

Pequannock Township Coalition, Minutes of October 14, 2015 Meeting

PTHS Media Center

In attendance:

Alberta Alleva, Jillian Andresen, Det. Steve Cicchetti, Brett Charleston, Chloe Cogavin, Donna Derricks, Melissa Florence-Lynch, Richard Hayzler, Lorraine LaTempa, Mike Meyer, 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.

Phyllis gave an update on recent activities:

- A new Underage Alcohol Use FAQ Take-One has been printed.
- A Parents Who Host banner has been hung near the front entrance of the High School. There are two more banners which were left with the Municipal Alliance for use as they see fit. Brett confirmed that there will be concessions sold during Winter sports and said that a donation of more cups and napkins with the Parents Who Host message would be welcome.
- PTC attended Back to School night at the PTHS, distributed 200+ seat cushions, 300 pieces of literature, pens, post its, etc., and had 61 parents sign up for the Coalition newsletter.
- Although there was not a lot of attendance at the PTC table during the Hoedown, the people we spoke with were very engaged. It became very evident that most people in the community do not know about the permanent Rx return drop box.
- The Drug Take Back box is now being promoted on the town website and the high school website for a short time.

New Initiatives (Phyllis)

- PTC is making a comeback on social media: Facebook (address Pequannock Township Coalition), Pinterest (www.pinterest.com/ptcdfc), Twitter (@ptcmorris). We need everyone on the coalition to “like” and “follow” our links so that we can get a wider audience. Our website has been taken down so that it can be improved/updated and should be up again by November 1.
- Prevention Pinwheels Project will be installed on the school lawn on October 15 in time for Homecoming weekend. Each pinwheel (there will be 500) represents 10 deaths by underage drinking. This is the first time the project is being done in Morris County and PTHS will be the kickoff installation. Media coverage will be supplied by Suburban Trends and the Daily Record. The display will be taken down on Monday. PTHS SADD members will be involved.
- PTHS will be involved in the essay contest on alcohol and rx drugs that is being sponsored by the Community Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Morris.
- Phyllis and Mary, on behalf of the Community Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Morris, queried our school members about their interest in sending a select number of middle school students and peer leading high school students to a county wide Youth Summit. The

focus of the summit would be positive decision making. Possible locations would be County College of Morris or The College of St. Elizabeth. The consensus was that it would be of interest, and the best time to hold it (due to testing, breaks, etc) would be in March. Transportation to and from the event would most likely be shared among the schools.

- Youth Coalition – one of the 12 sectors that must be represented in our Coalition is youth, so the PTC will be starting a Youth Coalition this year. Students could participate in things like the “Sticker Shock” campaigns at Pizzerias. CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) provides for youth leadership and development opportunities, as well.

Discussion

- Det. Cicchetti asked if the Coalition would be able to help with funding drug test kits. He believes that they would be really helpful to be able to give to parents so that they can test their kids. The drug kits are between \$30-\$40 at CVS. Phyllis will look into DFC rules regarding funding these. The MAC and PTC would like to hold an Opiate 101 type of event, possibly with former DEA agent Doug Collier, to help our community further understand this epidemic. The challenge is getting people to attend.
- Medicine Locking kits for Real Estate Open Houses. Melissa suggested that the Passaic County Board of Realtors would be a good resource to discuss this topic with. Will be followed up at next coalition meeting.
- Survey – DFC funding mandates that a survey of high and middle school students be conducted every 2 years regarding 4 Core Measures on tobacco, alcohol, and prescription drugs. The focus is on 30 day use, perception of harm, perception of parental disapproval, perception of parent disapproval. A presentation was made to the Board of Education in September. The survey will be under discussion at the Board Committee meeting on October 19th and voted on by the Board at large on September 26. This survey is absolutely necessary to gain continued DFC year 6-10 funding.

Coalition 101

- The Role of the Coalition, Phyllis – DFC (Drug Free Communities) coalitions do not fund direct services or programs. In fact, they are prohibited from doing so. DFC Coalitions work by using Environmental Strategies to focus on wide scale community changes. Phyllis used the analogy of the change in Tobacco use/acceptability over the past several decades as an example of how “environmental strategies” work. Our goal is to change community attitudes and behaviors, increase or decrease access and barriers to substances or information, provide information, and effect policy change. A very large part of our work is providing information, thus the large amount of program dollars spent on publishing and disseminating brochures, pamphlets, etc. Municipal Alliances CAN fund programs and services so it is a logical and useful partnership between both of our organizations in Pequannock Twp.
- Budget information and accountability will be provided. It was reported by Phyllis and Mary that PTC funding runs from Oct. 1 through Sept. 30, MAC funding runs from July 1st through June 30.

- Our current logic model (community condition) focuses on underage drinking and misuse of rx medications. Many parents (Back to School night) expressed concerns that we have a problem in our community.
- DFC Goal 1 – increase community collaboration. A handout on Capacity building and the 12 required sectors of participation was handed out. Phyllis asked the members to consider who the movers and shakers of the community are, and who we need to ask to be at the table. The following commitments for outreach were made:
 - Home and School Assn., Rich
 - Sister Mary at Holy Spirit, Mary
 - Michelle McGrogan, Mary
 - Good Council, Mary
 - First Reformed, Mary
 - Parks and Rec, Mary
 - EMT and Fire Depts., Melissa
 - UNICCO, Cindy
 - Rotary Club, Cindy
 - Suburban Woman’s Club, Cindy
- DFC Goal 2 – increase awareness of the coalition
 - Media campaign
 - Are there upcoming events where we can have a presence? Brett suggested the upcoming HIB on October 20 and the 4 Short Years night on the 21st. Phyllis and Mary will represent the PTC and the MAC at both events.
 - Chloe won a gift card for knowing our Coalition’s mission statement!

MAC

- Looking for speakers during PARCC for Juniors and Seniors
- Trunk or Treat October 24
- There is \$2000 to be spent by end of year
- November 4th will be the Prevention Conference featuring David Sheff (author) at the Morris Museum. Seating will be limited so sign up now.
- Vote on which presentation you would like to have for parents and students. Mary will send the list out again soon.
- Our next meeting will be November 11th at 4:30