

**MA 3rd Quarter Meeting
Minutes
January 25, 2022
Via Zoom**

Bill Sullivan, Chairperson- called the meeting into order. Read the Certification of Notice of Compliance with Open Public Meeting Act. **Attendance:** Bill Sullivan, Steve Margeotes, Laura Van Dyke, Noelia Perez, Bret Wagner, Jenn Remser, Robin Mincolelli, Tammy Williams. **Quorum has been met.**

- **Laura introduced** Tammy Williams and reviewed MA information and MAC committee members. Tammy explained how mental health and wellness are important to her. Tammy founded the West Orange Stop Suicide Advocacy Coalition and shared a personal story about the suicide of her sister.
- **Updates from individual programs:**
 - **Cope:** Has been impacted by the lack of staffing. They are seeing this issue extensively in the schools. The inconsistency of virtual schooling versus in person has negatively impacted them. It has been challenging to both get the programs up and running and staff them. They are in the process of getting a staff member approved by the board of education to go into the schools; name: Rahniel Simon. Laura will follow up on this to get the process underway.
 - **Lead:** Lead is a 10-week program taught in the school classrooms. Brad reached out to the school board to explore. The program requires school to be in person. Due to Covid, this program is facing challenges. Will move funds if LEAD not being held. To be determined.
 - **Boys & Girls Club:** Paul is absent from this meeting. Laura will follow up with him individually.
 - **Raising Drug Free Kids:** Steve is open to receiving any additional funding. He has reached out to Degnan house in an attempt to resume their senior program there. The Valley Settlement House program continues. Dispensing information has been their key to the incoming clientele. Right now, all is virtual; aside from staff that goes into the offices. Goal for back in person: April, 2022.
- **Town Council Meeting January 18th, 2022:** Bill, Steve, Laura, and Tammy attended. Laura and Steve were on the agenda and introduced MA to the community. The goal was to raise awareness and emphasize the prevention work being done. Laura provided a link during her presentation to the article that came out in the alternative press. Steve and Tammy thought the MA presentation went very well. During the presentation, Laura mentioned that the committee is in need of a WOHS student and a SHP student.
- **Planning for Town Hall Style Meeting:** Possible speakers: Vince (works with veterans and is knowledgeable on the topic of athletes and prescriptions pain meds. Works for Northwest Essex Community Healthcare Network in Belleville), may also consider a coach or trainer from WOHS (Mr. Stephan Zichella, Acting Athletic Director) Best Time Frame: Spring (May); Steve stated this time of year calls for help increase. Location: in-person; evening (6pm); possibly WOHS auditorium (ask PTA president). Audience: community at large
- Bill: **Motion to approve the minutes** from the meeting on October 26th, 2021. Steve: Motion. Noelia: second. -Approved.
- **Next meeting: April 26th, 2022.**
- **Suggestions:** Tammy: Make a flyer for WOHS and SHP to promote the need of school representation in the committee. Bill: reach out to an extracurricular activity or club that could possibly relate to MA --There were no public representatives present at this meeting; therefore, no comments—The meeting was adjourned by Bill Sullivan and Noelia seconded the motion.

