

**Princeton Alcohol and Drug Alliance
Regular Meeting by videoconference
March 4, 2021
APPROVED Minutes**

Open Meeting – Notice of this meeting was published on the municipal website.

Attendance:

- Gary De Blasio (Alliance Coordinator)
- Holly Arana (Princeton Police)
- Madeline Chia (CHSB)
- Hector Capeilleres (CHSB – Princeton Day School)
- Filomeno Cuino (Corner House staff)
- Chris Donnelly (Princeton Police)
- Tracy Kindelsperger (Corner House staff)
- Riva Levy (Corner House staff)
- Bethany Loffredo (Hun)
- Samantha Ryan (Stuart)
- Kathy Stillo (Board of Health)
- Alison Tarbotton (CHSB – Stuart)
- Dwaine Williamson (Princeton Council)
- Jean Woodman (Corner House staff)

- I. Alliance Chair Courtney Navas was unable to attend. Alliance Coordinator Gary DeBlasio called the meeting to order at 12:04 PM.
 - a. The minutes of the February 4, 2021 meeting were approved as presented. Motion Dwaine Williamson, second Chris Donnelly, approved.
- II. Update from School Representatives:
 - a. Bethany Loffredo (Hun) – They are experiencing mental health challenges such as anxiety and depression. Some students have taken extended leave for mental health services. The time difference has been a real challenge for international students. Drug and alcohol use is less evident.
 - b. Samantha Ryan (Stuart) – Students and staff are looking forward to spring break as a relief from pandemic fatigue. They have excused international students from 3rd and 4th period classes since the time difference was making it difficult for them to participate.
- III. Update from Princeton Public Library – no representatives available today
- IV. Update from Princeton University – no representatives available today
- V. Update from Princeton Council Liaison and Law Enforcement
 - a. Princeton Council – Dwaine Williamson
 - i. Dwaine reported that, due to the new legislation following the legalization of marijuana, all pending misdemeanor cases have been dismissed. Princeton has named a task force to address the issues and Gary has been named to it. The Council is looking for more gender and color diversity on the task force.
 - ii. Discussions and legal issues regarding affordable housing allotments continue.
 - iii. The grass on the Hilltop Park playing field has been replaced with artificial turf, creating concern among people who have concerns about its environmental friendliness.
 - iv. The municipality is searching for a new municipal business administrator since Marc Dashield will retire at the end of the month.

- b. Police – Chris Donnelly, Holly Arana
 - i. No drug arrests in February but there were some DUI arrests, including motor vehicle accidents, one with injuries.
 - ii. New Regulations regarding Marijuana – Some of the recent regulations regarding juvenile alcohol and marijuana incidents were unexpected. The regulations regarding confiscation, detention of juveniles, and parental notification have raised concerns about whether this impairs effective enforcement. Consequences for failure to adhere to regulations include 3rd degree civil rights charges and 2nd degree official misconduct charges against the officer. Police have contacted the state attorney general’s office for interpretation and guidance. The Alliance discussed the legislation’s impact on policing – especially of juveniles – parental notification, and school involvement.
 - iii. Stationhouse Adjustments: On the other hand, the regulations offer the police more discretion for juvenile stationhouse adjustments for some marijuana and alcohol cases. Princeton Police like having the option to refer juveniles for substance use evaluation or treatment rather than automatically charging them with a crime.

VI. Board of Health – Kathy Stillo

- a. The municipality completed its clinic for COVID-19 vaccinations earlier this week. Going forward, the municipality is referring residents to the CURE Arena vaccination clinics. The state Department of Health has set up a COVID-19 Vaccine Call Center for residents age 75+ without access to email (855-568-0545). BOH members think the Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be a “game changer” since it is a single dose. Kathy noted additional groups of residents will be eligible for the vaccine, including teachers. Gary noted all Corner House staff who have opted to be vaccinated have received the vaccine.
- b. Princeton has hired a vulnerable populations outreach coordinator to help connect people to services. The position is grant funded. The new outreach coordinator is proficient in Spanish through study.
- c. Kathy is the Board of Health representative to the municipal marijuana task force, which has not met yet. David Errickson will represent Corner House on the task force.

VII. Student Leadership Programs – Allison Tarbotton, Madeline Chia, Hector Capeilleres, Riva Levy, Fil Cuino

- a. Allison – The Corner House Student Board (CHSB) hosted a Baking Day via Zoom. Sgt. Tom Lagomarsino of Princeton Police led a Zoom discussion to explain marijuana legalization.
- b. Madeline – A recent program included speakers and activities on implicit bias, which the students attempt to discuss several times over the school year. Students have planned a Jeopardy-style trivia night for March 26.
- c. Hector – They are now receiving applications for TAG, GAIA, and CHSB for 2021 – 2022. Students are developing a video of the Seniors to Seniors program; it is currently in the editing phase.

- d. Riva – Applications for next year’s prevention programs are available online and are due on March 23. Riva noted Corner House prevention programs can really help students improve their mental health.
- e. Fil – Outreach students recently went on a virtual visit to the University of Maryland. They are focusing on out-of-state colleges this year after in-state colleges in 2019-2020. A speaker from the Mercer County Community College You Work program led an online workshop, discussing goals, networking, and relationship-building skills that will help students transition into college. Students are receiving acceptance letters. One sophomore has already received a full scholarship to one of 15 schools with the Give Something Back Foundation; this will include a mentor and is contingent on her maintaining a 3.0 GPA through high school. Upcoming outreach programs include SUD concerns. Sheriel Henry and Fil will coordinate the municipal Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP).

VIII. Old Business

- a. None.

IX. New Business

- a. PADA agreed to hold the April 1 meeting since most schools will have returned from spring break by then.
- b. We have not received word on the status of funding for Alliances like the PADA for 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:49 PM. Motion Holly Arana, second Dwaine Williamson, approved.

Remaining 2021 meeting dates:

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| • April 1 | • October 7 |
| • May 6 | • November 4 |
| • No meetings in June, July, or August | • December 2 |
| • September 9 (2 nd Thursday) | |

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Woodman, Secretary to the PADA

Minutes approved April 1, 2021.