

COALITION FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
MEETING MINUTES

Date: December 12, 2018

Time: 1:00PM – 3:00PM

Location: 620 Cranbury Road Suite 105, East Brunswick, NJ 08816

Attendee	Affiliation	Sector
Teresa Douglas	Piscataway Municipal Alliance	Local government
Roulla Castanos-Beaton	Middlesex County Office of Human Services – Middlesex County Municipal Alliance	Local government
Karolyn Estevez	Wellspring Center for Prevention	Staff
Gina Miraglia	Wellspring Center for Prevention	Staff
Twyla Paige	Middlesex County Health Services	Local government
Joseph Bae	Rutgers University	Media
Marley Doring	Rutgers University	Media
Susan Silverstein	Volunteer	Civic/Volunteer
Megan Cardoner	Middlesex County Mobile Family Success Center	Youth-serving
Tracy Gross	Robert Wood Johnson Behavioral Health – Institute for Prevention	Healthcare
Gabrielle Pall	East Brunswick Municipal Alliance	Volunteer
Linda Surks	Volunteer	Civic/Volunteer
Robert LaForgia	CHIP Coordinator – Healthier Middlesex	Healthcare
Jennifer Kurdyla	Middlesex County Center for Empowerment	Youth-serving
Diana Starace	Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital	Healthcare
Tanisha Riley	Rutgers University	School

Topic	Discussion/Report	Action
Welcome/Introductions	Mara opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Members and guests around the table introduced themselves and	

	<p>shared what they do in the community and/or why they are at this table.</p>	
<p>Updates</p>	<p>Community Survey – the Middlesex County Coalition Community Survey is now available online. The accessibility of the survey online has greatly helped increase response rate and also increase outreach. Planning on adding questions about the use of recreational marijuana to the 2019 Community Survey.</p> <p>Marijuana Legalization Bill – In November, the Senate and Assembly Budget Committee approved a bill that is now up for a full house vote. The bill would legalize the use of recreational marijuana up to 1oz for individuals 21 and over, expunge existing marijuana crimes, allow dispensaries to open consumption areas, allow marijuana delivery to homes, and have the lowest tax (12%) in any recreationally legal state. There is a concern regarding the commercialization and corporate control of the market. Brainstorm ideas for safeguards for youth.</p> <p>Student Survey – the 2018-2019 Student PRIDE Survey is currently being completed. 4 schools are already done, and a total of 12 schools are participating with a hope that more schools will be recruited. There has been a higher rate of response in most districts because the letter for parental approval is being placed directly on the student portal for parents/guardians to sign. The district data is provided to the Superintendent of the district, while the overall county data is available for all to use.</p> <p>Young Women’s Conference – the 15th annual Young Women’s Conference will be held on March 6th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. The theme will be “It’s A Jungle Out There: Stay Fierce” and hoping for a focus on peer to peer workshops.</p> <p>Be Smart About Medicine Contest – The annual Middlesex County Be Smart About</p>	

	<p>Medicine Contest is a creative expression contest in which middle school youth across the county have the opportunity to submit original artwork (drawings, paintings, poems, writings) regarding over-the-counter and prescription drug safety. The only requirements are the student must be a middle school student (6,7,8th grade) in Middlesex County and the work must use the phrase “Be Smart About Medicine”. Entire schools are encouraged to participate, however students can participate and submit artwork individually. Submissions are due February 3, 2018. A committee meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2018 at 10AM at Wellspring.</p> <p>Drug Facts Week – NIDA – NIDA’s annual Drug Facts week is a substance use prevention awareness campaign that is held on January 22 – January 27, 2019.</p>	<p>If you would like to be on the Be Smart About Medicine committee, please reach out to Jenna at jenna.bonstein@wellspringprevention.org</p>
<p>Logic Model Updates</p>	<p>The Needs Reassessment has been completed. The coalition has updated logic models for underage drinking, prescription drugs and a new logic model for the new marijuana priority.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Brainstorming</p> <p>Underage Drinking Strategies – establish 100% proofing (either in individual municipalities and aim for a county-wide initiative)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Give out underage information flyers and ID books for proper ID check <p>Prescription Drugs Strategies – hospice outreach, funeral homes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What to do with leftover medication from hospice care - Give out deterra bags at events, programs <p>Marijuana Strategies – implement a TIPS like training for marijuana use (regarding the opening of consumption areas)</p> <p>The Coalition is planning to host an “Open House” event to recruit new members.</p>	

	Coalition members were given the opportunity to sign-up for different events and ideas (recruitment, hospice care, health fairs, and TIPS trainings) and write their ideas and what they could bring to the table. These ideas and suggestions will be revisited in the new year.	
Announcements/New Business	<p>Tabling for the Young Men's Conference is available and open to vendors. Flyer is attached with minutes.</p> <p>Planning to open a Tobacco Quit Center for Middlesex County and looking to hire a Star Care Manager directly regarding tobacco. More information is forthcoming.</p>	
Next Meeting/Adjourn	The next coalition meeting will be held on January 9, 2018 at 5pm. Location TBD.	Meeting schedule for 2019 is attached with minutes.
Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year to all of our coalition members!		