



**Madison  
Chatham  
Coalition**

**Mission:** Prevent and reduce youth substance use and abuse in the communities of Madison, Chatham Borough and Chatham Township through collaboration, education and community-wide change.

**Vision:** Empowered, educated youth confident to make and keep healthy lifestyle choices.

### **Madison Chatham Coalition Membership Meeting Minutes**

**September 12, 2019**

*Boszhardt Family Teen Center, Madison Area YMCA*

Lead by Chairperson Lauri O'Brien

**Attendees:** Allison Bardon, Gwen Riddick, Kelly Loofbourrow, Bridget Colendenski, Amy Lewis, Mike Ecklund, Christine McIntyre, Doug Loitkith, Kiana Cunningham, Craig Denecke, Lindsay DeStefano, Stacey Ewald, Lisa Lattarulo, Kelly Loofbourrow, Alex Mandala, Kathy Martini, Stacey McEvoy, Mary Moore, Gwen Riddick, Erin Rowell, Christine Mahoney, Lauri O'Brien

**Meeting called to order at 9:35 AM**

#### **Sector Spotlight Project Community Pride (Healthcare, Youth-serving)**

- Clinicians Christine McIntyre and Mike Ecklund present information about Project Community Pride
- No-fee counseling service of Madison Area YMCA serving youth and teens
- Works with law enforcement and school sectors most closely
- Example - work with family and watch video, MCC has supplied videos to PCP, bullying, tolerance, originally just worked with police department
- Funded by Madison Borough, Chatham Borough, Madison Area YMCA, SDOC, Florham Park
- Clinicians see clients for anywhere from 1 month to 1 ½ year depending on how needs are being met, some families are referred out if ongoing or different level of care needed
- Clinicians run various groups at the middle school level but work at high school and elementary also
- Many times, clinicians see clients during school hours, which is a service that not a lot of other therapists can provide
- Schools are great to work with but students' schedules can be challenging
- Needs from MCC:
  - Life Skills Curriculum - MCC has it and they have used it at other schools before- would be great to use for teens referred by police

- Brochures/materials related to substance use for parents
- Question: is there a self-referral process?
  - Lisa - Parent has to be contacted and make sure kid is onboard with it. School assess them and if need ongoing care they set it up. Teens can always self-refer
  - Police are able to directly refer to PCP as a type of warning or as deterrent if first offense for teen
- Question: What is the process for police referral?
  - Process if teen has interaction with police, they can mandate a certain number of hours to be completed by teen
    - Example: Teen caught using marijuana on the weekend. 4 community service hours, essay, workshop needed – clinicians will assess issues. Decide if counseling is needed, essay, volunteer time needed, or workshop. Sign a contract with so many hours to get the hours done. If issue continue to arise, police get involved
  - Christine mentions that teens love volunteering at Madison Community House
  - Suggestion - reach out to Gwen Riddick for YMCA volunteer coordination (been effective to have teens volunteer with younger kids)
  - Example - parent recognized that vaping and alcohol was an issue with her youth - so mom connected him with Allison and he organized all the MCC materials
  - Ideas: volunteer at Bottle Hill Day
    - Purposeful volunteerism
- Kathy Martini notes that Project Pride is a rare YMCA service - Looking to help other YMCA's emulate the program
- Christine McIntyre: [cmcyntire@madisonymca.org](mailto:cmcyntire@madisonymca.org)
- Mike Ecklund: [mecklund@madisonymca.org](mailto:mecklund@madisonymca.org)

## Discussion - Status of Cannabis Legalization in NJ, Vaping Deaths

- Recent report: Surgeon general came out against marijuana and the developing brain as well as e-cig and vaping marijuana, along with ongoing reports of deaths of e-cigarettes and vaping marijuana
- What should MCC be doing that we aren't currently doing?
- What are schools doing?
  - Students are dabbing....highly concentrated THC
  - Dab pen is easy. Highly concentrated.
  - SAC's are concerned that kids are using along, not just socially
  - Teens report that it is addictive and hard to stop. Expensive and teens find way to buy these products.
- Question: What else can MCC be doing to get this information out?
  - Lisa: Keep knocking the parents over the head with it - information has been there, just not looking or seeing it

- Alex: Reach elementary parents who aren't yet in it
  - Christine will be doing vaping presentation and will add how to cope with stress
- Question: Has there been information about cannabis being a gateway drug?
  - At Day top they refer to it as a stepping stone drug
- Comment - Lauri - Delay onset is key, beliefs are formed early and need to inform. Legalization creates a baseline acceptance that makes it tough to get around
- Parents Against Vaping: [www.parentsagainstvaping.com](http://www.parentsagainstvaping.com)
  - Great resource for more information
- SAC's note than students are expressing a want to quit vaping but don't know how
  - Schools will be offering groups
  - MCC working on a rack card with tips to quit; will share with schools
- **ACTION ITEM:** MCC committee member interested in starting vaping task force. If interested in serving on this ad hoc group, please email Allison: [abardon@madisonymca.org](mailto:abardon@madisonymca.org)

## **Coordinator's Report**

### **Training Opportunities**

1. TIPS training – Responsible sale and service of alcohol (train the trainer training)  
Allison attending 2 day training in November
  - Looking to train employees at local stores, bars (opportunity for store owner to put their staff through and get a decal for store that demonstrates that they participated)
2. Cultural Competency Training; **September 17- 8:30 – 3PM**
  - On-site training with Tracy Johnson
  - Training is two-fold; first focuses on own perception of culture and then focuses on culture as it relates to the coalition
  - Please email Allison if interested in attending: [abardon@madisonymca.org](mailto:abardon@madisonymca.org)
3. Fatal Vision training for marijuana and alcohol simulation goggles; **September 27: 9AM**
  - onsite training done for 10 people
  - Allows MCC/MACC/MAASA to standardize use of the goggles when tabling
  - 3 hr training

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Please email Allison if interested in volunteering

1. Sustainability Fair: September 14 8AM- 1PM
2. Welcoming Week at the Madison Area YMCA: September 19 3:30-5:30 PM
3. Back to School Night at MJS: September 19 6:30-8:30 PM

## **Make Good Choices Campaign**

- Seasonal banner campaign around Madison always with “MAKE GOOD CHOICES” but subtopics changing seasonally (underage drinking, vaping, mental health, sexting, body image, etc)
  - **Calendar of Topics:**
    - i. October- December: Vaping
    - ii. January- March: Stress and Anxiety
    - iii. April- June: Distracted/drunk driving
    - iv. July- September: Safe phone usage (cyberbullying, sexting)
  - Committee has been formed and 2 meetings have occurred thus far
  - Members include Chatham and Madison reps, YMCA, media, alliance coordinators
  - Next step is to meet with teens on advisory committee to learn more about how to reach peers on October 9
  - Resolutions will be passed in Chatham Borough and Madison Borough in January
  - Madison and Chatham Living to cover the campaign in January or February
  - Allison and Gwen to share information to Madison Chamber so businesses can be involved in campaign
- Allison shared that MCC is ending 2<sup>nd</sup> grant year on September 29 and entering 3<sup>rd</sup> on September 30; thanked everyone for their work this past year
- Kelly Loofbourrow kindly shared about the good work that MCC has been doing and that the alliances and Coalition are working well together
- She shared that people in the community were unsure of what the forming of the Coalition would mean for the already established alliances but is happy to see that all groups are working well together
- Allison thanked everyone at the table for their hard work and dedication and reiterated that nothing would be possible without their support

**Meeting adjourned at 11**

**Next MCC meeting: Thursday, October 17; 9:30 AM in the Boszhardt Family Teen Center at the Madison Area YMCA**

*Minutes submitted by MCC Secretary Kelly Loofbourrow*

