



Join Together Atlantic County

Stockton University SRI & ETTC

10 W Jimmie Leeds Rd

Galloway NJ 08205

January 9, 2024

11:00am – 12:30pm

Attendance/Sectors & Agencies Represented:

Youth:

Parents:

Law Enforcement:

Govt Agency: Lenore Timbers (Atlantic County Department of Public Health), John Armato (GCADA)

School:

Youth Service Org: Nakisha Wakefield (Acenda NJ4S)

Healthcare: Stephanie Weaver (Southern Jersey Family Medical Center), Sonya Rodriguez

(AtlantiCare)

Religious/Fraternal Org.:

Business: Michael DiMarco (Behavioral Crossroads), Jessica Manning (JBRC-CURMC Pleasantville),

Chris Manze (JBRC-CPRS Pleasantville), Sean Kolins (Seabrook)

Media:

Civic/Volunteer: Jamie Costello (Hope Exists Foundation)

Other Org: Natalia Leusner (Cape Assist), Kim Burns (Tobacco Free for a Healthy NJ), Gretchen Halfpenny (OFRT), Mahidul Bhuiyan (NJPN)

Staff: Kathy Harvey (Atlantic Prevention Resources Treatment), Michele Costello (Atlantic Prevention Resources Tobacco), Bob Zlotnick (Atlantic Prevention Resources), Kathy McFadden (Atlantic Prevention Resources)

Guest/Other:

Introductions/Minutes: Jenn opened up the meeting and introductions were made.

Internal Coalition Business/Grant Updates-

Bob updated the group about grants that fund JTAC. We are in our last year of our largest grant. We have begun prep to reapply for the DFC grant.

The group voted to have Sean Kolins continue as JTAC chairperson for 2024.

Cape Atlantic Bridge Coalition (CAB):

Educators Academy- Natalia reported that Cape Assist will be holding webinars for school personnel. There have been 4 workshops this far covering a variety of topics such as substance use and resiliency. Natalia reported that about 70 people have registered for the workshops. Less people do attend, but when someone registers you they receive a recording. The information for the webinars will be included in the Thursday email. This can be shared with any of your educator partners.

Cannabis Prevention Workgroup - Natalia gave an update on the marijuana videos. She gave an overview on how the workgroup started based on needs reported by educators. Educators reported that parents' attitude about marijuana has changed, trickling down to their students. The workgroup decided to start a campaign to educate parents. The workgroup created a rack card to encourage parents to lock up marijuana. They are waiting for videos to be finalized before being able to finalize the card.

Videos have come back from production, but the group is reworking the videos as they were not from a prevention standpoint.

Marijuana school policy training - Jenn reported on the school marijuana policy toolkit training by David Nash on February 2nd. The training is for school personnel and will be held at the Stockton SRI & ETTC building. The flier is on the Thursday email.

Opioid Athlete:

Presentations for student athletes - Jenn has met with Sgt. Jen Cuigini from the Prosecutor's Office and has worked on a presentation for athletes. They have a presentation scheduled at Holy Spirit High School. The hope is to be able to speak to athletes at the beginning of each sports season. Stockton University has also expressed interest.

Youth Update:

Kim reported on the status of Stand Up and Rebel. The students had activities at each of their prospective schools (tabling, posters) for the Great American Smokeout. JTAC is bringing 4 youth to the CADCA Conference and Evan and Anna will be chaperones. The group is organizing a sticker shock to happen before the superbowl.

Opioid Overdose Recommendation Committee

Naloxone Overdose Rates/Trainings - Jenn reported on behalf of Brian. In November, 118 doses of Narcan were distributed from the county in about 3 trainings.

Naloxone Resource Card - Jenn reported that JTAC did a first round of outreach this fall, and will be following up with pharmacies in the spring.

Mahid gave an overview of the excel spreadsheet created by NJPN to help the coalition track their outreach of the pharmacies that are not participating.

Gretchen suggested updating the Narcan card with a QR code with Narcan locations so we are able to keep it up to date.

Hope Exists/AC LEAD - Jamie gave updates about the future for Hope Exists. The prosecutor's office has taken over AC lead and the future is unknown. They are looking to seek funding through the state for Hope Exists. They currently have two grants: one for veterans and another one to start soon that focuses more on case management.

OFRT - Gretchen reported that the OFRT's main goal right now is to push Narcan out to the community. After reviewing overdose cases, only about 13% had Narcan administered and most were administered by EMT, not a bystander. The group recently did a targeted outreach to pain management specialists educating them that free Narcan is available. They have also done a targeted social media post. They want to provide Narcan to every person that is discharged from jail. There is currently already a program through JBRC that gives them Narcan/MAT if they disclose opioid use.

The OFRT is also conducting a survey to measure people's knowledge/prejudices towards addiction. Gretchen encouraged the group to take the survey and share with contacts. It does ask for zip code, so information will be sorted so the group can see information about our community specifically.

SJ Aids Alliance- John reported they were rebuilding and pursuing the lawsuit against Atlantic City in regards to needle exchange. The city continuously shuts the plans down.

Interventions/Updates:

Deterra, lockboxes, and drop boxes - Anna reported that the coalition has given out about 150 bags of Deterra and 225 medicine cabinets to DCP, physicians offices, senior programs, school nurses, and recovery homes. Anna reported that through our county drop boxes we have collected 2,283 pounds (from 10 departments). Jenn reported we will send out a press release once we hear back from all of the departments.

Peer Educators/partnership with Stockton - The coalition has met with the new coordinator to keep our partnership up. We are continuing our Jeopardy program to go into the local high schools. We did a presentation at Buena Regional High School and have a presentation scheduled for Eagle Academy.

Kim asked if the group would like information about Jeopardy to be distributed when schools reach out for Don't Get Vaped In. Anna mentioned the questions may not be appropriate for middle school students and would rather it just be for high schools.

Pride Survey - Jenn reported the Pride Survey will be done this year and will be targeting 9th and 11th grade. It is a necessary part of our grant and we need the data for planning purposes. Jenn has secured 4 schools to participate in the survey so far. The results are important for JTAC to apply for grants and the county information will be available on JTAC's website.

Radio Ads - Jenn reported on the coalition's responsible driving campaign on the radio and sponsored facebook post.

CADCA training/conference: Jenn reported that 5 adults and 4 students will be attending the CADCA prevention conference. One student from EHTHS was accepted into the National Youth Advisory Council. Jenn will be attending the coalition academy in the coming months.

Stranger Project: Jenn reported that we are looking to "revamp" the Stranger Project to make it more visibly appealing. It is held in different Atlantic County locations.

Faith-based outreach: Jenn reported the coalition will be reaching out to faith-based communities again in the spring. They will be targeting their outreach to EHT, EHC, Galloway, and Pleasantville. They may be asking coalition members for contacts.

Legislation Updates: Bob reported that the 220th legislation ends today. The only bill that the coalition has been following is the smoking in casinos bill. The bill had previously had a lot of support, but a senator backed out and it lost a lot of support last minute. The bill was not passed.

Kim reported on the CEASE protest. They went into the senate chambers during discussion of the bill and lit cigarettes. There were no arrests made.

The group discussed that an effort needs to be made to include casinos in Pennsylvania, since Delaware had already banned smoking in casinos.

Natalia asked if anyone in the group had any information about the underage drinking laws that were being talked about.

John updated the group that he believes police are now allowed to notify parents if a child is found underage drinking.

Gretchen updated the group that a bill had been passed to allow harm reduction centers to distribute Xylazine test strips. APR is still not permitted to distribute these.

Tobacco Updates:

Kim updated on the Working Well Tobacco Free grant. The focus this year is Daycare centers. They are distributing information about the Quit Center, secondhand and thirdhand smoke, and how it impacts children.

Kim updated that they continue to get several complaints a week from people living in multi housing units. The tobacco team tries to work with management. They will also be meeting with Legal Services of NJ to determine what other resources are available for people that have neighbors who smoke.

NJCUITS- Kim updated that the tobacco team is working with Stockton in going 100% smokefree. They have done outreach to Rowan college. There is also a Tobacco Use Summit on April 10th. They are planning on doing a NJ summit on April 3rd.

Point of Sale: Anna and Kim did tobacco assessments in Mays Landing. They will be finishing this week. In Mays Landing, many stores have been found to be breaking the law. They will compile their information and present it to schools and municipal alliances.

Quit center: They are continuing in person and zoom groups. They have been busy as always. Kim reported on the statewide youth zoom group. She reported that two students have gone through successfully.

YTAG- Evan is continuing with Don't Get Vaped In presentations. He has several scheduled in the coming months including Hammonton and Eagle Academy. The youth advisory board continues to meet biweekly and is currently planning the statewide youth summit.

New Business:

Jenn reported on the JTAC member survey. There will be a survey shared regarding interventions done by JTAC for the past ten years. This will also be helpful for the new grant application.

Jenn will be forming a committee to plan the June JTAC conference. A separate email will be sent if you are interested in being part of the planning committee.

Upcoming Events/Announcements/Information:

Next meeting: March 12, 2024