

**Princeton Alcohol and Drug Alliance
Reorganization Meeting by videoconference
March 3, 2022
APPROVED Minutes**

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

Attendance:

- Chris Burkmar (Princeton University)
- Tracy Kindelsperger (Corner House staff)
- Riva Levy (Corner House staff)
- Diana Lygas (Princeton Public Schools)
- Nikema Missouri (Stuart Country Day School)
- Courtney Navas (Alliance Chair)
- Leighton Newlin (Princeton Council)
- John O’Donnell (CHSB – PHS)
- Leah Schlenker (CHSB – PDS)
- Michelle Simborski (Princeton Public Schools)
- Jean Woodman (Corner House staff)

- I. Call to Order: The Alliance recognized it lacks clear guidance regarding a quorum, including whether students are voting members. Nine adults and two students were present at the start of the meeting. Ptl. Courtney Navas called the meeting to order at 12:01 PM.
- II. Agenda – The agenda was amended to remove the Alliance Coordinator’s report.
- III. Introductions, elections, and welcome to guests – none today
- IV. The minutes of the February 3, 2022 meeting were approved as presented. Motion Riva Levy, second Chris Burkmar. There being no objection, the motion was approved.
- V. School Representatives –
 - a. Princeton Public Schools – Diana Lygas reported on Black History Month programs. Michelle Simborski and Diana called attention to the problem of vaping in places where students congregate, particularly in the high school restrooms. The school has placed posters with mental health, domestic violence, and “stop vaping” themes in the restrooms to encourage students to seek help through the guidance department.
 - b. The Alliance discussed concerns about vaping among students including:
 - i. How widespread the vaping problem is, and if the number of students who vape can be quantified.
 - ii. The difficulty of detecting vaping devices, many of which are small.
 - iii. The importance of educating middle schoolers so as to prevent use before students reach high school.
 - iv. Alliance members are aware of middle schoolers using vapes and smokeless tobacco products. There have been 3 reports to police in the past month claiming staff in the Palmer Square sold smokeless tobacco products to minors. Princeton Police forwarded these reports to the Health Department per policy.
 - v. As the Council considers retail cannabis sales, people in the community have contacted Council Member Newlin, expressing concern that retail cannabis will expose children to cannabis products and tarnish Princeton’s image.

- vi. Is the Alliance in a position to educate or provide data on underage usage?
 - vii. Equity is also at issue in these matters.
 - c. Hun – No representative was available today.
 - d. Princeton Day School – No representative was available today.
 - e. Stuart – Nikema Missouri reported on the middle and high schools' upcoming Mental Health and Wellness observance. It will focus on self-care and DBT activities, including candle-making and therapy puppies, as well as speakers from Minding Your Mind (<https://mindingyourmind.org/>).
- VI. Princeton Public Library – No representative was available today.
- VII. Princeton University – Chris Burkmar reported the University has not had severe cases of COVID-19 and that mask-optional policies will be announced shortly. The eating clubs have used a hybrid process to recruit new members.
- VIII. Princeton Council Liaison – Leighton Newlin – Council Member Newlin yielded his time, noting his contributions to the vaping and cannabis discussion during the school reports.
- IX. Law Enforcement – Ptl. Courtney Navas reported that, in addition to the above report of underage tobacco purchases, there was one DWI arrest in February. Additionally, Princeton Police look forward to holding the summer Youth Academy for the first time since 2019. Middle schoolers will be able to participate as recruits; high school students can be counselors. Look for more information on Princeton Police social media or the municipal website (<https://www.princetonnj.gov/373/Youth-Police-Academy>) in April.
- X. Corner House Student Programs
 - a. Corner House Student Board – John O'Donnell and Leah Schlenker reported the CHSB is conducting a survey of students from the four participating high schools about drug and alcohol use. Student leaders encourage participants to be honest about the survey so they can gain a good picture of actual usage.
 - b. Student Leadership Programs – Riva Levy reported.
 - i. The Seniors-to-Seniors participants met online and offered many moving tributes about the program and what it has meant to participate. Both high school and adult seniors are enthusiastic about the program.
 - ii. Applications for next year's TAG (Teen Access Group) and GAIA (Growing Up Accepted as an Individual in America) programs are available to rising juniors. Students should contact their school counselors or Corner House.
 - iii. Corner House has begun offering Mental Health services in Princeton Middle School and Princeton High School under the terms of a grant for pandemic needs.
 - c. Outreach Programs – No representatives were available today.
- XI. Board of Health – No representative was available today.

XII. Old Business – none.

- a. Bylaws – Jean reported no Alliance members have volunteered for a subcommittee to review and update the PADA Bylaws. The matter will be postponed for now.

XIII. New Business

- a. Public Comment – none offered.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 PM. Motion Chris Burkmar, second Diana Lygas, approved.

Next Meeting: April 7, 2022, via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Woodman, Secretary to the PADA.

Minutes approved April 7, 2022.