

Jefferson Township Youth Coalition, Minutes of March 14th, 2022 Meeting Zoom

In attendance: Carly Sinnott (PIK), Ashley Brown (PIK), Bill Carroll (Law Enforcement), Jeremy Romash (Law Enforcement), Kristine Wilsusen (JTMAC), Melissa Kiritsis (JTConnect), Heather Marsh (JTMAC), Michael Lonie (High School), Michael Smith (Nisivoccia), Laura Brinson (Epiphany), Abigail, April Tarabocchia (JTEF), Pamela Graham (JTEF), Wendy Stabile (JTMAC), Colleen Orlando (Community Member), Jes Mondino (YSAC).

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

Carly began the meeting by giving an overview of what JTYC has been up to for the past few months. She went over the Hidden in Plain Sight, thanking the Police Department. And also just giving an update that it was a great way for parents to connect. She also mentioned that there was a meeting with the middle school and high school to discuss bringing a Peer to Peer mentor program to the schools. Carly also gave an update that JTMAC and JTYC will be combining efforts in the future. This includes combining meetings and activities. Kris Wilsusen spoke that she is excited about this merge because the two groups seem to have very similar ideas and goals.

Ashley spoke next about some action items for the group. The first was about the SBIRT program and how it would be a great opportunity for Jefferson schools to get involved. Kris also echoed this statement. Michael Lonie said that he could bring the SBIRT materials to Mr. Lipton at the school. Ashley also mentioned that we have to begin thinking about the youth student survey. Kris Wilsusen said that we can contact Mrs. Howe to ask about getting the survey into the schools. Ashley also spoke about getting the lighting at Stanlick School. Jeremy Romash spoke about how we can contact Mr. Pappa and discuss what he would like and then we will have to contact JCP&L.

Carly then discussed the upcoming events and things going on with the youth. The first was National Alcohol and Drug Fact week which will occur next week. There will be daily morning announcements, questions that students can ask other students, and a Tik Tok challenge for students. Carly also mentioned that Alcohol Awareness is coming up and spoke about a puzzle idea that we can do. And would love for any ideas from the group. Then, Carly brought in Laura Brinson to talk about doing a youth summit in the fall. Laura gave an overview of what the summit would look like.

Then, Ashley gave some updates on current Jefferson Township Youth Coalition activities. The schools in Jefferson have begun their trauma attuned training. Ashley also mentioned the Jefferson pop up center is beginning and Kris chimed in to mentioned she is excited for this and is trying to get business cards made up for the pop up center. Ashley also spoke about the webpage launch and how herself and Carly will be away for 2 weeks in April for a training and a conference. Then, Ashley let Kris take the floor to discuss the Hike for a Healthy Mind on June 4th. Jeremy said he can help with traffic.

Then, Kris spoke about some of the upcoming events in the community. On June 5th there will be a Hooked on Fishing Not Drugs for about 50 kids, Jeremy is the contact for this. On May 19th there will be a transitioning into middle school program for all 5th graders and their parents. It is a way to let the kids know what to expect in middle school and some coping skills they can use. Kris also spoke about a biking event with White Rock school that may be happening. Jeremy will reach out to Grace Ryan Smith about the biking event. Kris also said how we will be having health fair events at the elementary schools with the alliance students that Ashley and Carly will help out with. National Night out will be on August 2nd with the 60-75 police academy cadets. Kris also would like if we can have a Marijuana program for adults in Jefferson. And Kris also is getting shirts made for the Jefferson striders that will have the JTMAC and JTYC logo.

The meeting ending at 6:30 pm and the next meeting will be on Monday April 25th 2022 at 5:30 pm via zoom.