

LAWRENCE ALCOHOL AND DRUG ALLIANCE
MINUTES
September 23, 2014
5:00 P.M.
Manager's Conference Room
Lawrence Municipal Building

Present: Melody Powell, P.E.I. Kids
Susan Stanley, Rider University
Kelly Nitti, Camp Fire U.S.A.
Tim Drew, Police Chief Representative
Ann DeGennaro, L.M.T.I., Lawrence Board of Education
LMTI Students
Carol Chamberlain, Chairperson

Absent: Steve Groeger, Recreation Superintendent
Susan Varga, Community Representative

A. LMTI Presentation

The Lawrence High School students who attended the Lindsey Meyer Teen Institute Camp this summer came to the meeting. The LMTI club is comprised of 20-25 students which promotes a drug-free healthy lifestyle. The group promotes fun activities without the use of drugs and alcohol. The group also is involved in organizing community events. To be a member of LMTI, each student must sign a contract which confirms their commitment to a drug and alcohol free lifestyle. The group meets on Thursdays at the high school.

The students presented information about their camp experience. The camp provided the students with a supportive community which engaged the students in leadership activities. Topics of focus at camp included healthy living and fundraising. The students who attended shared the experience with high school students from all over New Jersey. There were seven Lawrence High School students who attended camp in 2014.

The students also discussed their plans for the 2014-2015 school year. These plans include a "Haunted High School" fundraiser, a vision party and hopefully having a speaker from camp to speak about a "New Year, New Life, New Start".

There is also discussion about a mentoring program with the middle school students. There is a plan to have an assembly with the middle school students to introduce them to LMTI and start the conversation about alternatives to drugs and alcohol use.

One goal the LMTI students have for the upcoming school year is to increase the size of the club and ultimately have more students attend camp. The students feel the experience is valuable and want others to have the same opportunity.

B. Grant Activity Reports

Camp Fire U.S.A. - Programs are being scheduled for the 2014-2015 school year.

PEI Kids - There is a program called "Enough Abuse" which PEI is currently promoting throughout Mercer County. The program focuses on preventing sexual abuse and increasing awareness about sexual abuse in the community. A meeting will be held October 16, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. to share information about this program. PEI will welcome anyone to this program to learn more about "Enough Abuse" with the hope others will share this information.

Project Graduation - No report.

Community Awareness - Lawrence Alcohol and Drug Alliance will have a table at Community Day which is Sunday, October 5, 2014. Kelly Nitti has volunteered to attend the event. Additional volunteers are needed.

Coordinator Report - Jena Rose Coluccio has relocated to South Jersey, therefore, she has resigned. At this time there is no replacement for Jena Rose.

C. Old Business

Calendar of Events - Carol Chamberlain distributed copies of the Calendar of Events. Carol requested LADA members submit events to be added to the calendar as they are scheduled. It is important to keep the calendar current as it is available to residents on the township website.

D. New Business

Parent Programs - The group discussed ideas about how to provide parent education. One suggestion was to find venues for parent education programs for Polish speaking and Spanish speaking parents in town. Some foreign speaking residents may not feel comfortable attending programs which are provided in English only. The group was asked to think about locations to provide such programs.

E. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Chamberlain
Chairperson