

Jefferson Township Youth Coalition, Minutes of January 10th, 2022 Meeting Zoom

In attendance: Carly Sinnott (PIK), Ashley Brown (PIK), Patrice Reilly (PIK), Barb Kauffman (PIK), Jeanne Howe (JT School District), Janet Boetticher (JT Connect), Brittany Boetticher (JT Connect/Young Adult), Kim Reid (Teen Scene), Carol Puntineiri (JT Arts Committee), Pam Graham (JT High School/Teen Scene), Colleen Orlando (Haunted House), April Tarabocchia (JT Education Foundation), Al Salzano (Volunteer), Mike Smith (Nisivocchia/Business), Mike Lonie (JT High School), Adam Riley (JT Police Department), Ashley Hecht (Youth), Jason Fuehring (JT Police Department), Jess Mondino (Morris County Youth Services), Johanna Rivera (Exit Realty/Business), Kris Wilsusen (JT Health Educator/JTMAC).

The meeting was started at 5:30 pm with welcome and introductions via zoom.

At the beginning of the meeting, Ashley gave a quick overview of what JTYC is. She then went through the Action Plan items. Some of the items were highlighted to show where members could get involved and also how we could change this action plan each year of the grant. Kris Wilsusen mentioned it would be great to get “cards” of some type to be given to students for the “Plant the Promise” initiative so that they can pledge to stay substance free.

Next, Carly went over some of the volunteer opportunities. She spoke about the Sticker Shock campaign & other materials that can be handed out in the community. Kris Wilsusen mentioned it would be good to get the students involved in the sticker shock and bring them to local bagel shops, and pizza stores. Carly also spoke about social media. Many members in the chat voiced that they could share flyers on their different social media pages.

Ashley talked next about opportunities for youth involvement. Especially focusing on National Drug & Alcohol Fact week and Alcohol Awareness month in April. Kim Reid suggested hosting something in April with Teen Scene at the school that the kids can put on. Then, we can suggest that kids need to bring a parent so that both the students and parents are getting involved. Kris Wilsusen also mentioned doing a “Beat the Clock” idea. Other ideas that were thrown out were to have an art contest or Tik Tok challenge and have students make a form of art that shows their “Natural High”.

The zoom was interrupted briefly for technical issues but was resumed shortly after.

Colleen mentioned that it is important to also think of the students that may not be involved and how to create activities that can get them involved. Something like getting them active in dodgeball or other physical activities.

Carly then listed some of the upcoming events. Including, the Hidden in Plain Sight event on Monday January 17th. The Cannabis Legalization virtual event on Tuesday January 18th. Carly spoke about some of the PIK staff going to CADCA to educate themselves and see what other DFC grants are doing around the country.

Patrice spoke about how all Jefferson Township schools are going to be a “pilot” for being trained in being trauma attuned. They will have the Center for Great Expectations come and train all staff.

Kris Wilsusen mentioned the changing of the youth meeting to January 25th.

The meeting ended at 6:30 pm.