HOWELL MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE, MEETING MINUTES

MEETING: 3-19-19, 12:30 pm at town hall

APPROVE MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING: Approved by Camille Mussari and seconded by Marni Elson-Victor.

NEXT MEETING: 4-16, 12:30 pm at town hall (3rd Tuesday of month); Friends of the Alliance, next meeting 4-1-19, 7 pm, Echo Lake Pavilion (1st Monday of quarter; bring a snack and a friend)

1. Attendees: Brief introductions (name and organization)
   - Guests: Jennifer Carasia, sexual violence prevention coordinator of 180 Turning Lives Around (presented their programs for community and school on domestic violence, healthy relationships, and 180 support services)
   - Joe Ricciuti, President/General Manager of Lakewood Blue Claws (introduced discussion on marijuana legalization and issues surrounding it)
   - Jyoti Wahidla, Director, The Salon Professional Academy (offered to do beauty school demos at schools as means to expose students to trade school options)

2. Alliance member voting (see funds requests, if any; member votes are counted on separate tally sheet): No voting for this meeting

3. Alliance finances/budgets:
   - Fundraised account balance as of 3-12 is $12,388.75 (-$250 CFC journal, -$200 PBA journal, -$650 Optimist Club essay/oratorical awards); reported by Fran Schneider

4. Alliance past business:
   - Elks: Alliance sponsored 4 Howell High School students to attend Elks annual peer leadership convention in February; Camille Mussari had great feedback during and after event from participants; 15 total kids from Howell attended under guidance of Mary Ellen Lawrence, the most from Howell she has had; Elks essay contest state winner is a Howell middle school student who will be recognized with award and Prevention Press
   - Optimist Club: oratorical and essay contests a success with 70+ essays and 21 speeches; essay winner 2 oratorical winners from Howell middle school contest advancing to regional contest

5. Alliance present business:
   - Howell High School parking permits: Alliance sponsoring again this year (5th year), 3-13 had prevention table at mandatory parent presentation; Tiffanie Artis Howell Driving School reworked the safe driving message and design based on her research and teen driving trends to bring it current; some parents refused to take prevention literature packets Alliance was distributing at event; Camille did vaping and driving presentation that went well with good feedback
   - Yoga Peace Kula and Howell K-8 schools mindfulness program: Summer Deaver and Jeanna Ribon gave updates; 6 scholarships (1 for Christa Riddle, 1 for Jeanna, 4 for selected Howell K-8 staff), mindfulness club in Sept for 2019-2020 school year for 2 middle schools; Summer stressed importance of integrating mindfulness properly in classroom and school cultures to benefit staff and students, as well as address identified need at recent K-8 staff in-service and K-8 strategic planning
   - Prevention banners at high school: Camille Mussari gave updates; went up 3-15 and now staked into ground; messages face teen parking lot and road
   - Prescription collection: 3-1 launched at-home Howell PD pick-up of unwanted meds (Howell Times and Tri-Town News articles); Howell seems to be first police department/town offering this service; call non-emergency number; getting feedback from citizens calling on Project Medicine Drop due to increased press coverage and getting the word out; ordered post-it notes to adhere to medicine drop bags to alert people to at-home pick-up option
• Stigma Free Zone: Monmouth County toolkit, logo being developed; Christa will bring it to mayor, council, and town manager to encourage Howell's cross-community adaptation; calls attention to using neutral language when discussing mental health and substance abuse issues to reduce stigmas and encourage people to communicate and seek assistance

• 3-19 Captain Storrow and Christa Riddle met with Sergeant Roy Hercules of NJ Army Reserves National Guard Counterdrug Task Force to implement free overdose mapping for Howell; will map 5 years in Howell, overdose information looking to include: fatal/non-fatal, possibly Narcan deployment, age, location, gender, and possibly race

• 4-16 PTO/A Presidents’ Council: Alliance will attend (DATE CHANGE from 3-19) to encourage parent involvement in Alliance; PTO/PTA representatives from each school can relay Alliance information and substance abuse prevention message to parents

6. Alliance future plans:
• Mental Health First Aid: Marni Elson-Victor for updates; DATE CHANGE 6-1-19, 8:00 am-4:30 pm? $30 per attendee, 30 max; Alliance hosting with lunch; Howell municipal building’s new training room; certification given if completed; Mental Health First Aid for youth is a separate course and CPC Behavioral Health has staff trained to deliver this training option

• Mandatory parent substance abuse prevention education component for K-2, 3-5, 6-8 grade parents: Jeanna and Christa met with Superintendent Joseph Isola 3-11; possible outcomes are K-5grade back-to-school night quick video with SROs, Jeanna, Christa, and principals along with take-home literature packet and 6-8 grade online educational component that must be completed to get students’ laptops (one component per family), along with CARE package for parents to take home with prevention literature and support resources; focus is to increase parent substance abuse awareness and involvement in younger grades, before middle school and high school

• Howell Day and I AM Talented Teen Music Festival: Christa met with Steve Fecher, Mike Pavlick, and Joe Cantaffa of Howell High to discuss option of teen talent headlining entertainment for the event to increase teen talent and Alliance exposure while reducing Howell Day costs; plan is to feature two well-known teen bands, then hold auditions for in-between performances; Alliance would sponsor give-aways, promotional posters, and pizza party for teens who help behind the scenes

7. Alliance members/guests prevention-related updates:
• CPC Behavior Health’s Project Insight: program for at-risk kids suspected of possible drug use; great way to assess situation through urine tests and group/individual sessions; free/county-funded; CPC’s Howell location is doubling in size; Project Insight’s nearest location for Howell is Freehold right now

• Howell Chamber of Commerce’s new resident mailing program (includes Prevention Press): chamber not present, so moved to 4-16 agenda

• Guest presentations: see notes above

8. Alliance/community upcoming events (need volunteers, sign up on Podkeeper, if posted):
• 3-21-19: Narcan training 6 pm town hall (prevention table, CFC table)
• 3-27-19: Alliance fundraiser at Texas Roadhouse (prevention table)
• 3-29 & 3-30-19: Middle School North plays in evening NEED VOLUNTEERS!!
• 4-5 & 4-6-19: Middle School South plays in evening (prevention table) NEED VOLUNTEERS!!
• 4-29-19: Golf outing all day Eagle Oaks: sell your tickets (mailed out), volunteer at event

9. Alliance-related concerns, suggestions, feedback, etc.: 

10. Meeting adjourned by Jose Orozco and seconded by Marni Elson-Victor.