

MONTVILLE TOWNSHIP DRUG AWARENESS COUNCIL/MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of May 11, 2016

Meeting Called to Order: by Chairperson J. Daughtry at 7:37pm

Members in Attendance: M. Campbell, M. Cooney, J. Daughtry, J. Scialla, J. Matias, S. Marcus, K. Spitz, and J. Witty

Members Absent: M. Johnson (Excused – Email submitted), C. Beyer (Excused – Email submitted), L. Connelly (Excused – Email submitted), M. Murolo (Excused – Email submitted).

Guests in Attendance: Two members of R.E.A.C.H.

A motion to excuse the absences of members who had previously submitted notice to the Chair of their inability to attend tonight's meeting (as noted above) was approved by a voice vote.

Approval of the Minutes:

Minutes for the April meeting were submitted by Recording/Corresponding Secretary M. Johnson, and distributed to members via Email. No changes being noted at that time, a motion to approve the minutes was made by M. Campbell and seconded by J. Matias; approved by a voice vote of those in attendance.

Chair Person's Report:

Chair Daughtry shared his experience after attending the NJEN Conference in Atlantic City two weeks prior. Major takeaways from the conference were relate to the approaches the Police have developed to respond to substance abuse. A great deal of progress has been made in such a short period of time. The program began by laying out traditional descriptions of heroin users, alcoholics, and runaways. The point of the presentation was that changing attitudes towards substance abused, viewing the problem as a sickness capable of treatment, can have a greater impact. They presented statistics of programs implemented in various communities, and have been presenting in schools as well. There was also a panel discussion on proposed legislation, particularly laws addressing the overreliance on opiates by some physicians in prescribing medications, and sharing information with families (i.e. prescribing Percocet to a high school football player after an injury). Chair Daughtry also reported that there are a number of free programs out there to provide information on Vaping and e-cigarettes. Additionally, insurance representatives at the conference shared that they are changing their classification of addiction to be included as an "illness" for coverage purposes, allowing for new opportunities to receive inpatient/outpatient care.

The Committee discussed Dr. S. Marcus' past efforts to promote legislation requiring locks for medicine cabinets, and prior discussions on possible efforts to coordinate with local real estate agents as to the potential for individuals to take advantage of open houses by raiding medicine cabinets. In the past, real estate figures were one of the key opponents against legislation requiring locks on medicine cabinets. Conversations with local senators did not prove effective, but the Council noted that there will be a new Sheriff, and the Prosecutor's office has been very supportive; we have to keep trying.

The idea of creating informational pamphlets to share during back to school night was raised.

A particularly strong push is needed with respect to the prescribing of opiates. Their use typically leads to overreliance and addiction. 80% of the world's opiates are used in America. Likewise, the Pharmaceutical companies are still a powerful player in this discussion. We have to find a way to prevent these potentially harmful substances from entering the market without forcing medical practices back too far, leaving patients in pain.

Liaison Reports:

Police – Cpt. A. Caggiano put together a report on local arrests. 70 total drug cases, 102 arrests with a depleted police department; they had once had 46 officers, but are now down to 36. The Council asked if these cases represent people traveling through Montville, or are these truly local cases? They also inquired as to whether or not these are mostly users or dealers. It was noted that subjects will not admit to the Police that they are dealers, but may be in possession of scales and other paraphernalia. The D.A.C. thanked Cpt. A. Caggiano for compiling this report.

First Aid – J. Scialla reported that there were 5 calls for transport in April, but none required the use of Narcan.

MTHS/Lazar S.A.C. – C. Caballero reported that there will be a Pre-Prom assembly, “End of the Line” for juniors and seniors on May 23rd. The program consists of a 45 minute reenactment followed by 15 minutes Q&A by performers, in character. C. Caballero also reported on a program started by the Middletown Police Department called “In Your Face” and the plans to participate in “Project Pride” next school year.

Youth Services – N. Mertz reported that, at the request of the Township Committee, there will be a wrecked car set up from the 23rd of the Month through graduation. If the Council would like two cars set up in town, that is not a problem. One will be placed outside of the Montville Police Department on Rt. 202/Main Rd. Additionally, N. Mertz noted that all requisitions for County grant monies must be submitted by the first week of June. If there are invoices for Project Graduation, they must be entered to spend from the grant. It’s a slow process, but it must be done by the book. N. Mertz requested that, if there are any outstanding orders/invoices that are intended for grant spending, please get them in to her right away. For any supplemental grant funding, requests must be filled out within the last two weeks of the month.

Additionally, N. Mertz reported that the town received 12 hours in webpage training and will soon have it’s own webmaster. Following the website upgrades, the D.A.C. will have its own webpage. As soon as the D.A.C. wishes to post something up, it will go up; if they want something taken down, it will come down.

N. Mertz also reported on past inquiries regarding the use of a digital web payment system (GoFundMe). She noted that a GoFundMe page could not be involved with the Township, but might be run through the Recreation Department, instead. N. Mertz also reported on behalf of D. Nielson, who had a prior conflict and could not attend. N. Mertz read a note on behalf of D. Nielson with an update to D.A.C. inquiries regarding monies drawn from the Project Graduation account following a recent mailing. It was noted that One-Third of the total cost of the mailing (approx. \$13,000) was taken from the Project Graduation account to cover these expenses. Additionally, the Township is providing insurance certificates for major D.A.C. events; the Council is covered on Board of Education property.

Board of Education – M. Palma inquired as to recent discussions regarding the possibility of shortening Project Graduation, particularly with respect to just how early students would be returning to the District. The Council noted that the idea was spurred by students, whose input has been requested in planning Project Graduation. Concerns were noted that the program was shortened by one hour in years prior. The purpose of the evening is to keep students out and active so they do not get into trouble.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Project Graduation Committee: In updating the Council on preparations for Project Graduation, it was noted that funds are still very short, with less than \$5,000 in the account. Only 52 Seniors have responded, but the Council faced a similar number of confirmed attendees this time last year and that subject is due to change as graduation approaches. Entertainment has been secured for the evening, with an illusionist headlining the event. The School of Rock will be holding a concert fundraiser for Project Graduation on Saturday, June 11th. The D.A.C. has been asked to provide lawn signs to sponsor the event, instead of t-shirts.

Project Promotion Committee: J. Witty reported that all items have been finalized, except for food. These purchases will be made closer to the event date; J. Witty will coordinate with ShopRite in Parsippany.

Finance Committee: Report submitted by M. Murolo via Email. The Finance Committee will meet to review current application of funds and make recommendations for next school year.

Programs & Community Education Committee: J. Witty noted that, in addition to the School of Rock concert to benefit Project Graduation on June 4th, they will also be holding a fundraiser for 11th Hour Rescue on June 11th. The D.A.C. discussed the possibility of restarting local youth dances in the fall, and stressed the dangers of over-repeating informational programs. The Council discussed possible ways of making informational programs more fun, by integrating them with more engaging activities like lip-sync battles, talent shows, or look-a-like competitions.

Youth Activities & Justice System Committee: Report submitted by M. Johnson via Email. Survey committee activities to resume following Project Graduation.

Public/Other Business (Not on Agenda).

It was reported that \$1,900 remains in the community affairs account, which has to be spent down before the end of the grant cycle on June 30th. The Council discussed buying general supplies from the County in preparation for fall events and programs. The Council would specifically like to explore informational programs on vaping and a “lock up your meds” campaign. The Council also discussed the possibility of purchasing a new banner to replace the older version currently hanging in the Youth Center lobby; this updated version would include the new D.A.C. logo. Upon a motion and second made by the membership, the D.A.C. considered a proposal to allocate the remaining \$1,900 towards the purchasing of supplies for fall activities and programs. The Motion was approved by a voice vote.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to discuss on a motion made by J. Scialla, seconded by J. Matias. All in favor by voice vote; meeting adjourned at 8:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Cooney

On behalf of:

Michael D. Johnson

Corresponding/Recording Secretary

September 14, 2016