

Pequannock Township Coalition, Minutes of January 13, 2016 Meeting

PTHS Media Center

In attendance:

Marianne Albano (parent), Alberta Alleva (civic/volunteer), Det. Steve Cicchetti (law), Joan Darmofalski (parent), Lorin DePinto (parent), Donna Derricks (healthcare), Melissa Florence-Lynch (business), Richard Hayzler (school), Lorraine LaTempa (healthcare), Theodore Loeffler (school), Mike Meyer (parent), Phyllis Minicuci (coordinator), Nick Dominique (National Evaluation Team), Michael Portas (school), Alicia Scelso (school), Mary Vineis (youth serving), Dave Wetmore (civic/volunteer)

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. A warm welcome to our new attendees: Ted Loeffler from North Boulevard School, Joan Darmofalski, and Nick Dominique from Epiphany Community Services.

Mary Vineis updated the coalition on Municipal Alliance business. The Katie Corstner money was spent on an online parenting program. The program consists of webinars and will be made available to district families through June. The cost is normally \$5,000.00 but it was purchased for \$3,000. Supplemental funds were spent on the all school survey. Discussion was held as to whether remaining funds could be donated to #Epidemic H. We may invite the producers to our next Coalition meeting.

DFC Goal 2, Objective 1, Strategy 1. Mary brought up the upcoming Natural High Coffee House. It has traditionally been held in the high school cafeteria, but Little Food Inn is available on certain nights of the week. The cost would be \$300 and we could use small stipends for food costs. The Coalition would be able to assist with food at \$2.50 per student and could also help out with incentives or take-aways. We could also use the event to survey.

DFC Goal 1, Objective. 2, Strategy 1. One of the awareness initiatives of the Community Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Morris this quarter regards private property underage drinking ordinances. Mary feels that this is something that Pequannock Twp. residents need to know about. Several ideas were thrown around regarding a Town Hall or other type of event. Det. Cicchetti agreed to be a part of anything we hold. Discussion regarding low attendance in past similar events and ways to bring residents in focused on an event that could be tied to high school driving privileges.

Phyllis briefly discussed statutory requirements for our upcoming year 6-10 application, the most pressing being acquiring current CIA's in all member segments. Several coalition members currently have community roles in multiple sectors however it is not permissible to represent more than one sector in a DFC Coalition. **For Immediate ACTION – obtain CIA's for inactive/vacant sectors:** Melissa will reach out to Joe Phelan of Suburban Trends to fulfill the “**media**” sector, all members are asked to reach out to local clergy to add to the “**faith based**” requirement, Mary will solicit Newbridge to fulfill the “**other substance abuse organization**” category, organizations such as the Boys/Girls club, the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts need to be contacted to add to the “**youth serving**” category, and we need one or more “**youth**” members under the age of 17.

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Det. Cicchetti gave an update on the Resource Kits. The first kit was given out and the family receiving it was very grateful. Information promoting the kits appeared in the December Township Newsletter and website, and on the Pequannock Twp. Coalition's Facebook page. **Action item: Phyllis will email the press release to all of the school principals who will send it to school families via email blast and also put the information on their school's websites.** Steve mentioned that his Chief will be putting it on the Police Dept.'s Facebook page.

DFC Goal 2, Objective 3, Strategy 2. Mike Meyer noticed a flier for a prescription return drop box at a Shop Rite pharmacy and suggested that we ask local pharmacies if they will put our flier up. Nick commented that he was aware of one coalition that was able to promote their community's drop box on prescription instruction sheets. Several coalition members took flyers to distribute at local businesses. Mike asked if we could put Pequannock Twp. fliers in Lincoln Park (neighboring community) and the consensus was yes. Mary asked if the next batch of fliers could have the location of the drop box featured more prominently. **Action item: for next meeting, members who took fliers will report back on where new fliers were placed.**

The Content Outline for the 2016 DFC FOA narrative section was distributed to all coalition attendees. Phyllis asked that it be read carefully and that anyone interested should help with the grant writing process. It is important that the Coalition's membership be active in developing the community narrative. **Action item: interested members sign up for grant writing working group by January 25, 2016.**

Nick Dominique from Epiphany Community Services, who is a member of PTC's national evaluation team, presented the preliminary results of the Core Measure Survey that was administered to 8th-12th grade students in December. He congratulated the team on the very high response rate, which is very difficult in an active consent state like NJ. Phyllis thanked Rich and Brett for their support and credited our high consent rate with the good relationships they both have with parents and students. Alcohol is still the main substance used by Pequannock Twp. youth, with upwards of 30% of high school students reporting past 30 day use. Misuse of prescription medications is also a concern, although the past 30 day use numbers were much lower. Notable is that the perception of risk for marijuana is low as compared to perception of risk for alcohol or prescription medications. Most of the substances being misused are obtained either in the youth's home or the home of a friend. Dave Wetmore felt that marijuana and other drug numbers may have been low due to a series of arrests that took place in the weeks before the survey. Conclusions and recommendations can be developed once other qualitative and quantitative data are obtained. Nick explained the difference between focus groups (facilitated discussions of 5-10 individuals from similar backgrounds led by a trained moderator who guides the group into increasing levels of focus and depth on key issues) and listening sessions (safe, trusting environment for people to discuss general or specific ATOD issues) and key informant interviews (one-on-one interviews conducted by an interviewer who asks open-ended probing questions of individuals who have particular knowledge or experience with the problem/issue being assessed). Recommendations for future efforts will depend on additional data obtained. **Action item: develop a new "logic model" to**

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include 2 substances and why they are a problem in Pequannock Twp. by March 1 for submission in the new grant (deadline for application is March 9).

Action: Phyllis will reach out to these three working groups to set up workgroup meetings by end of next week. Data collection and Coalition Involvement Agreements (CIA's) are critical due to the deadline for the renewal grant.

- Messaging and Membership – Melissa, Cindy, Marianne, Ted
 - outreach, publicity, recruiting, public events to promote the coalition in the community, media
- Data Collection – Michael Portas, Steve, Jillian, Chloe, Phyllis
 - community assessment, qualitative data (anecdotal, conducting listening sessions and focus groups with students, parents, community members, scanning social media, key informant interviews) and quantitative data (surveys, police, EMT, ER visits, hospital admissions, youth charges for drugs and underage drinking, substance related suspensions or referrals, etc.)
- Youth Coalition – Mary, Donna, Michael Meyer
 - supervise and schedule regular meetings and activities, provide volunteer opportunities for members at Coalition events, liaise with and help develop local SADD chapter

Our next meeting will be February 10 at 4:30 in the PTHS Media Center.