

Franklin Lakes Municipal Alliance Meeting Wednesday, May 4, 2016

In Attendance:

Tom Altonjy, Frank Bivona, Barbara Capozzi, Joseph Collins, Dana Cotsopoulos, Janice Czelusta, Claudia Dargento, Bob Davidson, Melissa Ferro, Joe Kelly, Beverly MacKay, Louis Moore, Liz Morris, Jim Peoples, Chief Carmine Pezzuti, Angela Phillips, Janis Ing Strauss, Henry Wasserstein

Meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m. Henry Wasserstein welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Update on Substantive Abuse Initiative – Mayor Frank Bivona

Mayor Bivona distributed the final draft of a letter and an accompanying flyer that had been sent to the printer. The letter, which is signed by the Mayor and the Municipal Alliance Chair, and the flyer outline the 2016 Substance Abuse Initiative and describe both events that have occurred earlier this year and upcoming events dealing with substance abuse and related issues. The flyer also lists available resources for people with substance abuse questions or issues. The letter and the flyer are a joint effort of the Mayor's Office and Borough Administrator, the Board of Health and the Municipal Alliance.

One of the upcoming programs described in the flyer is a program for health care providers that will take place at Borough Hall on September 19 at 7:00 p.m. Among other things, the program will discuss the concern about overprescribing of opioids by care givers and possible alternatives to opioid prescriptions. Because the program will be giving Continuing Education credits to health care providers, it is expected to provide an added incentive for potential attendees.

Henry Wasserstein reported that in addition to the events included in the flyer, it is expected that FAMS will have several relevant programs in October during the Week of Respect and Red Ribbon Week. However, plans have not yet been finalized so that information about these prospective programs could not be included in the flyer. As soon as this information is available, it will be passed on to the community.

Henry Wasserstein, Claudia Dargento and Melissa Ferro also discussed the upcoming Chris Herren student presentations at both Ramapo and Indian Hills High Schools on October 4 and 5 and the Chris Herren parent presentation at 7:00 p.m. on October 4 at Indian Hills High School. As well as being referenced in the flyer, notice of the evening presentation will also be given to FAMS parents as well as to parents of the elementary school students.

Status of 2016 Spending – Liz Morris

The total Franklin Lakes Municipal Alliance budget is \$12,345, consisting of \$9,876 from Bergen County and matching funds of \$2,469 from the Borough. Funds have already been used for Heroes and Cool Kids, Project Graduation transportation for the two High Schools, transportation for the two High Schools for the Junior Proms and the upcoming Tyler Clementi anti-bullying program (as part of the May 19 Living Lessons program at FAMS). Funds have also been allocated for supplies for Red Ribbon Week at the elementary schools and for the

Sticker Shock program. There is approximately \$1,500 still available for supplies or transportation only and attendees were urged to submit any requests for consideration to Liz as soon as possible. Liz warned that it is important that all funds be used because if enough Municipal Alliances do not use their entire allocations, it is possible that next year's allocations may be reduced.

Recent Events – Chief Carmine Pezzuti

Chief Pezzuti reported that he has received positive feedback from other police chiefs about the announcement of the Franklin Lakes Drug Amnesty Policy. He stated that these chiefs were exploring similar policies for their communities. He discussed the April overdose fatality of a 27 year old Franklin Lakes resident. Narcan was deployed but, unfortunately, the deceased was not discovered until it was too late for the deployment to be successful. Chief Pezzuti also reported that all officers have been recertified for Narcan deployment.

Henry Wasserstein reported that during the first quarter of 2016, Bergen County recorded 96 overdose responses, 78 of which were definitely attributed to opioid usage. 19 of the 96 resulted in fatalities. Narcan was deployed 72 times, resulting in 66 saved lives. Of the opioid overdoses, over 80% were male and 2/3 of both males and females who overdosed were in the 18-31 age group. None were under age 18. The highest concentration of overdoses was in the Fair Lawn/Elmwood Park area.

Chief Pezzuti reported that in the recent drug take back day, 60-70 pounds of drugs were turned in. There will be another take back day in the Fall, but in the interim, residents can use the permanent prescription drug drop box at the Oakland Police Station. Chief Pezzuti reported that needles cannot be turned in to the police, but that most large pharmacy chains and some smaller pharmacies will take back needles.

Living Lessons – May 19, 2016, beginning at 8:15 a.m.

Henry Wasserstein summarized the speakers who will present at the FAMS Living Lessons program on May 19. He also stated that he would send out a description of the speakers to the Municipal Alliance mailing list. He advised that this is a student event, but that if any adults wished to attend all or a part of the presentations, they should contact principal Keiser or Sue Spagnuolo.

Upcoming Events

Franklin Lakes Health Providers/Prescribers Forum – 7:00 p.m. on September 19 at Borough Hall.

Chris Herren Student and Parent Events – 7:00 p.m. on October 4 at Indian Hills High School (Parent Event)

Upcoming Meeting Dates 2016 – 2017 (N.B. – first time published)

September 28, 2016

January 11, 2017

March 15, 2017

May 10, 2017

