

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

**November 21, 2023**

**TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING**

The scheduled meeting of the Cranbury Township Municipal Alliance Committee was held on November 21, 2023 in the Township Committee Meeting Room, in Cranbury Township at 3:30 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 7, 2023, 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.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Answering present to the roll call: Joann Charwin, Anjali Joshi, Sasha Weinstein, Dr. Jen Diszler, Ria Benerofe and Alternate 1, Diane Stanley. Chief, Mike Owens, Robyn Skeete, Andrea Kaplan and Alternate 2, Erika Shulman was absent. Liaison, Eman El-Badawi was present.

**MINUTES**

Joann asked for Motion to approve October 19th Minutes. Motion by Dr. Diszler to approve, Motion seconded by Maria Benerofe. All were in favor in approval of the October Minutes.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

Petros shared Jamfest was fun and students played many games. Dr. Diszler added that about 95% of the student body attended and PTO was there as well. Dr. Diszler expressed thanks to parents and custodians, who did a wonderful job helping to set up and clean up. Mrs. Penny Ftikis did a candy land theme this time and her family donated items for the Jamfest.

**POLICE REPORT**

**LIAISON REPORT**

Eman thanked the Board for working on and providing 2024 budget for the Township Committee. Eman reported she attended the Mayor's Wellness Conference in Atlantic City and it was a well-attended event. Also, she reported some of the Jamfest equipment could use some repair. Eman shared that Dave Gallagher, in the Maintenance Department of the school, did some on-site repairs to some of the equipment, however going forward, there needs to be more done to keep the equipment safe for the students.

**BUDGET**

Joann went over 3 main categories of the budget. Overall, 2023 was successful as many programs were provided to the community based on a \$30,000.00 budget. Joann shared Municipal Alliance asked Township Administrator to increase the budget by \$2,000.00 for teen mental health training. Joann shared the new storage container cost \$3,200.00 and Denise Marabello, Township Administrator was able to provide capital

funds for the container. Joann wished to thank Denise and Township Committee for approving the expenditure as it will make Jamfest equipment more easily obtainable and will remove delivery and storage fees. Joann shared since the Cranbury Police have given permission for the annual Health and Wellness Fair to be combined with National Night Out, the Board will see a savings there as well. Joann proposed to motion to revise new budget to remove the additional \$2,000.00 previously requested. Motion by Sasha Weinstein to remove the additional funds, seconded by Anjali Joshi. All Members agreed to remove the additional \$2,000.00 previously requested since there will be a savings realized. Joann announced then the 2024 budget will remain the same as the 2023 budget. Joann also shared she discussed with Dave Gallagher a need for additional minor expenses for the new storage container to complete its set up. Additional funds would be approximately \$300-\$400. Joann asked for motion to approve spending additional funds to add a walkway. Motion was made by Alternate2, Diane Stanley to use funds to complete container set up. Motion was seconded by Ria Benerofe. All Members were in agreement.

Joann asked for thoughts on having a quilt made to hang for National Night Out/Health and Wellness Fair. The quilt would be made from tee shirts from each of the past 30 years the Drug Free Fair/Health and Wellness Fair has been held. Also, the quilt could be displayed at different town events. Dr. Diszler asked about price for quilt to be made and suggested to obtain a price before deciding. Joann shared the quilt would be a medium since there are only 30 tee shirts which would be incorporated. Dr. Diszler found prices and a medium (5' x 6') quilt would be \$139.00. Joann asked Members for a Motion to set aside \$200.00 for creation of the quilt. Anjali Joshi Motioned to the expenditure and Sasha Weinstein Seconded. All in favor.

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

None

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**World Mental Health Day – October 18, 2023** – Joann thanked Alternate Member, Diane Stanley for manning the table at the town Library. Diane reported turnout wasn't large, however there was a steady stream of people. Ria Benerofe was also in attendance and noticed not a large turnout. Eman suggested more advertising for next event with a focus on senior population and schools.

**Halloween on Main Street** – Anjali gave handout packages of smarties candies which had positive messages in package. She gave all 200 packages away by 6:00 pm, probably because a large amount of young children were out earlier. Anjali suggested choosing a later time to do handouts next year since older kids tend to go trick-or-treating later. Anjali reported it was a fun activity.

**Red Ribbon Week** – Petros reported positive messages were read over the loud speaker each day by rotating 8<sup>th</sup> grade peer leaders. All students received items such as pencils, bookmarks with drug free messages.

**November 3<sup>rd</sup> Jamfest** - Joann asked the Student Reps to report on November 3<sup>rd</sup> Jamfest. Petros Drakoupoulis reported all went well and Jamfest was well-attended. Students had a lot of fun. Joann asked when next Jamfest is scheduled. Dr. Diszler indicated proposed date is February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Dr. Diszler reported funds collected from November's Jamfest will go towards the 6<sup>th</sup> grade trip. Gil and Berts manned the ice cream station and provided the ice cream. Dr. Diszler also shared this will be the last year Penny Ftikis will be coordinating Jamfest at the Cranbury School. A new family will take over.

**Storage Container – Jamfest Equipment** - Joann thanked all the Members, Township Committee, Eman El-Badawi, Township Administrator, Denise Marabello, Dr. Jen Diszler, Cranbury School Business Administrator, David Weidele and Dave Gallagher at the Cranbury School for their support and assistance with obtaining the container for all equipment for future Jamfests. Joann also wished to recognize and thank Darrin from Jake Container who gave the best price and was most helpful throughout the purchase and delivery process.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Meeting Dates Schedule for 2024** – Discussion to see if changing the meetings from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday. Township Committee has compiled needed information for their 2024 reorg meeting. Due to time constraints, Municipal Alliance Meeting Schedule for 2024 will remain as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday. In the future, if Municipal Alliance Board wishes to change the day/date of their monthly meetings, it will need to be decided earlier in 2024 to give plenty of time for the Committee to approve in their 2025 Reorganization Meeting.

**4th Grade Folder Art Contest through Partnership for A Drug Free NJ** – Joann gave an overview of the contest and thanked Stacy Crannage, Art Teacher, at Cranbury School for having students participate.

**Middle School PSA Challenge through Partnership for a Drug Free NJ** – Joann asked Student Reps to speak to the Student Council about participating in the contest. It would entail creating a 30 second message about dangers of substance abuse. Prize is \$1,000.00 which would go to the school. Student Representatives can update the Board at their next meeting if any students wish to participate.

**Health & Wellness/Drug Free Fair combined with National Night Out** – Joann asked for volunteers to put a committee together to speak to Officer Glennon to coordinate activities. Sasha volunteered to meet with Officer Glennon. Diane Stanley also volunteered to meet with him.

**Teen Mental Health Training** - Ria shared she and Penn Medicine staff provided intro sessions on teen mental health at Princeton High School to the sophomores. There were 6 intro sessions which included videos. Ria reported the last quarter in April, 2024 will be when the full course takes place. Ria shared the morning group of students were quiet. Altogether, they provided sessions to 325 students.

Joann asked Ria to give a brief summary of the goals of the training. Ria shared one goal is to teach how to recognize signs of mental health challenges, also there is training on a 7-step process of what signs to look for. Additionally, students are trained to be resilient and come through difficult times and to notice what is going on around you and to mainly be aware.

At 4:13 pm, Ria Benerofe excused herself from the meeting.

## **DISCUSSION**

Joann shared the Township recently received volunteer request to be on one of three Boards, with the 3<sup>rd</sup> choice being Municipal Alliance. Since there is a vacancy on the Municipal Alliance, maybe the person will decide to join.

Joann shared the December meeting will be cancelled and Board will meet again in January for its Reorganization Meeting. She asked the Members to research speakers for future. Dr. Diszler spoke about different speakers for different topics and groups, such as for parents or students. She reiterated dates for speakers would need to be worked into the Cranbury School's schedule of events.

Next Municipal Alliance Meeting will be scheduled for January 16, 2024.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING**

As there were no additional comments or discussion, Joann Motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Jen Diszler seconded Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 4:17 pm.

**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 4 pages constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the meeting held on November 21, 2023

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Kathy Warnebold, Secretary  
Approved Minutes, February 20, 2024