

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES/MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES – JANUARY 11, 2016

Present: Mayor Barbara Wallace, Gloria Goode, Pat Madden, Brooke Morett, Diane Stevens, Josh Aronovitch, John DiPietro, Drew Jackson, Sandy Conlin, Donna Rullo,

Members Excused: Officer Haley, Missy Miller, Virginia Rossi, Eileen Lucarini

Guests: Mary Beth Monroe, Gloucester Co MA Coordinator, Lisa Cerny, Director, GC Human Services, Michelle Perez, Monroe Twp. MA Coordinator, Cody Miller, Monroe Twp. Councilman, Lisa Collins

The meeting was called to Order at 6:15 PM by Gloria Goode. Ms. Goode introduced a new member to the Committee, Brooke Morett and also welcomed the guests to the meeting. The attendance sheet was distributed while introductions were made.

Monroe Twp. Municipal Alliance: Michelle Perez gave a report on activities sponsored by her Municipal Alliance. She spoke of the “Opiate Initiative”. The program. “Steered Straight” will be in every school in Gloucester County, except Pitman and Delsea, in October. It is for grades 5th through 12th. She also shared copies of their brochure. She discussed how important it was to build relationships with all the stakeholders in the township, i.e. schools, police, businesses, etc. The Opiate Initiative, which Michele described is currently in the Middle Schools and High School in Williamstown. Phase three will include the elementary schools. The Initiative involves a once per month assembly in the schools with a different topic each month, including Steered Straight, Peer to Peer. She strongly recommended the Committee consider learning about the program. Michelle also shared info on the the Narcan distribution to all police departments in Gloucester County. Narcan is used to prevent cocaine overdoses. Michelle had to excuse herself from the meeting to attend her monthly MA meeting.

Reorganization: Nominations were accepted and the Committee voted unanimously to elect:

- Chairperson – Josh Aronovitch
- Vice-Chairperson – Gloria Goode
- Secretary – Donna Rullo

The 2016 Calendar was reviewed and accepted by the Committee.

Minutes: Mr. Aronovitch made a motion to approve the Minutes from Nov. 2, 2015, Seconded by Mrs. Rullo, all voted and approved.

Sub Committee Reports: A sign-up sheet was distributed for the members to consider joining a sub-committee.

- **Municipal Alliance Grant** – Mr. Aronovitch reported on the work of the sub-committee, which has met three times .The Sub-committee is reviewing the current Strategic Plan and proposed programs for the 2015/2016 school year. Suggestions for additional programs were shared with Mrs. Conlin.
- **Mother’s Cupboard:** Mr. Jackson reported on activities for the cupboard. The Police Cadets collected 90 barrels of food and \$1,000.00. The Rotary donated food and \$1,000.00. He is looking into having the cupboard open on Thursday evenings for those who have difficulty coming in during the daytime hours.

The Annual budget is \$3,000. Mr. Jackson shared that they are using a data base for their clients and they are receiving an abundance of food from Phil Abundance and the SJ Food Bank as well as local businesses and private donations.

- **Super Saturday:** Lisa Collins asked the members for a theme for this year's event. Mr. Aronovitch stated that originally Super Saturday was a Drug/Alcohol Prevention event. He suggested, "No One Fights Alone" as the theme. The Event is scheduled for Saturday, May 7, 2016 at Washington Lake Park. Pat Madden is spearheading this event and discussed the need to include the schools and other issues in planning for this year's event, including advertising in local papers, schools and on the website. Mrs. Stevens suggested utilizing the schools phone blast for events. The theme should be about prevention, since that is the charge of the Committee. The sub-committee will begin meeting in March and welcomes volunteers.
- **Christmas Angels** – No report
- **Interfaith Council** – No report
- **Website/Resources/Services** – Ms. Goode reported that there is currently a volunteer, Alicia Melson, manning the telephone two days a week on Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. The new telephone number for WTFCS/MAC is 589-0520, ext. 254. The website is in need of updating and is not user friendly. Mayor Wallace will contact the IT person about assisting in updating our page. Drew Jackson shared how helpful Ms. Melson has been with Mother's Cupboard. The Committee will address hiring Ms. Melson at the next meeting.
- **Municipal Alliance:** Sandy Conlin reported that \$13,675.89 was spent during the first two quarters and submitted the Quarterly Report. The Challenge Program has been postponed for the High School. The funds will be used to pay for Mick Fallon Assemblies at the three Middle Schools. For the 3rd quarter, \$10,500.00 has been encumbered for activities for the remainder of the year.

Boys & Girls Club: Mayor Wallace shared that a meeting was held with Gary Breem, principal of Thomas Jefferson School, Robert Taylor, Director of GC Boys & Girls Club, Sandy Conlin, and herself to discuss utilizing Thomas Jefferson Elementary School as the pilot school. She is meeting with the YMCA Executive Director later this month.

Mission Statement: Mr. Aronovitch distributed a draft of the new mission statement for the members to review.

"Kids Are Dying": Mary Beth Monroe shared information on the presentation by Michael DeLeon. It is sponsored by the Governor's Council of Alcoholism & Drug Abuse. The presentation will take place at Auletto's in Deptford, NJ on February 3, 2016. All the members were encouraged to attend.

Adjourned: The meeting concluded at 8:05PM

Submitted by: Donna Rullo, Secretary

