

LAWRENCE ALCOHOL AND DRUG ALLIANCE
MINUTES
February 28, 2012
5:00 P.M.

Present: James Kownacki, Mayor, Council Liaison
David Maffei, Lawrence Township Council
Steve Groeger, Recreation Superintendent
Tonia Moore, School Representative
Kelly Nitti, Camp Fire Boys and Girls
Laurie Wilson, Project Graduation
Suzanne Rose, Homefront
Richard Monacchio, Community Representative
Melody Powell, PEI Kids
Jenna Murphy, TCNJ Intern
Barbara Clancey, Catholic Charities
Carol Chamberlain, Chairperson

Absent: Susan Varga, Community Representative (Excused)
Mark Ubry, Lawrence Police Department

A. Review of Minutes

The minutes of the January 24, 2012 meeting were reviewed and approved.

B. Presentation by Catholic Charities

Barbara Clancey, representative of Catholic Charities Emergency and Community Services made a presentation to members of the LADA. She provided information on the services available at Catholic Charities and she also shared information about volunteer opportunities at Catholic Charities. Barbara distributed flyers on upcoming food drives and a bike ride for raising funds for Catholic Charities. She also spoke about the rapid re-housing program, the self-sufficiency programs for clients as well as health and wellness initiatives.

C. Grant Activity Reports

LMTI - Tonia reported LMTI is finishing the recognition of Relationship Month. There were activities focusing on developing positive relationships and making good choices throughout February.

The group also celebrated Black History Month with an Open Mic Night. There was a large turnout for the event. Students read poetry and sang songs.

LMTI students collected blue jeans for homeless teens in January also. Two hundred pairs of jeans were collected.

A collection was taken for items to send to Nicaragua through Operation Smile.

The students from LMTI will be participating in the Mercer County Prevention Coalition needs assessment. The assessment will be conducted on March 13, 2012 at the high school.

Camp Fire Boys and Girls - Classes are currently being conducted at Slackwood Elementary School and Eldridge Park School. The classes are held on Wednesdays. Kelly Nitti invited LADA members interested in the program to attend a class.

PEI Kids - Melody Powell reported the bullying prevention classes have been completed. Counselors were made available for students to speak with on an individual basis after the program. There were two referrals to the school administration regarding possible bullying issues.

Project Graduation - Mr. LHS is scheduled for April 5, 2012. In association with Mr. LHS are two restaurant fundraisers. One fundraiser will be at Cheeburger Cheeburger and one at Woody's BBQ. Mr. LHS candidates will be at the restaurants the evening of each fundraiser. Another fundraiser is scheduled for June at the Applebee's Restaurant. Letters were also mailed to potential donors requesting donations to Project Graduation.

Graduation is scheduled for June 20, 2012 at 3:00 P.M. The prom will be on April 20, 2012. The senior breakfast on prom day is sponsored by Project Graduation parents.

The parents discussed moving the event to the night of the prom in future years, but there was no interest in changing the event to a post-prom event.

DARE - No Report

Community Awareness - Carol Chamberlain distributed a draft copy of the revised LADA brochures to everyone at the meeting. She requested comments regarding the draft and any recommended changes to the draft within the next week. This brochure will be used at community events to inform residents about the LADA.

Information was also distributed on the recent arrests at the Wonderland Smoke Shop on Brunswick Pike. Members of LADA had expressed concern about this business at previous meetings. Carol Chamberlain explained it was a police issue and no other information was available at this time.

A copy of bill S454 was distributed to LADA members along with the recently adopted Medical Marijuana Program Rules, N.J.A.C. 8:64-1.1.

Coordinator - Carol Chamberlain distributed information about two upcoming trainings available for LADA members.

- "Simple Solutions to Perplexing Problems" sponsored by the N.J. Association of County Youth Services Commissions on March 21, 2012 in Manahawkin, New Jersey.
- NJPN Conference "Strategic Moves: Advancing the Field of Addiction" on March 2, 2012 at the Atlantic City Convention Center.

At the next LADA meeting, March 27, 2012 Barbara Sprechman will be attending to conduct a focus group interview. This is a component of the Prevention of Underage Drinking grant the Mercer Council on Alcohol and Drug Addiction received. Carol Chamberlain requested LADA members make an effort to attend the next meeting and participate in the focus group interview.

D. New Business

Carol Chamberlain asked if there was any new business from LADA members. There were no new items for discussion.

E. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is March 27, 2012 at 5:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Chamberlain
Chairperson