

**Franklin Lakes Municipal Alliance Meeting  
Wednesday, March 16, 2016**

**In Attendance:**

Jennie Ballas, Frank Bivona, Barbara Capozzi, Dana Catsopoulos, Wendy Coffey, Joseph Collins, Janice Czelusta, Bob Davidson, Joseph Kelly, Becca Magnusen, Rajan Melwani, Lou Moore, James Peoples, Chief Carmine Pezzuti, Paulette Ramsey, Laurie Restieri, Sue Spagnuolo, Janis Ing Strauss, Henry Wasserstein, Monica Yazdzi

Meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. Henry Wasserstein welcomed everyone and asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

**Update on Substantive Abuse Initiative – Mayor Frank Bivona and Chief Carmine Pezzuti**

Mayor Bivona reported that the Town Council has approved \$40,000 in new funds toward the Substance Abuse Initiative. This amount is in addition to the amount the Municipal Alliance receives from the State to fund its programs. He stated that the Board of Health and the Library will be working with the Municipal Alliance and that a mailer will go out shortly to residents, outlining all of the steps that are being taken.

The Mayor and Chief Pezzuti announced that an Amnesty Policy had been introduced by the Chief and endorsed by the Mayor and Council. In essence, the Policy provides that individuals who advise the Police Department that they are addicted to opioids and need help will be referred to appropriate drug counseling and addiction recovery services rather than being subjected to criminal prosecution. The Policy also provides that it will apply in the same manner if others seek help for addicted family members. The Policy is designed to create an alternative path to prosecution for addiction. Chief Pezzuti reported that in the past 15 months, there have been 8 Narcan saves in Franklin Lakes.

Mayor Bivona reported that there is an effort being made for legislation to be enacted that would require an individual who is resuscitated by Narcan to receive drug counseling before that individual is released. Currently, individuals who are revived by Narcan are permitted to leave without any counseling whatsoever. This has resulted in at least one instance of an individual dying from an overdose within a day of having been revived by Narcan.

**Update on Recent Events – Henry Wasserstein**

Henry discussed further specifics of the collaboration among the Board of Health, the Library and the Municipal Alliance. The joint effort is intended to provide effective programs that may not require much funding. For example, Henry reported on a recent statement by the Centers for Disease Control urging that doctors consider alternatives to prescribing opiates for chronic pain and, when opiates are necessary, to prescribe the lowest dose possible. As part of our collaboration, the Board of Health will be reaching out to all medical and other healthcare professionals who reside or have offices in Franklin Lakes to consider the CDC statement and to limit or eliminate opiate prescriptions where possible.

Henry and Chief Pezzuti reported that a recent note in the Wyckoff Patch that Franklin Lakes had a 24/7 drug drop box was incorrect. Mayor Bivona stated that installing such a drop box was

currently under study and was awaiting the completion of construction to the Police Station. Currently, the closest 24/7 drop box is at the Oakland Police Station at 295 Ramapo Valley Road.

Henry also reported that the New Jersey Senate has unanimously passed a new suicide-prevention law, requiring mental health professionals to be available around the clock, either remotely or on campus, to assist New Jersey college students in distress.

### **Hidden in Plain Sight Program – Henry Wasserstein**

Henry gave the report on the status of the Hidden in Plain Sight program for Bev MacKay who was ill and unable to attend the meeting. The free program will be held on March 22 at Indian Hills High School. He stated that there were 250 registrants but that more people were expected to show up at the time of the event. Refreshments were being provided by the Indian Hills High School PTSO. In addition, there will be vendor tables available and that attendees will have to pass the vendor tables on their way into the auditorium.

### **Living Lessons – Sue Spagnuolo**

The Living Lessons Program will take place at the Middle School on May 19 between 8:15 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. The program focuses on overcoming adversity and deals with issues such as self-control, respect, resilience, anti-bullying and tolerance. The Municipal Alliance, along with the Woman's Club of Franklin Lakes, is funding the presentation by the Tyler Clementi Foundation on anti-bullying. While the program is primarily for the students, adults may attend but should give advance notice to FAMS of their intention to attend.

### **Project Graduation and Junior Prom – Henry Wasserstein**

Henry reported that \$1,500 for each high school had been allocated for Project Graduation buses and \$1,000 had been allocated to each high school for Junior Prom buses.

### **Heroes and Cool Kids – Lou Moore**

Dr. Moore reported that three visits by high school student mentors to FAMS had been completed and had been very well received by the FAMS students. He stated that many 6<sup>th</sup> graders ask questions about high school, but that by the time they are entering high school, they have forgotten the answers. He stated that this year, high school students will visit FAMS to talk to 8<sup>th</sup> graders about their questions related to their entering high school. Dr. Moore stated that the Heroes and Cool Kids program, as well as Project Graduation and the Junior Prom have had a very positive impact on the high school climate.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.