

**MINUTES OF THE  
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP  
MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE ON  
DRUG ABUSE AND ALCOHOLISM**

**February 15, 2022**

**TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Cranbury Township Municipal Alliance Committee was held by remote access, videoconferencing in response to Covid-19 and the updated Open Public Meeting Act guidelines on April 20, 2021, in the Town Hall Offices, located at 23A North Main Street, in Cranbury Township at 3:30 pm.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson, Joann Charwin called the meeting to order at 3:32 PM.

**STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE**

Pursuant to the Sunshine Law, adequate notice in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J. S. A. 10:4-6) was filed on January 5, 2022, of this meeting's date, time and place, the agenda was posted on the Township bulletin board, sent to any requesting personal notice, and filed with the Municipal Clerk. Notification of remote access meetings, until further notice, was posted on the Township website on April 24, 2020 and sent to the Trenton Times, Home News and Cranbury Press on April 24, 2020.

**ROLL CALL**

Answering present to the Roll Call were, Joann Charwin, Chief, Mike Owens, Kristine Fulton, Krista Monks, Robyn Skeete and Dr. Susan Genco. Alternate #1 Anjali Joshi was present as was Alternate #2 Sasha Weinstein. Liaison, Evelyn Spann present and Student Representatives, Andrew Wong and Angela Wu were present.

**MINUTES**

Joann asked for Motion to Accept the January Minutes. Motion was made by Chief Owens to accept. Motion was seconded by Dr. Genco. All Members were in favor, answering Aye.

Since Dr. Genco and Ms. Fulton need to leave the meeting a little early, Joann wished to discuss two possible programs for the school which would need Dr. Genco and Ms. Fulton's input. One event would be an assembly on vaping. All Members thought it was a good idea. Statistics show between 2017 and 2018 there has been a 78% increase of vaping among high school students. Middle school students would be the target group for an assembly with a Parent Program event. Some ideas discussed:

1. Steered Straight Program – Joann thought that program may be better for high school students
2. DEA Speaker – Chief Owens thought there would be a good possibility for someone to attend a speaking event for the students.
3. Joann suggested another program entitled Dynamic Influence by Robert Hackenson. What she specifically likes is his program focuses on vaping and encourages student participation during the program all while keeping it light and interesting. It also provides information to the schools. Joann previously sent the information about Mr. Hackenson's program to Dr. Genco, Mrs. Fulton and Mrs. Monks to get their input. Joann presented a slide and Mr. Hackenson can speak either virtually or in person.

Robyn asked if this could be a more consistent program instead of a one-time presentation. Joann agreed and thought a regular program to address vaping is very important. She sent Mr. Hackinson's information to Mrs. Fulton, Dr. Genco and Mrs. Monks to have them look it over before the meeting. Dr. Genco discovered that Cranbury School had him in to speak in 2018 about internet safety for middle schoolers and parents. According to Susan he was very well received. Joann would like to get everyone's thoughts, questions or comments on getting a speaker for vaping. She suggested Dr. Genco could pick middle school audience and have a parent presentation as well. She asked thoughts on asking Mr. Hackenson to do his presentations. Joann shared a slide with Mr. Hackenson's pricing. He can present in person or virtually. Joann went over price schedule: \$3,000 for a single presentation including travel or up to 4 program presentations for flat rate of \$3,500. It is a better way to do in-person presentations. Joann said even if they wanted to offer a program for the lower grades, K-2, 3, 4 or 5. He does a number of other programs for lower grades. Virtually live streaming, \$2,500 up to 4 presentations on multiple topics.

Dr. Genco acknowledged the Presenter did a really great job for social media and used a good combination of humor, intellect and facts to bring his point home since the topic couldn't be more important at this time. Dr. Genco agrees it should be something regularly addressed as well.

Ms. Weinstein mentioned that Princeton High School had a vaping forum for caregivers and parents a few years ago. It was very informative and an excellent program.

Joann asked Mike Owens if he had been in contact with the DEA speaker. Mike had not reached out to him as of the meeting but will contact him to see if he can offer a program for the students.

Student Representatives were asked if they prefer virtual or in person presentations for the students. Andrew thought in person would be a nice change from virtual. Joann shared there is enough in the budget to cover student and parent speakers. Joann motioned to allocate \$3,500 for the student speaker to do an in-person presentation. Motion was seconded by Chief Owens. A roll call vote of the Members was made to approve \$3,500 for in person presentations by Robert Hackenson with his program, Dynamic Influence. Chief Owens, Dr. Susan Genco, Kristine Fulton, Krista Monks, Robyn Skeete and Alternates, Anjali Joshi and Sasha Weinstein all voted aye to approve the expenditure. Joann said it will be up to the school to decide dates for the presentations.

Ms. Joshi asked Joann if Mr. Hackenson would be able to give advice for parents who find their child vaping. Joann will make note of the question and ask him. Liaison, Evelyn Spann shared there is no vaping policy in Cranbury but wishes to acknowledge and applaud the Municipal Alliance Board and the Cranbury School for their successful efforts in educating the students and parents about the risks of vaping. Evelyn brought up discussion about Cranbury being 4 years behind Princeton in adopting vaping a policy. Dr. Genco acknowledged that at the time, a vaping policy was considered by the school board but felt it wasn't necessary due to non-existence of any instances of students vaping. Joann asked Dr. Genco if she thinks Board would be open to discussion on developing a vaping policy and would like to maybe look at other district's policies.

Joann asked Ms. Fulton and Ms. Monks if they had thought about her suggestion on using the 10 Questions Teens Ask About Drug Use from the National Institute on Drug Abuse she shared during the January meeting. Would they like to incorporate the 10 questions during Drug and Alcohol Facts Week? Due to other school commitments, Ms. Fulton has not yet had an opportunity to look into it more. She can go over it with the Health Teachers, it is probably best to be done through a health class. Ms. Monks agreed. Since the Student Representatives were not at the January meeting, Joann gave Angela and Andrew an overview of 10 Questions about Drugs and Health and asked if they would like to participate by delivering a presentation to students for

Alcohol Facts Week. She would be happy to work with Angela and Andrew to create a slide show for the students and asked Ms. Fulton and Ms. Monks if she could assist with that. Joann asked if Advisor/Advisee extended homeroom period would work for the presentation. Dr. Genco mentioned they would have to see time-wise since other topics may be calendared for that week. Maybe Joann's suggestions would be better served through the Health Teachers. Joann will work with Ms. Griello and Andrew and Angela on the 10 Questions. Andrew asked if it would be just be himself and Angela working on this. Joann said other students could be involved to help with the presentation. Joann suggested she could work on factual part and student council can work on the presentation itself. When they have a presentation put together, they can show Ms. Fulton and Ms. Monks to make sure material is appropriate.

Joann wished to discuss Mental Health Awareness and Mental Health Support. Dr. Laura Zurfluh from the Cranbury Board of Health asked Joann to inquire with Dr. Genco if the school would be interested in having a zoom presentation for parents in regards to helping their child/children with pandemic concerns. Joann then acknowledged Dr. Genco and Ms. Fulton had to leave the meeting and thanked them for attending.

Joann expressed an interest in creating a subcommittee in regards to mental health programs and asked Evelyn Spann if that would be legal. There was discussion as to Sunshine Law and what constitutes a legal meeting. Ms. Spann suggested no side meetings outside of a legally advertised meeting and confirmed that with the Secretary, Kathy Warnebold.

#### **NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

None

#### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

Angela reported Jamfest has been rescheduled to April 7<sup>th</sup>. Joann asked Ms. Monks to confirm the date for her. Discussion on coordinating delivery of the gaming equipment. Joann was appreciative that Sasha Weinstein will coordinate with Penny Ftikas, of the PTO and Secretary Warnebold on delivery and payment for same.

Food Truck Event: Joann discussed dates at end of school year. Dr. Genco invited the Student Reps to meet with her to talk about having an event. Angela pointed out they are focusing on other events. Andrew will bring up idea of food truck event with student council at next day's meeting to see if students are interested. Joann mentioned they will need to decide either way shortly since truck would need to be reserved sooner than later. Trucks will be busy end of June. Joann also reminded them they need to ask Dr. Genco if they decide they would like a food truck event.

Joann asked reps if they wanted to discuss any other topics. Andrew reported that Spirit Week went well and kept them busy.

#### **POLICE REPORT**

Chief Owens reported the department has been keeping busy the past two months with weather-related incidents and serious mental health issue incidences. He wanted to stress the seriousness of mental health issues in our community as evidenced by the calls officers respond to. Mike added that he is proud of his officers and feels strongly work done by the Municipal Alliance is very valuable to the community.

#### **LIAISON REPORT**

Ms. Spann had nothing to report. She is very happy to be a part of the Municipal Alliance and thanked the volunteers for all they do for the students and community. Joann officially welcomed her back as this year's Liaison to the Board.

## **BUDGET**

Joann shared the 2022 budget was approved and will be presented for public comment in March. Ms. Spann confirmed and reported no issues with the Municipal Alliance requested budget. Joann will speak at the February 28<sup>th</sup> Township Committee meeting. Ms. Spann thinks she and Joann should speak with Township Administrator, Denise Marabello to make sure timing on the proposed \$3,500 expenditure for a speaker works. Ms. Spann didn't want to create stress for the Finance Department if budget wasn't adopted before they would need to pay the speaker.

After, Dr. Genco, Ms. Fulton and Ms. Monks meet about the vaping speaker, Joann will update the Board at the March meeting. They have \$10,000 set aside in the budget under Mental Health. Joann encouraged Board Members to share any research, suggestions or ideas, regarding programs for mental health.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Joann said she will share accomplishments of the Municipal Alliance Board for 2021 and goals for 2022 when she speaks at the February 28<sup>th</sup> Township Committee meeting.

Joann wants to put on the Agenda each month, "Updates from Princeton High School" from Alternate Member, Sasha Weinstein. She is on the Princeton High School Representative and is the Co-President of the Princeton High School PTO. Ms. Weinstein reported next PTO Meeting will be March 7<sup>th</sup> and a guest speaker webinar will be presented to address mental health and substance abuse. Sasha reported meeting will be open to the public and Ms. Weinstein will share the PTO website with the Municipal Alliance Members. The Zoom link will be on the website a day or two before it's presentation. It is a great program to help students and parents to know they don't have to hide struggles with substance abuse and other issues. Families and parents will be more likely to talk about struggles. Joann thanked her for the information and updates.

Joann attended a webinar sponsored by the Guidance Department at the high school about Mental & Social Health. Joann thought it was very interesting. Students are experiencing issues related to the pandemic and are socially behind because of it. Ms. Skeete attended part of the webinar and enjoyed what Princeton is implementing.

Ms. Joshi added peer groups are a good resource for students to connect and support each other. Joann said peer group is a wonderful program. Senior students work with the freshmen.

"ACE's" (Adverse Childhood Experiences) were discussed during the PHS Guidance Session. Joann discussed what "ACE" means in response to Robyn's question. There is a score for mental health called "ACE" (Adverse Childhood Experiences), which is based on how many adverse childhood experiences a student encounters in youth. Higher scores indicate the more likely someone will develop mental health issues.

## **ONGOING BUSINESS**

Health and Wellness Fair – Joann reached out to Louise Carrol, President of the Education Foundation to find out what event insurance they use. She advised Joann it is AIM Insurance. Joann will reach out to the insurance company to obtain a quote for the Fair. Committee has been formed for the Health and Wellness Fair, including Joann, Anjali, Sasha and Erin. They will start working on planning in the beginning of March.

Retail Cannabis in Princeton – Two upcoming Princeton Town Council meetings are scheduled for March 14<sup>th</sup> and 28, 2022 at 7:00 pm and will allow public comment before they make a formal decision on retail cannabis sales.

Joann shared the Cannabis Task Force Meetings have been canceled for February and March. The New Jersey Cannabis Commission's next meeting is February 24, 2022.

Member Vacancy – Joann mentioned a person who may be interested in becoming a Municipal Alliance Member. He had expressed an interest in two other Boards, however, they had no vacancies. Joann has reached out to him and is waiting to hear back.

Joann asked if anyone had topics they wished to discuss at future meetings or suggestions on additional programs to add for the students and community. Ms. Skeete mentioned a program Broken which is on Netflix and is a good documentary to watch. It sums up real and actual quantitative data on vaping. Title of the show is called Big Vape.

#### **DISCUSSION**

Discussion on effects of nicotine on the young brain. Studies show a higher likelihood of substance abuse in the future from nicotine use in young people.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

#### **ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING**

Ms. Charwin asked if any questions or comments. As there were none, a motion to adjourn was made by Chief Owens at 4:48 pm. Motion was seconded by Ms. Skeete. All in favor.

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY**

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify, that I am the duly appointed Secretary of the Cranbury Township Municipal Alliance Committee on Drug Abuse and Alcoholism and that this document, consisting of 5 pages, constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the meeting held on February 15, 2022.

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Kathy Warnebold, Secretary

Approved Minutes March 15, 2022