

LAWRENCE ALCOHOL AND DRUG ALLIANCE  
MINUTES  
June 28, 2011  
5:00 P.M.

Present: Carol Chamberlain, Chairperson  
Kelly Nitti, Camp Fire  
Laurie Wilson, Project Graduation  
Susan Varga, Community Representative  
Mark Ubry, Lawrence Township Police Department  
Steve Groeger, Recreation Director  
Margarita Leahy, Rider University  
Nyya Toussaint, LMTI Student

Absent: Jim Kownacki, Council Liaison  
Betty Donahue, Coordinator  
Tonia Moore, LMTI  
Melody Powell, PEI Kids  
Rich Monacchio, Community Representative

**A. Minutes**

The minutes of the May 24, 2011 meeting were reviewed.

**B. Grant Reports**

Camp Fire – The programs have been completed at Eldridge Park School, Slackwood School and Lawrence Elementary School. Classes are completed for this school year. In September programs will be conducted at Ben Franklin School and Little Kids College.

Project Graduation – The final amount of money collected for Mr. LHS was \$4,870.00. The senior breakfast was held the morning of the prom, June 3. This same morning the police department conducted a re-enactment of a drunk driving accident for the seniors to observe. Project Graduation was the night of graduation, June 17th. Approximately 85% of the senior class attended. All students who attended won a gift. The students seemed to have a good time and only a few left the event early. A press release about Project Graduation was in the Trenton Times on May 20<sup>th</sup>. It is anticipate another article will be in the paper shortly.

DARE – The DARE program was completed at Lawrence Intermediate School. The graduation was abbreviated due to the shortened school days. The program was also completed at St. Ann's School.

PEI Kids – No report.

LMTI – Nyya Toussaint, a LMTI student provided the report for LMTI. He reported the group was busy this quarter with activities for the LMTI group and each month LMTI develops a bulletin board within the school with a drug and/or alcohol prevention message. This summer four past LMTI campers were accepted as YACs for this year's camp. In addition three students are scheduled to go to LMTI camp this year. Nyya indicated LMTI is looking for additional funds to be able to send all the campers. The tuition for campers is \$530.00 each. The tuition for each YAC is \$375.00. Suggestions for funding requests included the Mercer Council on Alcohol and Drug Addiction, Barbara Sprechman, the Crisis Center and Princeton House. It was suggested LMTI write a request for funding with a description of how the funding would be used. Members of the Alliance said they would review the written request and forward it to agencies they feel may be able to assist with the tuition.

Nyya also said LMTI students participated in Diversity Day which was held in May at Lawrence High School.

Community Awareness – The next event the LADA will plan to attend will be National Night Out. Mark Ubry said this year National Night Out will be Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 175 Johnson Avenue. It will be from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm. The event will include a cookout, a K-9 demonstration and the drill team will perform. The LADA will have a table with information to distribute. Lt Ritter is in charge of the event if anyone has any questions regarding National Night Out. Carol Chamberlain said this event will count as the July meeting therefore anyone who can attend to help would be appreciated.

Lawrence Township Fireworks- Steve Groeger announced the fireworks will be held on Saturday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>. There will be a band starting at 7:30 pm. The fireworks will start about 9:30 pm. The rain date is July 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Township has collected approximately \$16,500.00 for the fireworks. The event will be held at Rider University.

Coordinator- Carol Chamberlain explained the coordinator position remains vacant. Margarita Leahy said there may be a graduate student interested in this position. Carol said she would email the job description to Margarita to share with the students.

C. **New Business**– Margarita Leahy mentioned she is initiating a 30-minute weekly radio show on The Bronc radio station (107.7 FM). The show will include interviews on a variety of topics, including drug and alcohol prevention, stress management, healthy living including mental health issues. She plans to have a variety of guests to interview including professionals in the fields mentioned above as well as people in recovery. Margarita is currently looking for sponsors to cover the \$3,000.00 annual costs for the programming. The LADA members offered to assist in looking for sponsors. Margarita said she will put together a description of the proposed programming along with the funding request to share with the LADA members.

Margarita also provided information on a new website [www.parentcheck.com](http://www.parentcheck.com). This website is designed to assist parents in understanding the latest trends among teenagers and college students.

D. **Next Meeting Date-** The next LADA meeting date will be determined based on the need to meet to discuss the upcoming grant application. There may be a need for a meeting in August to review the new grant. Carol Chamberlain will notify everyone if a meeting is needed. Carol also requested assistance from LADA members at National Night on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

E. **Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Chamberlain  
Chairperson