lose the Most" campaign will be held in conjunction with the Prom (which ties in with **PTC Goal 2, Objective 2, Strategy 2**) Some possibilities are a pre-prom meeting for parents, having a larger banner made for the front of the school (PTC can cover this cost), discounted prom tickets and eligibility for prizes such as free limo rides and tux rentals, etc., for parents who attend (MAC and PTC can help with this). Matt Bellas has two dates open for the Coffee House- April 5 and April 21.

There was a long discussion about this year's Crash Reenactment. Dr. Scelso has extensive past experience with this program and will be greatly involved.

Phyllis gave an update on the Community Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Morris Teen Summit which will take place on March 16. To date 100 teens have already signed up. It will take place from 8 am until 2:30 pm and Jonathan Catherman will be the speaker.

Update on the Prescription Drop Box: Sgt. Rich Cook, from the narcotics division of the Morris County Sheriff's Dept. reported that he is collecting 40-50 pounds of returned medicines from the Township's Rx Drop Box each month. Despite this success, many in the township still are not aware of the drop box. Phyllis will contact the DEA to find out the steps that we need to take to have 2 community take back days using a portable unit. Hopefully we can do this during another community day, such as a Shred It Day. (**PTC Goal 2, Objective 3, Strategy 2**)

There is a new law, P.L. 2015 c.66 (became effective on January 1) requiring prescribers and pharmacies to provide a notice about drug take back programs to each patient receiving a controlled dangerous substance (CDS) prescription. There is a notice prepared by the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs, which many pharmacies were including with prescriptions initially, but it is tedious and many have stopped doing more than posting notices which point consumers to a general website. Perhaps we could work with the local pharmacies in town and provide them with flyers and/or help to label bags with our take back information. It would be a great activity for the youth coalition. Please continue to report where Take Back Fliers are placed. Our Lady of Good Council, Shop Rite, the Library, Holy Spirit, and Cedar Crest were locations discussed.

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Drug Resource Kits

Thank you to the schools for posting about these to the community via email blasts and their websites. Steve said they gave out 7 kits and called in 7 different families to discuss concerns over their children. An employee for New Jersey Partnership for Drug Free Kids is looking to update our resources for these kits. Steve met with a community member on a drug resource information kit that he had made. Steve said he had amazing resources and hopes to bring him to a meeting

Future Activities discussed:

- “In Plain Sight”, a setup of a teen’s bedroom where parents try to see if they can spot the drug paraphernalia. A local prevention agency in Sussex County does this. We will see when and where the next one is being held so we can check it out for Pequannock.
- Sticker Shock for the Youth Coalition. After obtaining permission from local liquor/package store owners, students place stickers on cases of beer. The stickers reinforce that that the establishment does not sell alcohol to minors. It has also been done with pizza boxes. **(PTC Goal 2, Objective 2, Strategy 2).**
- Approval was given for the PTC to purchase signage as a sponsor to the township little league. The sign and sponsorship would cost \$650. **(PTC Goal 1, Objective 1, Strategy 2)**
- The grant application for year 6-10 is due on March 18. More anecdotal information would be useful to the narrative. Due to issues with liability we are not able to hold focus groups within the schools, however members agreed to speak to community members, their churches, etc. to see if we could hold sessions there.

The meeting attendees broke into the following workgroups for the remainder of the meeting.

Membership and Messaging
Data Collection
Youth Coalition

Out next meeting will be held March 9 at 4:30 in the media center.