

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-**  
**February 8, 2023, from 12 Noon – 1:00 pm**  
Meeting Via Zoom

| <b>PRESENT</b>                      |  |                              |
|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| <b>NAME</b>                         | <b>AGENCY/ORGANIZATION</b>                           | <b>SECTOR</b>                |
| Christine Cavallucci                | <i>ADAPP SA Prevention</i>                           |                              |
| Dawn Rodriguez-Insanalli            | <i>ADAPP SA Prevention</i>                           |                              |
| Brittany Harris                     | <i>ADAPP SA Prevention</i>                           |                              |
| Kassandra Bonilla                   | <i>ADAPP SA Prevention</i>                           |                              |
| Patrick Caruso                      | <i>Community Board 10</i>                            |                              |
| Peter DelDebbio                     | <i>American Legion</i>                               | (Fraternal Organization)     |
| Greta Ratjen, Principal             | <i>Principal, PS 72</i>                              | (Education/School)           |
| Sherrill Cropper                    | <i>Throggs Neck Merchants Association</i>            | (Business Organization)      |
| Ronni Katz<br>Milo Ward             | <i>NYC PRC SA Prevention</i>                         |                              |
| Teresa Wong                         | <i>Parent Coordinator, MS 101</i>                    | (Education/School)           |
| Robert Spencer                      | <i>Office of Bronx DA</i>                            | (Law Enforcement)            |
| Stephanie Rodriguez                 | <i>Rep for: Councilwoman Marjorie Velazquez</i>      | (Government)                 |
| SSG Oscar Ponce<br>Christina Barnes | <i>NY National Guard<br/>Counter Drug Task Force</i> | (SA Prevention Organization) |
| Suzette DiCecco                     | <i>Parent Coordinator, PS 14</i>                     | (Education/School)           |
| Lisa Schiliro                       | <i>Parent Coordinator, PS 304</i>                    | (Education/School)           |
| Jonathan Polanco                    | <i>Polanco Wealth Strategies<br/>(New Member)</i>    |                              |
| Kristen Harty                       | <i>SAPIS</i>   | (School)                     |
| Lily Urban                          |  |                              |
| <b>ABSENT</b>                       |  |                              |
| Guillermo Flores                    | <i>NYC Smoke-Free</i>                                | (State Government)           |
| Officer Vargas                      | <i>NYPD 45<sup>th</sup> Pct.</i>                     | (Law Enforcement)            |
| Leida Velazquez                     | <i>Throggs Neck Public Library</i>                   |                              |
| David You                           | <i>NY National Guard<br/>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/Formal Liaison<br/>45<sup>th</sup> Precinct</i> |                              |
| Lakiema Alexander<br>Felicia Mitchell<br>Edwin Scott | <i>P &amp; J Beacon</i>   | (Youth Serving Organization) |
| Venus Moore  | <i>NY Problem Gambling</i>  | (SA Prevention Organization) |
| Paul Gumina  | <i>Renaissance HS</i>   | (Education/School)           |
| Turan Balik  | <i>Bronx Arts &amp; Science Charter School</i>                            | (Education/School)           |
| Millie Stone   | <i>Fort Schuyler Presbyterian Church</i>                                  | (Religious)                  |
| Kern Mojica  | <i>Earl Monroe New Renaissance<br/>Basketball School</i>                  | (Education/School)           |
| Veronica Brugeman                                    | <i>Parent Coordinator PS 72</i>   | (Education/School)           |
| Guillermo Flores                                     | <i>NYC Smoke-Free</i>   | (State Government)           |
| Dawn Morello   | <i>First Lutheran Church of Throggs<br/>Neck</i>                          | (Religious)                  |
| Fabian Wander  | <i>Wander Consulting</i>  |                              |
| Alcee James  | <i>NYC PRC SA Prevention</i>  |                              |
| Nanor Arakelian<br>Chevar Francis                    | <i>NYC PRC SA Prevention</i>  |                              |
| Aurora Ronda   | <i>Community Education Council</i>  | (Education/School)           |
| Betty Williams                                       | <i>Parent Coordinator, PS 182</i>   | (Education/School)           |
| Jonathan Pichardo                                    | <i>NY National Guard<br/>Counter Drug Task Force</i>                      | (SA Prevention Organization) |
| Susan Vairo  | <i>NYC Dept of Education</i>  | (Education/School)           |

**Members approved the January minutes.**

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

**Christine Cavallucci & Dawn Insanalli:** Dawn gave a presentation discussing the updates of the upcoming Town Hall event.

The keynotes of the presentation included accomplishments to date: The DOE building permit application was granted and confirmed on February 6, 2023, and they can move forward with marketing the event at the PS 72 Auditorium and Lobby Vestibule on Thursday, March 2 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Stephen Dewey, neuroscientist and research professor on the topic of "Understanding the Effects of Substances of Abuse/Behaviors on the Adolescent Brain." The event will include an Interactive Community Activity, Hidden in Plain Sight in the lobby vestibule, which provides parents with clues from a teen's bedroom to help them determine whether their child might

be experimenting with or using drugs or alcohol. Room décor, hidden compartments, and items to conceal use are located throughout the room.

There are a few things still needed from the coalition: A few members to participate in an ad hoc committee to discuss the logistics of the event including confirming the Q&A panelists. Panelists: The current recommendation is to have Patrick Caruso (Community Board 10), Greta Ratjen (Principal PS 72), Robert Spencer (Bronx DA's office), Susan Vairo, (Education/SAPIS), and a Law Enforcement representative. This meeting will take place Monday, February 13 at 12:30 via zoom.

Members commit to attending the event and bring 2 guests with them. The flyer is being created and will be ready for distribution on Monday, February 13. The distribution list is to be confirmed at the Monday committee. Members should share the flyer to market the event throughout the community, all schools in the 10465, and your sphere of influence. We will also take out a full-page ad in the Bronx Times Reporter for publication in print and digital, on February 17.

Sign up to assist at the event once tasks are identified. i.e. overseeing an information and TNCAP recruitment table, helping with Hidden in Plain Sight activity, etc. They need members to research and identify if there are any free Spanish translation or sign language services we can utilize at the event. They have reached out to the School for the Deaf but have not received a response.

Funding only provides for bottled water. Members can reach out to any community partners to donate snacks or refreshments.

**Milo Ward:** Gave a presentation on NY State Cannabis Law and Its Impact. The presentation focused on the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA). The MRTA incentivizes participation in the new industry for individuals disproportionately impacted by cannabis prohibition, automatically expunges an individual's past marijuana convictions, and invests 40% of the adult use cannabis tax revenue toward rebuilding communities harmed by the War on Drugs.

The presentation showcased the differences between licensed and unlicensed cannabis dispensaries, legal and illegal packaging, and licensing requirements and restrictions within New York state. The types of licenses are cultivation, processing, distribution, dispensing, delivery, and microbusiness. A retail dispensary license authorizes the acquisition, possession, sale, and delivery of cannabis from the licensed premises of the retail dispensary by such licensee to cannabis consumers. Retail licensees may not sell food or beverages that do not contain cannabis (except water), tobacco, or any nicotine product, items appealing to those under 21, or apparel representing a brand other than the licensee. Adult on-site consumption sites may not sell alcohol or possess a liquor license on the premises.

Failure to comply with MRTA regulations may result in a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000 for the first violation, not more than \$5,000 for a second violation within 3 years, and not more than \$10,000 for a third violation within 3 years. Any person who cultivates for sale or sells cannabis, cannabis products, or medical cannabis without having an appropriate registration, license, or permit may be subject to prosecution in accordance with Article 222 of the penal law. Any registration, license, or

permit issued pursuant to this chapter may be revoked, canceled, suspended, and/or subjected to the imposition of a civil penalty for cause.

The presentation also focused on preventing underage use, including prohibiting advertisements within 500 feet of a school, playground, daycares, public parks, libraries, and on public transportation and billboards. TV, radio, public broadcast, and online marketing must be placed where it is reasonable to assume the audience is over 21. Advertisements may not appeal to those under 21. Retail dispensaries may not hire anyone under 18, and only employees over 21 can transport and sell cannabis to consumers. Dispensaries may not be on the same road and within 500 feet of school grounds, and on the same road and within 200 feet of a house of worship.

Lastly, Milo closed the presentation with the Impacts of the Legalization of Adult Use Recreational Marijuana: A Colorado Case Study. In 2013, following the passage of Amendment 64 which allows for the retail sale and possession of marijuana, the Colorado General Assembly enacted Senate Bill 13-283, mandating the Division of Criminal Justice in the Department of Public Safety to conduct a study of the impacts of Amendment 64, particularly as these relate to law enforcement activities. The statistics covered the changes in adult and adolescent use and public safety since the legalization of marijuana in the state of Colorado.

**Dawn Insanalli:** Dawn stated she will be meeting with the two subcommittees regarding the poster contest to go over the details and timelines. The working title for this year's contest is "Vision Board, What I Want to Be." Students can still draw but are encouraged to make a vision board collage. They are looking to have the event in the week of May 7 - May 13, National Prevention Week. Dawn will reach out to 10 schools in Throggs Neck. She asked members if they wish to assist to email Dawn to join the subcommittee.

The meeting concluded at 1:04 pm.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 1, 2023, via zoom.

Minutes submitted by Kassandra Bonilla.