**Burlington County Coalition for Healthy Communities**

**Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday March 25, 2014**



Meeting was held at Kennedy Center, Willingboro NJ 08046

Lunch was provided by Prevention Plus

Meeting called to order by Joe Conlin at 12:30 PM

**Attendance/Sectors & Agencies Represented**

*Civic*:

Law Enforcement: Chief David Jantas (Pemberton Twp) Chief Richard Meder (Medford Twp) **Vince Contreras** (Burlington County Sheriff’s Dept)

Govt Agency: James Kube (National Guard) Lily Britton (State DMHAS)

School: Patrice Holness (Wboro HS MVP) Nell Geiger (Bordentown High/Middle Schools SAC)

Youth Serving: Louise Bateman, Stephanie Green (Crossroads)

Other: Kim McCaffrey (Contact, Violence Coalition)

Healthcare: None

Parent**: Debra Rumbos** (Evesham Alliance)

Youth: None

Faith Based: ***Dr. Amy Dean***, (Faith In Action)

Business: none

Media: none

***DFC Sector representatives listed in bold and italics.***

 ***Approval of February Meeting Minutes***

Motion: Contreras, 2nd Kube…approved, posted on website www.prevplus.org

**GUEST SPEAKER: 2 representatives of Burlington County Chief’s of Police were on hand to discuss police use of narcan spray.**

* **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

Coalition Chairperson Brina Sedar is on medical leave and unable to attend

***TEAM Youth Committee***:

***PR/Media Committee***: Vince Contreras, no report

***Implementation Committee****:* No report

***Strategic Prevention Framework Committee***: No report

***Public Policy Committee****:*

* **Drug Free Communities Report**

 Joe discussed finding a guest speak for a Town Hall meeting on underage drinking and drug use. Sticker Shock program will be conducted in Florence and Bordentown on May 1st. Joe conducted in service training for teachers at Florence HS, MS and Willingboro Intermediate School in March. He asked members to follow the BCCHC on twitter.

* **Community Transformation Project**

Joe discussed a successful meeting with the YMCA now called the Y.

* **Regional Coalition**

Information gathered on drug overdose statistics were discussed along with further information found regarding the police carrying Narcan spray. The police chiefs from Medford & Pemberton weighed in on the topic to tell us that there are still many obstacles to overcome regarding their departments carrying this drug. Issues include possible civil lawsuits that could incur, financial issues for the purchasing the drug, and unknown “shelf life” of the drug in our changing climates (i.e. being left in the PD cars during extreme hot or cold temperatures). They went on to tell us that they are not against looking further into possibly using the Narcan, but were being cautious and taking the decision to carry them very slowly. Ocean County, who has a higher opioid drug overdose rates, is actively pursuing this issue and therefore, being watched by the rest of us in the state to see if they are successful.

The push for more permanent Prescription Drop Off boxes continues by the coalition. High rates of police departments have been requesting more information and support from the coalition to help them acquire the boxes in their townships. Currently we have interest from: Fieldsboro, North Hanover, Westampton, Bordentown City, and Riverton’s police chiefs. The coalition is reviewing the guidelines and restrictions required by the entities that sell the drop boxes and assisting these towns in finding a way to put them in permanently. Chief Meder of Medford Twp and Chief Jantas of Pemberton Twp further discussed their interest and concerns with putting the boxes in their departments as well.

Upon further discussion with the police chiefs at the meeting, they mentioned other ideas for preventive measures that the police could take within their communities to help reduce drug abuse and overdoses. Medford chief of police Richard Meder mentioned a previous program they utilized where they would target the young people arrested for drug use or selling and go to their homes offering a deal of turning in their supply and offering resources and support to locate rehabilitation treatment centers. They would use this as an incentive to stop using and/or selling drugs, clean up their act, and in turn not acquire further criminal charges. The coalition offered to support efforts like these in any way possible. Further discussions were agreed upon to possibly get these types of prevention programs going within our county.

* ***NEW BUSINESS:***

None

* ***Old Business***

Kim Burns was unable to attend. Joe informed the members that the smoke free parks ordinance passed in Willingboro and thanked Amy Dean for all of her help.

* ***Open Discussion***

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM, next meeting April 22nd  JFK Center Willingboro 2:30 PM.