

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-
January 11, 2023, 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)

Lisa Schiliro	<i>Parent Coordinator, PS 304</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)
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 & Dawn Insanalli: Gave an update on the upcoming Town Hall event to be held on March 2, 2023, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The event is anticipated to be held at PS 72. The tentative presentation topic is *Substance Use and its Effects on the Brain*, which will help parents understand the science behind the impacts of alcohol and other drugs on the adolescent brain. The Keynote speaker will be world-renowned Dr. Stephen Dewey, neuroscientist and research professor at NYU School of Medicine. There will be an interactive activity for guests called *Hidden in Plain Sight*, where parents can walk through a staged child's room and explore where substances may be hidden, followed by the guest speaker presentation for approximately 40 minutes, and a Q&A with TNCAP panel discussion.

Dawn asked members if they would like to be a part of the Town Hall event advisory committee, participate in the panel discussion, and for suggestions on panel topics. The panel discussion should be around 40 minutes, due to the permit limiting the event to two hours. The permit is pending approval. Dawn will have the flyer for the event created and sent out once the permit is received.

Members discussed the logistics regarding translation services for the Town Hall event. Discussion included sign language and Spanish interpreters.

Patrick Caruso: Discussed marijuana dispensary updates. There have been articles for and against the legalization and community pushback against the opening of marijuana shops. There have been many businesses including smoke shops opening up in the community. There has been an increase in young kids eating edible pot, and an increase in children rushed to ER with marijuana poison in states that have legalized pot. Besides the increase in marijuana use, THC levels have also increased. Patrick reminded members to be cognizant of any smoke shops open in the area, as some have been a front for selling marijuana without a license, and to email them to Dawn or himself. A list will be forwarded to the police to ensure they have licenses to sell marijuana.

Christine expressed concern about students' lowered perception of the harm of marijuana, the increase in use, and what effect the dispensary business would have on the community. There was a big bust in Manhattan where stores were selling illegal products. The concern is these products that young people assume are marijuana may not be.

Lisa Schiliro shared similar concerns with dispensaries in her area. She shared a story of a parent who needed to call EMS because her child had a reaction to edible pot gummies. She also expressed concern over fentanyl being used in marijuana.

Dawn discussed coordinating proposed future guests to TNCAP (as recommended by Patrick); Captain Orellana, 45th Precinct, NYS Senator, Nathalia Fernandez, U.S. Representative, Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez, and Assemblyman Michael Benedetto for a future TNCAP meeting.

Dawn, Teresa Wong & Lisa Schiliro: Gave an update and a PowerPoint presentation regarding the TNCAP Parent subcommittee, "Talk, They Hear You" Mobile App Awareness Campaign, and the visit to MS 301 from NYC Chancellor, David Banks, and staff. They presented the app to the Chancellor, who was impressed and would like to share this across all of the city schools.

Susan Vairo & Kristen Harty: Discussed and shared the Photo Voice project at M.S. 101, which highlighted concerns from students regarding alcohol and substances discarded in their local playgrounds meant for children.

Peter Del-Debbio: Further discussed marijuana. The American Legion opted out of allowing marijuana use on their property. He expressed concerns regarding the glamorization of legal pot shops in the media.

The meeting concluded at 1:15 pm.

The next meeting will be via zoom on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at noon.

Minutes submitted by
Kassandra Bonilla, ADAPP, Office Coordinator