

Atlantic County “NEW” Coalition
Meeting Minutes -
12/13/23



Attendance/Sectors & Agencies Represented:

Youth:

Parents:

Law Enforcement:

Govt Agency: Brian Wilson (Atlantic County)

School: Tara O’Keefe (Stockton University)

Youth Service Org

Healthcare: Stephanie Weaver (Southern Jersey Family Medical Centers)

Religious/Fraternal Org.:

Business: Sheeba Loewinger (Pro Recovery Solutions), Michael DiMarco (The
Crossroads Companies)

Media:

Civic/Volunteer:

Other Org: Gretchen Halfpenny (OFRT), Sean Kolins (Seabrook)

Staff: Jennifer Pielhau (Atlantic Prevention Resources), Anna Peterson (Join Together Atlantic
County)

Guest/Other:

Jennifer asked for everybody to sign in in the chat box and the group made introductions.

Jennifer stated the purpose of this meeting is to go over a few more of the logistics for our new coalition. We will be using a lot of the same administrative information as JTAC.

Today we want to decide on a name, review goals of JTAC, and discuss what goals we would like to change for our new coalition.

This is our fourth meeting, to apply for funding we need to have at least 6 months of meetings prior.

At our last meeting we finalized our geographical region: Egg Harbor Township, Egg Harbor City, Pleasantville, and Galloway.

Our mission: To collaborate with community partners to create safe and healthy environments by preventing/reducing substance misuse among youth of Galloway Twp., Egg Harbor City, Egg Harbor Twp., Pleasantville.

Jennifer opened up discussion regarding a name for the coalition.

Brian suggested the "GEEP coalition".

Jennifer mentioned the acronyms that Bob had stated. She also mentioned the crossing of several highways.

Michael DiMarco mentioned the Atlantic County Crossroads Coalition (ACCC). He mentioned that it makes sense to mention the highways in the name, since it does contribute to why these areas have problems.

Jennifer mention that we should steer away from mentioned Atlantic County since it is not all of Atlantic County.

Tara mentioned using crossroads would be confusing, since there are several other "crossroads" in the treatment community.

Brian mentioned drug free crossroads.

Michael mentioned the central atlantic crossroads/ corridor alliance. (CACA)

The group mentioned changing alliance to partnership for acronym sake.

Jennifer will send a follow up email regarding the name of the coalition.

The next agenda item is to review the current action plan for JTAC.

Jennifer walked the group through the current objectives/action plans for JTAC with the group.

Jennifer updated the group on our progress with the pride survey. We now have 4 schools confirmed. This will also give us data we can use for our needs assessment.

Jennifer opened up discussion regarding using what we have done in the past.

Stephanie mentioned we should specify it per region and identify municipalities.

Gretchen mentioned using new funding for social media as a way to target the new municipalities.

Jennifer agreed. She also mentioned that we would be interested in adding stigma. She mentioned forming a subcommittee of the coalition.

Gretchen brought up the concern that it also focuses on mental health, and would the grant cover it?

Tara mentioned that she would also be interested in collaborating with the stigma group.

Next steps:

Internally we will be working on action steps to specify for each municipality.

Our next meeting will be in conjunction with our JTAC meeting on January 9, 11am.