



The Throggs Neck Community Action Partnership is a group of committed public, private, and religious organizations and concerned individuals whose goals are to develop an awareness of and devise solutions to the alcohol and substance abuse problems and other high-risk behaviors among youth in our community. The partnership meets and works to strengthen the coalition and implement prevention and intervention strategies through community collaboration. Our goal is to prevent the use and reduce alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use and its negative effects on children and families. To achieve these goals, we advocate for healthy and productive lifestyles and respect for the diverse needs of the Throggs Neck community.

**TNCAP Monthly Meeting Minutes-
October 12, from 12 Noon – 2:00 pm**
In-Person Meeting at
Fort Schuyler First Presbyterian Church
Minutes submitted by: Dawn Rodriguez-Insanalli

PRESENT		
NAME	AGENCY/ORGANIZATION	SECTOR
Christine Cavallucci	<i>ADAPP SA Prevention</i>	
Dawn Rodriguez-Insanalli	<i>ADAPP SA Prevention</i>	
Brittany Harris	<i>ADAPP SA Prevention</i>	
Patrick Caruso	<i>Community Board 10</i>	
Lakiema Alexander	<i>P & J Beacon</i>	(Youth Serving Organization)
Felicia Mitchell	<i>P & J Beacon</i>	(Youth Serving Organization)
Robert Spencer	<i>Office of Bronx DA</i>	(Law Enforcement)
Kristen Harty	<i>SAPIS</i>	(School)
Sherrill Cropper	<i>Throggs Neck Merchants Association</i>	(Business Organization)
Millie Stone	<i>Fort Schuyler Presbyterian Church</i>	(Religious)
Venus Moore	<i>NY Problem Gambling</i>	(SA Prevention Organization)
SSG Oscar Ponce	<i>NY National Guard Counter Drug Task Force</i>	(SA Prevention Organization)
Susan Vairo	<i>NYC Dept of Education</i>	(School)
Peter DelDebbio	<i>American Legion</i>	(Fraternal Organization)
Chevar Francis	<i>NYC PRC SA Prevention</i>	
Teresa Wong	<i>Parent Coordinator, MS 101</i>	(Education/School)
Suzette DiCecco	<i>Parent Coordinator, PS 14</i>	(Education/School)
Lisa Schiliro	<i>Parent Coordinator, PS 304</i>	(Education/School)
Greta Ratjen, Principal	<i>Principal, PS 72 (New Member)</i>	(Education/School)
Veronica Brugeman	<i>Parent Coordinator, PS 72</i>	(Education/School)
Paul Gumina	<i>Renaissance HS</i>	(Education/School)
Turan Balik	<i>Bronx Arts & Science Charter School</i>	(Education/School)

ABSENT		
Guillermo Flores	<i>NYC Smoke-Free</i>	(State Government)
Officer Vargas	<i>NYPD 45th Pct.</i>	(Law Enforcement)
SSG Christina Barnes	<i>NY National Guard Counter Drug Task Force</i>	(SA Prevention Organization)
SSG Jonathan Pichardo	<i>NY National Guard Counter Drug Task Force</i>	(SA Prevention Organization)
Leida Velazquez	<i>Throggs Neck Public Library</i>	
David You	<i>NY National Guard Counter Drug Task Force</i>	(SA Prevention Organization)
Milo Ward	<i>NYC PRC SA Prevention</i>	
Edwin Scott	<i>P&J Beacon</i>	(Youth Serving Organization)
Sr. Patricia Warner	<i>Preston Center for Compassion</i>	(Religious)
Rhonda Morris Devlin	<i>Retired Police Officer/Former Liaison 45th Precinct</i>	
Luis Abramson	<i>Cultivating Healing and Justice Initiative Support Services Inc. (CHJI)</i>	
Nanor Arakelian	<i>NYC PRC SA Prevention</i>	
Dawn Morello	<i>First Lutheran Church of Throggs Neck</i>	(Religious)
Stephanie Rodriguez	<i>Rep for: Councilwoman Marjorie Velazquez</i>	(Government)
Ronni Katz	<i>NYC PRC SA Prevention</i>	
Alcee James	<i>NYC PRC SA Prevention</i>	
Jonathan Polanco	<i>Polanco Wealth Strategies (New Member)</i>	

Patrick Caruso: Welcome, and introductions of all the members were led by Patrick Caruso.

Patrick Caruso: Introduced new TNCAP member Paul Gumina, Principal of Renaissance HS in the Bronx, and Turan Balik, Executive Director of Bronx Arts & Science Charter School to speak on their respective schools.

Paul Gumina: Renaissance HS for Musical Theater & The Arts is a visionary community where students build the strength of character, academic success, and passion to grow and achieve through perseverance and collaboration. It is located at 3000 E Tremont Ave in the Lehman HS campus. Paul sees possible opportunities for the students to work on future community projects in collaboration with TNCAP.

Turan Balik: The Bronx Arts & Science Charter School is located at 925 Hutchinson River Parkway in the Monsignor Scanlon campus. Charter schools are publicly funded and open to all students in New York State through a non-discriminatory admissions lottery. Each charter school is governed by a not-for-

profit board of trustees which may include educators, community members, and leaders from the private sector. Charters have the freedom to establish their own policies, design their own educational program, and manage their human and financial resources. Charter schools are accountable, through the terms of a five-year performance contract, for high student achievement.

Charter schools were established to:

- Provide families with an increased number of high-quality school choices;
- Improve student achievement;
- Increase learning opportunities for all students, with an emphasis on at-risk students;
- Encourage the use of innovative teaching methods/educational designs;
- Create new professional opportunities for teachers, administrators, and school staff;
- Change from rule-based to performance-based accountability

Turan expressed his willingness to be a part of TNCAP and collaborate to work with student projects that could be a benefit to both the students and the Coalition.

Patrick Caruso: Announced an upcoming training of Narcan and Fentanyl Testing Strips. This is an opportunity for Community Board 10 and anyone else who may be interested. The scheduled date is Thursday, November 17 from 11 am – 1 pm.

Christine Cavallucci: Discussed Red Ribbon Week, an alcohol, tobacco, and other drug and violence prevention awareness campaign observed annually in October in the United States. It began as a tribute to fallen DEA special agent Enrique Camerena in 1985. According to the United States DEA, Red Ribbon Week is designed to help parents and schools deliver an effective drug prevention curriculum to help rebuild a sense of community and common purpose. Red Ribbon Week is held each year from October 23 to October 31. It's the largest drug-abuse prevention campaign in the country, targeting K-12 students. Schools participate in a variety of ways, such as hosting special speakers, throwing contests, decorating school campuses, and more.

Christine distributed "red ribbons" to share with local youth via the members who represent the various schools and after-school programs. They were encouraged to take sample lesson instructions to share with educators and encourage students to learn about this prevention initiative as well as share it on their social media platforms.

Dawn Insanalli: Asked the members to please submit their Substance Misuse Community Survey if they have not done so already. The data collected will be a valuable resource to help the coalition determine future prevention strategies and activities. Dawn asked that each member share the survey QR code flyer with adult family and friends in the 10465 community.

Christine & Dawn: Facilitated a brainstorming session with the members about the planning of the Town Hall meeting. Members exchanged ideas in small break-out groups and then shared their ideas and feedback with the full group.

Town Hall Summary Discussion:

- **Topic Ideas:** – Mental Health, Substance Addiction, Challenges of legalization, Suicide Prevention, Talk. They Hear You., Social Host Laws, including a hands-on demonstration of “Hidden in Plain Sight” a drug awareness program for parents. The program focuses on what parents can learn about everyday items that may be indicators of risky behavior and/or drug use for their preteen or teenager.
- **Location Suggestions:** The Ice House, Locust Point, Post620 (across from Lehman HS), Hybrid option Virtual & In-Person (This would require a high level of technical capability), Kips Bay Basketball Court.
- **Speakers:** A non-biased moderator, Open Dialogue, Panel Discussion,
 - “Kevin’s Mom”
 - Dr. Stephen Dewey
 - Linda Ventura
- **Other;** Veterans Administration, and NYPD to discuss new rules, and laws regarding marijuana and dispensaries.

The members will continue this discussion at the November TNCAP member meeting and will review potential speakers’ bio and revisit finalizing a date and venue.

Dawn Insanalli: The next meeting is scheduled for November 2 in person at Noon at Fort Schuyler First Presbyterian Church, pizza lunch will be provided.