

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-
November 2, 2022 from 12 Noon – 2:00 pm
In-Person Meeting at
Fort Schuyler First Presbyterian Church
Minutes submitted by: Kathy Guglielmo

PRESENT		
NAME	AGENCY/ORGANIZATION	SECTOR
Christine Cavallucci	<i>ADAPP SA Prevention</i>	
Dawn Rodriguez-Insanalli	<i>ADAPP SA Prevention</i>	
Kathy Guglielmo	<i>ADAPP SA Prevention</i>	
Patrick Caruso	<i>Community Board 10</i>	
Millie Stone	<i>Fort Schuyler Presbyterian Church</i>	(Religious)
Aurora Ronda	<i>Community Education Council</i>	(Education/School)
Kern Mojica	<i>Earl Monroe New Renaissance Basketball School</i>	(Education/School)
Veronica Brugeman	<i>Parent Coordinator, PS 72</i>	(Education/School)
Teresa Wong	<i>Parent Coordinator, MS 101</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>	



ABSENT - Continued		
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>	
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)
Chevar Francis	<i>NYC PRC SA Prevention</i>	
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)
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)
Paul Gumina	<i>Renaissance HS</i>	(Education/School)
Turan Balik	<i>Bronx Arts & Science Charter School</i>	(Education/School)

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

Patrick Caruso: Introduced new TNCAP members Kern Mojica, Principal of Earl Monroe New Renaissance Basketball School in the Bronx, and Aurora Ronda, Representative for Community Education Council (CEC), to speak on their respective roles.

Kern Mojica: Principal of Earl Monroe New Renaissance Basketball School is a visionary school where the curriculum is built around exploring all of the various career paths within the game of basketball. There is a mentorship program with partnership organizations such as Chase, MSG/Knicks. The school has a lottery admission, with 220 primarily local students in 9th & 10th grades; there is a waiting list. It

is currently located at OLA, however, a new location is being built which will expand to 11th & 12th-grade students in 2024. Kern sees possible opportunities for the students to work on future community projects in collaboration with TNCAP.

Aurora Ronda: Representative for Community Education Council (CEC) & co-chair, discussed how her role's responsibility is to empower parents, bring programs to the district, Review the district's educational programs and assess their effect on student achievement; serve as liaison to School Leadership Teams.

Aurora expressed her eagerness to be a part of TNCAP and collaborate with other organizations and CECs that could benefit both the students and the Coalition.

There was an open discussion amongst the attendees related to the speakers.

Patrick Caruso/Dawn Insanalli: Discussed the TNCAP Substance Misuse Community Survey. Dawn will be resending the link; 300 responses are needed. Dawn 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/link with 10 adult families and friends in the 10465 community.

Christine Cavallucci: Updated the coalition on the STOP Act "Year Four" Grant, providing background on the grant, and the need for the survey to be completed in order to be compliant with NYS. Activities/programs moving forward are a Town Hall, a venue, and a date needed in order to proceed with plans, a poster contest, Police Compliance check within the community. A TNCAP website is being created. Advertising TNCAP/Marketing to parents the dangers of substance abuse.

Christine & Dawn: Updated reasons the Town Hall would be delayed until the spring; a discussion ensued among the members about the planning of the Town Hall meeting. Veronica, PS 72 parent is going to confirm the use of their school and would get back to the group with dates. She would like stats/data to present to parents. Discussed what parents from other schools attending, making it all-inclusive to all 9 schools, High Schools, and Charter schools.

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.

Dawn Insanalli: Update regarding Sub-Committees & Environmental Scan project, the history of the program preparing for the next phase, and the need for 2-3 TNCAP youth, and National Guard

members to participate with the purpose of educating stores regarding product placement. The parent coordinator gave a background from previous years. Middle school students did a video to show what is advertised versus what is sold in stores. Suggested having HS students participate, and work with local merchant association to see what they come up with. Dawn proposed creating recognition for “responsible” vendors, who pledge not to sell to minors. Add to the TN website, a report card-like rating. Teresa Wong suggested a “you got booed”/we appreciate your bag and certificate rubric. Dawn will discuss suggestions with the National Guard and report back to TNCAP. Dawn stated the sub-committee parents met their goals and objectives, mobile app, and positive message, but the youth didn’t meet. She will disseminate and distribute to parents via the coordinators before the next meeting.

Christine Cavallucci: The “Talk. They Here You.” App now includes a screening and assessment tool for families to use with their children. Screen4Success asks questions about substance use, mental and physical health, general wellbeing, and family life. It’s way for parents and caregivers to identify areas where their children may benefit from additional support. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to fill out the screener with their kids—this provides opportunities for discussion in the moment

Dawn Insanalli: Reviewed the new member profile that will be featured on the website.

Dawn Insanalli: The next meeting is scheduled for December and may be virtual to tie in with other activities online.