

MONTVILLE TOWNSHIP DRUG AWARENESS COUNCIL/MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of September 14, 2016

Meeting Called to Order: by Chairperson J. Daughtry at 7:36pm

Members in Attendance: M. Campbell, M. Cooney, J. Daughtry, M. Johnson, J. Matias, J. Salamone, J. Scialla, K. Spitz, J. Witty.

Members Absent: L. Connelly (Excused-Email Submitted), S. Marcus (Excused-Email Submitted), M. Murolo (Excused-Email Submitted), C. Beyer (Unexcused)

Liaisons in Attendance: D. Danzi – M.T.P.D., D. Nielson-Montville Twp. Committee, C. Lomauro – MTHS S.A.C.

A motion was made by J. Salamone and seconded by J. Matias 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). The motion was approved by a voice vote.

Chair Daughtry introduced C. Lomauro as one of the new student assistance counselors at MTHS.

Approval of the Minutes:

Chair Daughtry submitted the proposed minutes for the May and June meetings, as drafted by M. Johnson and circulated via Email prior to the meeting, for approval. J. Salamone noted that he was present at the May meeting and that it should be noted in the minutes. Minutes for the amended May minutes were approved upon a motion by J. Scialla, seconded by J. Matias and a voice vote of the members present. Minutes for the June minutes were approved upon a motion by J. Salamone, seconded by J. Scialla and a voice vote of the members present.

Chairperson's Report:

Chair Daughtry reported that the Countywide Forum will be held on Wednesday, November 2nd from 6 to 9pm. The event is free but registration is required beforehand. S. Nebesni from the county sent out via email upcoming programs that Chair Daughtry has forwarded to the council. J. Witty recommended that we should attend to help support these programs as members from other councils have attended our events as well.

Liaison Reports:

First Aid – J. Scialla also noted that there is an interest among members of the Montville First Aid Squad to assist in organizing a presentation or program to help impart the dangers of opiate use within our county to students and other young members of the community. The group briefly discussed the communal impact of the Morris County Prosecutor's Office's recent presentation on the opiate epidemic within the county. A recommendation was made to explore a round table concept that would include local organizations, agencies, and community members. The Council agreed to look at dates in late October for a program, to be hosted by the First Aid Squad, with invitations and other programming coordinated by the D.A.C. D. Danzi noted that the Police Department would be willing to be involved with the presentation as well. The Council also noted the importance of reaching out to local businesses, particularly through the Chamber of Commerce.

Police – D. Danzi was called away on an emergency call. No report given.

SAC – C. Lomauro reported that there are several programs that are being discussed for the school year. In November there is a program on anxiety and stress.

Board of Education – No report given.

Township Committee – D. Nielson reported that next year is Montville Townships 150th Anniversary.

Youth Services – Chair Daughtry stated that reports for the Youth Center activities were submitted via email by C. Ziolkowski.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Project Graduation Committee: No report given.

Project Promotion Committee: No report given.

Programs & Community Education Committee: J. Witty is looking for new programs from the county.

Finance Committee: No report given.

Youth Activities & Justice System Committee: M. Johnson reported that he and S. Marcus were still exchanging Emails with faculty at Rutgers University to determine whether or not a graduate student would be interested in taking on the survey project. No definitive answer at this time.

Public/Other Business (Not on Agenda).

K. Spitz followed up with the group on her recent Email, following the recent deaths of two Montville residents related to opiate overdoses. K. Spitz had been in touch with M. Johnson, and met over the preceding week with the Superintendent of Montville Township Public Schools, Dr. René Rovtar, and Montville Township Police Chief Rudy Appelman to discuss potential programs and services to be initiated and expanded upon in town.

In her meeting with Dr. Rovtar, K. Spitz spoke with the Superintendent about the LEAD program, New Jersey's replacement for DARE. K. Spitz and M. Johnson reported that they had looked into the LEAD program, and reached out to the Police Department to get more information on the logistics of the old DARE program. M. Johnson reported that the Police Department used to have two officers deployed in community policing roles, and would make 17 visits throughout the school year to their assigned schools to speak on DARE materials and the curriculum. Presently, community policing is a philosophy more broadly incorporated into the roles of all officers, and none are specifically assigned to these roles full-time.

K. Spitz reported that there was also some hesitation on the District's side with respect to external presenters coming in and taking up class time. Dr. Rovtar emphasized that the current health curriculum covering substance abuse is comprehensive, and that instructional time is limited as is. While a full-time guest instructional role was out of the question, there might be more wiggle room for periodic visits, as employed in the old DARE routine.

K. Spitz also noted that, through her discussions with the Chief of Police, it was noted that the School Resource Officer ("SRO") program being explored by the Town and the School District would ideally fulfill this community policing/joint instructional role. She reiterated the Chief's interest in, ideally, having officers follow students through their academic careers as another communal resource. D. Nielson and M. Johnson noted that the SRO situation is complex, and currently under discussion by the BOE and Township Committee. D. Nielson also noted that such long-term deployments may be unrealistic, as officers look to move up through the ranks throughout their careers. D. Nielson also reported on the S3 law currently under consideration by the State Legislature that would allow retired police officers to be hired in a part-time capacity as SRO's. D. Nielson reported that this could be a happy middle ground, connecting the students to someone they already have a rapport with, without removing an active officer from the field. Again, all of these were potential considerations being discussed by the BOE and Township Committee with no final commitment or decision being made.

M. Johnson also praised members of the local police force for their continued commitment to building a relationship with local students through their current roles. As an example, he recalled hearing of one officer who regularly greeted Valley View students as they got off of the bus each morning. D. Nielson echoed these statements by noting that there are, indeed, a number of officers who take on similar tasks.

With respect to discussed programming, M. Johnson recommended making a motion to allot a set sum of programming funds to developing a school and/or community program for October. He suggested approving the allotment now, with the stipulation that it be used solely for program coordination and only up to an agreed upon cap, so that the Council could begin negotiations/discussions with guest speakers and presenters prior to the next scheduled meeting. The Council concurred, and held a brief discussion as to what type of programming should be coordinated. The Council noted that, ideally, a guest speaker would be brought into the schools to follow up on recent events and leave a lasting impression on local youth. J. Witty noted that she and Chair Daughtry saw an excellent presentation by a law enforcement group at a recent conference in Atlantic City. J. Witty reported that she would try to find more information on this presenter. M. Johnson noted that there was no guarantee that a guest speaker could be brought into the schools by October, given the short notice and number of programs already scheduled within the school. M. Campbell recommended broadening the motion to include the possibility of an evening program in the community, in the event that a school program was no longer feasible. J. Scialla suggested using it to promote and sponsor the roundtable program. Based on this discussion:

A MOTION: to approve up to \$3,000.00 from the community programming fund, for the coordination of a school and/or community program on opiate use within the community/county, was made by M. Johnson, seconded by J. Matias, and approved by a voice vote of all members present.

M. Johnson said that he would get in touch with J. Witty to get more details on this proposed speaker, and follow up with J. Scialla on plans for the community roundtable. He stated that he would report back on the next meeting on any progress made, and clarified that no monies would be withdrawn from the account until specific purchases were made for the approved programs. Any funds not utilized would remain in the D.A.C. account.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to discuss on a motion made by J. Scialla and seconded by J. Salamone, all in favor by voice vote; meeting adjourned at 9:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael D. Johnson
Corresponding/Recording Secretary
September 14, 2016