

Greater Atlantic Partnership (GAP) Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2024, 11-1
Stockton University SRI & ETTC

Attendance/Sectors & Agencies Represented:

Youth:

Parents: Kim Burns (EHT Parent, TFHNJ)

Law Enforcement:

Govt Agency: John Armato (GCADA), Lenore Timbers (Atlantic County Division of Public Health)

School:

Youth Service Org: Nakisha Wakefield (Acenda, NJ4S), Mahidal Bhuiyan (NJPN),

Natalia Leusner (Cape Assist, CAB)

Healthcare: Religious/Fraternal Org.: Steph Weaver (Southern Jersey Family

Medical Center), Chris Manzo (AtlantiCare), Jessica Manning (AtlantiCare), Sonya

Rodriguez (AtlantiCare)

Business: Michael DiMarco (Crossroads Companies)

Media:

Civic/Volunteer: Jaime Costello (Hope Exists Foundation)

Other Org: Sean Kolins (Seabrook), Gretchen Halfpenny (APR, OFRT), Kathleen McFadden (APR, Ventnor Municipal Alliance), Kathy Harvey (APR Treatment), Bob Zlotnick (APR), Michelle Costello (APR, TFHNJ),

JTAC Staff: Jennifer Pielhau (JTAC Coordinator), Anna Peterson (JTAC Coalition Assistant)

Guest/Other:

GAP Background/Funding:

Jenn introduced applying for DFC funding under targeted municipalities.

Egg Harbor City, Egg Harbor Township, Galloway, and Pleasantville were chosen because they have key stakeholders in that area, and we have done a needs assessment.

Name Discussion and Final Vote:

Jenn went over the eight names that came in for the coalition over email:

Mainland Corridor Collaborative
Four Town Coalition
Harbor Coalition
Greater Atlantic Coalition
Central Atlantic Partnership
Connect Atlantic County
Partners in Action
Central Atlantic Community Coalition

The group eliminated several depending on different factors, as to not sound like another agency or JTAC

The group voted on the **Greater Atlantic Partnership (GAP)**.

Jenn reviewed the mission statement: To collaborate with community partners to create safe and healthy environments by preventing substance use among youth in Galloway, Egg Harbor City, Egg Harbor Township, and Pleasantville.

Gretchen mentioned if we had to use the verbiage of “youth” since a lot of interventions are geared towards adults.

Kathy replied that we need to include youth for grant purposes. Jenn will look into this.

Natalia mentioned that if we say “youth” we need to keep it as “substance use”, but if we decide to not use youth in the mission, we should change it to “substance misuse”.

Kathy asked if we should change it from “community partners” to “community stakeholders”

We could also delete “community partners” to “...the communities of Egg Harbor Township, Egg Harbor City, Galloway, and Pleasantville to prevent substance use among their youth...”

Kathy also suggested we change “create” to “sustain” since JTAC has been around and created healthy environments.

Jenn mentioned we will be sending invites for the next meeting to school personnel in the communities, police, and others involved in JTAC that are a part of those communities. She asked the group if anyone has other contacts that should be invited to the meeting. The group mentioned a representative from PAL in EHT.

Natalia stressed the importance of keeping the contacts GAP makes involved.

Jenn asked if anyone has faith-based contacts.

Several members of the group said they would email Jenn with faith-based contacts.