

Pequannock Township Coalition, Minutes of June 8, 2016 Meeting

PTHS Media Center

In attendance:

Marianne Albano (parent), Alberta Alleva (civic/volunteer), Det. Steve Cicchetti (law enforcement), Donna Derricks (healthcare), Stephanie Drag (other substance abuse agency), Theodore Loeffler (education), Michael Meyer (parent), Phyllis Minicuci (coordinator), Michael Portas (education), Hannah Sabbagh (healthcare), Laura Shamber (religious), Mary Vineis (youth serving), Dave Wetmore (civic)

The meeting with dinner was started at 4:45 followed by participant sign in, collection of new CIA and volunteer tracking forms, and distribution of meeting packets. Mary offered to take notes for meeting minutes.

Phyllis gave an update on the Community Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Morris (PTC is a taskforce of CCSHM).

- Partnership for a Drug Free NJ is starting a media campaign that we can take part in. The campaign involves a series of ads which state “would you give your child heroin for...?” and include a variety of scenarios such as a broken arm, a sports injury, a wisdom tooth, and encourage parents to ask their physicians how prescription drugs can lead to heroin abuse. Research shows that 40% of parents don’t understand the link between what their children may be prescribed (opiates) and the link to addiction. After viewing the various options, the coalition felt that the sports injury ads would speak best to the community. **Action item: Phyllis** will begin posting them to social media (which **coalition members should share**) and will contact local placemat agencies about putting them on placemats in the Pompton Queen and Plaza 23 diners and also Suburban Trends about placing an add.
- There is an upcoming initiative being held in October called “Knock Out Opiate Abuse Day.” It is still very much in the planning stages but the idea is that volunteers will meet with physicians and go door to door in order to spread the word about the link between prescription medications and abuse to prescribers and families in communities across NJ. More information will follow.

New Business and status updates:

- Mary gave an update about the Grains of Hope series of events being planned for the fall. The first will educate the community about the epidemic of opioid addiction. Brad Seabury (Asst. Prosecutor) will speak, the PD is involved, the Coalition will be there. Additional sessions may involve CRAFT training to address and assist family dynamics for those affected by substance misuse, a Hidden In Plain Sight presentation, or a NARCON training.
- Steve spoke about the new mobile take back unit for the return of unwanted or expired medications. Future mobile take back events will be held at Cedar Crest and the Street Fair.
- Discussion was held about local hospice agencies and their practices surrounding disposal of the large amounts of medication that may be left behind after their patients decease. The hospices are not allowed to take the medication and so it is left to the family to dispose of the leftovers. It would be helpful to provide take back information that hospices could give

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out with their patient packets. Comfort Care, St. Joes, and Chilton were agencies mentioned.

Action item: Hannah will touch base with Chilton and see what their policies are.

- Phyllis asked about other ways to spread the word (on a wide scale) about our take back box and other initiatives such as “Parents Who Host” and the Good Samaritan Law included using NIXLE, the Health Dept., bulletins at Holy Spirit, and channel 77. **Action item: Mary** will touch base with Pete Correale about NIXLE and also Holy Spirit about their bulletin. We need a contact for channel 77.
- The Coalition will be having a booth at the Street Fair. The PD will have an adjoining booth with their take back unit there. **Action item:** we need at least 6 Coalition members to sign up to staff the booth. Focus will be on providing resources and talking to community members about proper disposal of medication and why it is important.
- The Parents Who Host Pre-Prom meeting was attended by about 35 parents. Our PD did an excellent job presenting and the prizes were well received.
- CVS legal did not approve our request to formally distribute Rx disposal information along with prescriptions. Perhaps we can look into other local pharmacies and see if we can just leave a quantity of the magnets and fold over cards for people to take.
- Mary and Laura updated on the Crash Reenactment. The family speaker was very powerful, Dr. Devadan did a wonderful job describing the types of things he sees in the ER and the equipment that he has to use when a teen comes in with alcohol related injuries. . Suggestions for next year were 1) more bleachers (because some of the student’s ability to see was limited due to where they had to sit), 2) to do the event prior to Memorial Day as that is when many students go down the shore and are drinking, and 3) to put all of the information on the student’s chairs ahead of time.
- The Coalition and PD will be attending the Hoedown jointly. The booth needs some sort of a “game of chance” as required by the organizers. Steve and Mary suggested that we use the “Drunk Goggles.” **Action item: Phyllis** will submit the application for booth space.
- After viewing the In Plain Sight event in Wharton, Mike and Phyllis felt that we could do a much better job ourselves. Phyllis spoke to Lt. Fairweather and he is on board 100%. If the Coalition can supply the set, the PD can supply all of the paraphernalia. Stephanie mentioned that in Bergen a local drama club built the set. This will be an action item in the next grant cycle.
- Phyllis distributed a “Year in Review” summary of all of our activities this past 11 months and congratulated everyone on coming together and a job well done. Goals and objectives for the 6-10 grant period were also distributed. These are to stay within the Coalition.

The next meeting will be in August – date and time to be determined.