

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-
December 7, 2022, from 12 Noon – 1:00 pm
Meeting Via Zoom

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>	
Crispin Goytia-Vasquez	<i>ADAPP SA Prevention</i>	
Patrick Caruso	<i>Community Board 10</i>	
Dawn Morello	<i>First Lutheran Church of Throggs Neck</i>	(Religious)
Fabian Wander	<i>Wander Consulting</i>	
Peter DelDebbio	<i>American Legion</i>	(Fraternal Organization)
Alcee James	<i>NYC PRC SA Prevention</i>	
Greta Ratjen, Principal	<i>Principal, PS 72 (New Member)</i>	(Education/School)
Sherrill Cropper	<i>Throggs Neck Merchants Association</i>	(Business Organization)
Ronni Katz Nanor Arakelian Chevar Francis Milo Ward	<i>NYC PRC SA Prevention</i>	
Aurora Ronda	<i>Community Education Council</i>	(Education/School)
Teresa Wong	<i>Parent Coordinator, MS 101</i>	(Education/School)
Robert Spencer	<i>Office of Bronx DA</i>	(Law Enforcement)
Betty Williams	<i>Parent Coordinator, PS 182</i>	(Education/School)
Stephanie Rodriguez	<i>Rep for: Councilwoman Marjorie Velazquez</i>	(Government)
SSG Oscar Ponce Christina Barnes Jonathan Pichardo	<i>NY National Guard Counter Drug Task Force</i>	(SA Prevention Organization)
Susan Vairo	<i>NYC Dept of Education</i>	(Education/School)
Suzette DiCecco	<i>Parent Coordinator, PS 14</i>	(Education/School)

ABSENT		
Guillermo Flores	<i>NYC Smoke-Free</i>	(State Government)
Officer Vargas	<i>NYPD 45th Pct.</i>	(Law Enforcement)
Leida Velazquez	<i>Throggs Neck Public Library</i>	
David You	<i>NY National Guard Counter Drug Task Force</i>	(SA Prevention Organization)
Sr. Patricia Warner	<i>Preston Center for Compassion</i>	(Religious)
Rhonda Morris Devlin	<i>Retired Police Officer/Former Liaison 45th Precinct</i>	
Jonathan Polanco	<i>Polanco Wealth Strategies (New Member)</i>	
Lakiema Alexander Felicia Mitchell Edwin Scott	<i>P & J Beacon</i>	(Youth Serving Organization)
Kristen Harty	<i>SAPIS</i>	(School)
Venus Moore	<i>NY Problem Gambling</i>	(SA Prevention Organization)
Lisa Schiliro	<i>Parent Coordinator, PS 304</i>	(Education/School)
Paul Gumina	<i>Renaissance HS</i>	(Education/School)
Turan Balik	<i>Bronx Arts & Science Charter School</i>	(Education/School)
Millie Stone	<i>Fort Schuyler Presbyterian Church</i>	(Religious)
Kern Mojica	<i>Earl Monroe New Renaissance Basketball School</i>	(Education/School)
Veronica Brugeman	<i>Parent Coordinator PS 72</i>	(Education/School)

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

Christine Cavallucci: Gave an update on the Legislative Award from Senator Biaggi's Office. We were told we would receive funding from Senator Biaggi's office three years ago. Due to the pandemic, it was put on hold. The funding request was based on working with vaping and e-cigarettes but we will also incorporate marijuana prevention of underage use and community lock boxes to safeguard cannabis and prevent access to youth. We will also be blending working with opioids and fentanyl prevention strategies. This funding requires working with Family and Children's Services. There is a detailed process regarding submitting budgets, different work plans, and being reimbursed for any activities that we are approved to do. The money is \$40,000 divided between the two coalitions, \$20,000 for TNCAP and \$20,000 for FSBC.

Nanor Arakelian, NYC PRC: Provided a Capacity Building Training Session with breakout rooms and round table discussion. Capacity Building is the second step in Strategic Framework Prevention (SPF). It's connected to assessments. It mobilizes and builds capacity within a geographic area within the addresses and the community, that the coalition works for (10465) Capacity building involves,

increasing the resources to improve readiness. We engage the stakeholders, who come to the table to strengthen collaboration with groups and partnerships in our community and neighborhoods.

This also includes raising awareness of the capacity in what includes in it when we build capacity, and hence we use the Swat analysis to help us see how ready is the community. and how we can strengthen it. In order to assess our work, we ask ourselves: *What's my role in the coalition? How do we do it? Why are we doing it? When are we doing it?* We utilize a SWOT analysis to determine the Coalition's Strengths Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (Challenges). The analysis identifies the positives, negatives, and readiness of the Coalition to determine the next steps in achieving goals and objectives.

The members joined break-out rooms to discuss Capacity Building and then return to the main room to report their findings.

Findings from the groups included **Strengths** -Diversity of the Coalition. The ability to serve our diverse community, and interpret the information differently, strengthens us. Our skill sets are so diverse and complement each other. The Coalition will be 25 years old next year which is a huge strength demonstrating a long-term commitment to the community. Being able to pivot quickly when needed. Still being able to function even during a pandemic. **Weaknesses** – Low membership, need to increase the membership, have youth and parent represented on the membership, members should be more active in participating at community events and getting surveys completed in the community. **Opportunities** – if each member brings in one new member a year the membership would increase on a regular basis, if each member was committed to getting 10 surveys completed from the community, we would have over 300 completed surveys. Have a college and/or high school student represented on TNCAP. This will offer a different perspective and feedback to our work. **Threats/Challenges** – how will the Coalition sustain itself if funding were not available? Can the Coalition embrace fundraising strategies to supplement the costs of lunches/refreshments at meetings and other community events? Currently, the grant funders do not allow funds to be spent on food or giveaway incentives. Incentives usually encourage the community to participate in various activities.

Many members live and or work in the Throggs Neck community which is also a plus.

Long-time leadership with Patrick Caruso as the chair was also noted as a strength.

Christine Cavallucci & Dawn Insanalli: Reviewed and discussed plans for the upcoming community Town Hall. The tentative timeframe will be March of 2023, location PS 72 if available, keynote Dr. Stephen Dewey –an expert on the science behind the impacts of alcohol and other drugs on the adolescent brain.

The interactive component will include “Hidden in Plain Sight” demonstrating to parents how to look for hidden substances in their child’s room at home. Final planning and confirmations will commence in January. Members are encouraged to participate in the Q&A panel discussion portion of the Town Hall and to help plan the logistics of the event including marketing to the community.

Dawn Insanalli: Gave updates on the TNCAP Sub-committees, the Community Substance Misuse Community Survey, and the TCNAP Community Coalition Organizer part-time position that is currently available.

The Youth Subcommittee met on Dec

Member Announcements:

Dawn Morello, from First Lutheran Church of Throggs Neck, will be hosting a special service on December 20th at 7 pm. The service is called “The Longest Night” geared toward people who are struggling with mental health issues and gives people the opportunity to acknowledge the range of emotions that are happening during the season.

Sherrill Cropper, President of the Throggs Neck Merchants Association and co-founder and community outreach person for the Northeast Bronx Community Farmers Market Project will be ending her 2nd year term as President. The new President is Jonathan Polanco. Sherrill will invite Jonathan to attend TNCAP. She will still be involved with TNMA.

Greta Ratjen, Principal PS 72 announced an event at the school that will take place on December 19th. The event is called Positivity Swirling All Around Us a life-size snow globe with slips of paper with positive affirmations that people sitting in the snow globe can grab. Hot chocolate will also be served to anyone who passes by. The event will take place in front of the school entrance from 7:30 am – 8:30 am.

Patrick Caruso, of CB10 & Chairman of TNCAP, announced that Millie Stone will be hosting an anniversary event on Sunday, December 11th at 4 pm at Fort Schuyler First Presbyterian Church. One of the honorees is Sherrill Cropper. Pay at the door will be available.

Patrick suggested scheduling a meeting with the new captain of the 45th Precinct, Captain Johnny A. Orellana, and inviting a representative from the Precinct to attend TNCAP meetings when possible. Marijuana licenses are beginning in our area. We need to know where and how the police will be handling and ensuring no substance sales to minors.

Other meeting appointments recommended are:

NYS Senator, Nathalia Fernandez

U.S. Representative, Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez

Assemblyman Michael Benedetto

Patrick asked members to let Dawn know if they would like to be included in these pending meetings.

Dawn Insanalli, reminded members that ADAPP has hundreds of Deterra bags for free community giveaways that can be picked up from the ADAPP office Monday through Friday 9 am – 4 pm.

Attendance has been fluctuating from in-person to zoom meetings. We will explore our options and possibly take another poll of the members to commit to their preference for meetings. We may offer alternate meeting setups moving forward, half in-person, and half remote. To be determined. We also want to continue to ask members to donate meeting space if possible and to offer solutions to funding the in-person luncheons. We thank Millie Stone for donating her space for September, October, and November.

Fabian Wander, mentioned exploring the possibility of purchasing equipment called The Owl which allows for easy hybrid access to meetings. Christine & Dawn will explore this as an option to enhance in-person meetings.

The meeting concluded at 1:15 pm.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 11, 2023.