

LAWRENCE ALCOHOL AND DRUG ALLIANCE
MINUTES
September 28, 2021
9:00 A.M.
In-person Meeting

Present: Keith Levine, Lawrence Health Department, Coordinator
John Ryan, Lawrence Council Liaison
Jeff Radice, Lawrence Recreation Department
Malissa Arnold, Community Representative
Kelly Nitti, Community Representative
Suzanne Girard, Lawrence Police Department

Absent: Naeem Aktar, Community Representative
Jayshree Kalwachwala, Project Graduation
Shubha Sharma, Project Graduation
Ann DeGennaro, Superintendent of Schools Representative
Edward "Chip" Meara, Mercer County Coordinator

Congratulations to Malissa Arnold, Ruth DelPino, Ann DeGennaro and Jayshree Kalwachwala on their new positions with the Prevention Coalition of Mercer County, and any others if I missed them here!

MINUTES

1. Grant Activity Reports

- a. Brief discussion on who receives grant funding through LADA via the County.
- b. Additional discussion on programs the groups offer.

2. New Business

- a. Committee Vacancies
There are two vacancies on the Alliance committee. If anyone knows of someone interested in serving a on the committee they can obtain an application on the Township website.
- b. Camp Fire programming is beginning to resume in schools.
- c. Lawrence Health Department will be providing 150 hacky sack giveaways to the Camp Fire organization for the teen Scream Screen event at Rider University on October 22, 2021. Event will include trunk-or-treat, food vendors, pumpkin decorating and various activities.
- d. Discussion of mental health issues of teens and COVID-19.
- e. Discussion around how Instagram has been linked to negative female body image in youth, as well as how platforms like TikTok are being misused to target youth.
- f. Discussion around the usefulness of service animals for emotional wellbeing. In particular, service dogs are aiding college staff and students during the COVID pandemic and are being utilized in lower grades schools as well.
- g. Discussion on some school's efforts to minimize student cell phone usage during school days.

- h. Lawrence Community Day event discussed, to be held on 10/3/2021 in Central Park and the possibility of having vendors relating to mental health and wellness.
- i. Prevention Coalition of Mercer County is planning a November 18th event on young athletes and opioids/pain management with athletic and recreation directors in sports capacity as well as:
 - i. Oksoberfest
 - ii. Talk About It Tuesday
 - iii. Prescription Take Back event on October 23
- j. Malissa Arnold to connect Jamie Wright of ASAP, Rider with the Lawrence Health Department to partner on future events and to retrieve reporting information for grants.

3. Old Business

- a. National Overdose Awareness event 8/31/21 Central Park, Lawrence Township was a great success, well attended and included the Mercer County Administrator and staff as well as other govt partners.
- b. Health Officer Levine was interviewed on The Bronc's *Mental Fitness* show in honor of National Recovery Awareness Month.

4. Next Meeting

- a. The next meeting will be scheduled for October 26th at 9am in-person at the Municipal Building. The November meeting will likely be skipped since it falls close to Thanksgiving and a meeting will be planned for December.

5. Adjournment

- a. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10am

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith Levine
Health Officer
LADA Coordinator