

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-**  
**March 1, 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)     |
| Alcee James              | <i>NYC PRC SA Prevention</i>  |                              |
| Greta Ratjen, Principal  | <i>Principal, PS 72<br/>(New Member)</i>                                | (Education/School)           |
| Felicia Mitchell         | <i>P &amp; J Beacon</i>   | (Youth Serving Organization) |
| Venus Moore              | <i>NY Problem Gambling</i>  | (SA Prevention Organization) |
| Teresa Wong              | <i>Parent Coordinator, MS 101</i>                                       | (Education/School)           |
| Nanor Arakelian          | <i>NYC PRC SA Prevention</i>  |                              |
| Stephanie Rodriguez      | <i>Rep for: Councilwoman Marjorie Velazquez</i>                         | (Government)                 |
| SSG Oscar Ponce          | <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>                       |                              |
| Aurora Ronda             | <i>Community Education Council</i>                                      | (Education/School)           |
| Susan Vairo              | <i>NYC Dept of Education</i>  | (Education/School)           |
| Betty Williams           | <i>Parent Coordinator, PS 182</i>                                       | (Education/School)           |
| Tamika Morales           | <i>Outreach Coordinator, Montefiore<br/>Division of Substance Abuse</i> |                              |
| <b>ABSENT</b>            |   |                              |
| Guillermo Flores         | <i>NYC Smoke-Free</i>   | (State Government)           |

|   |   |                              |
|---|---|------------------------------|
| Sherrill Cropper                          | <i>Throggs Neck Merchants Association</i>                                 | (Business Organization)      |
| Ronni Katz<br>Milo Ward<br>Chevar Francis | <i>NYC PRC SA Prevention</i>  |                              |
| 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/Former Liaison<br/>45<sup>th</sup> Precinct</i> |                              |
| Lakiema Alexander<br>Edwin Scott          | <i>P &amp; J Beacon</i>   | (Youth Serving 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>  |                              |
| Robert Spencer                            | <i>Office of Bronx DA</i>   | (Law Enforcement)            |
| Jonathan Pichardo<br>Christina Barnes     | <i>NY National Guard<br/>Counter Drug Task Force</i>                      | (SA Prevention Organization) |
| Kristen Harty                             | <i>SAPIS</i>  | (School)                     |
| Lily Urban                                |   |                              |

**Members approved the February minutes.**

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

**Jonathan Polanco:** Announced the Merchant’s meeting taking place on 3/29/23. Patrick advised members to reach out to Felicia Mitchell if interested in having a table at the event.

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

TNCAP members will be able to register through the afternoon of 3/2/23. Walk-ins accepted. ADAPP will set-up for the event starting at 5:00pm. Christine and Dawn did a test run on 2/27/23 at PS 72. The program for the event will start with Hidden in Plain Sight at 6:00 pm. 6:30 pm will be the intro of

Captain Orellana. If not available, they will move on with Dr. Stephen Dewey's presentation. From 6:40 pm – 7:20 pm, Dr. Dewey presents. The Q&A panel will start at 7:20 pm, and will include Dr. Dewey, Susan Vairo, Greta Ratjen, and possibly more pending confirmation. Members were advised they can still donate funds toward the event for snacks and refreshments for the event.

Nathalia Fernandez may join us for the event. She will be arriving from Albany on 3/2/23 and may come in at 7:00 pm. She facilitates the Alcohol & Substance Use Disorders Committee. If she does come, Dawn will give information and updates on TNCAP and the next meeting.

Peter Del-Debbio made a poster that has information and the QR code for SAMHSA's Talk, They Hear You campaign. He will bring the poster and stand to the TNCAP Town Hall event. Dawn will take photos of the event for the TNCAP website that is currently being developed.

**Christine Cavallucci & Dawn Insanalli:** Christine led the group discussion on Sustainability, Fundraising and Grant Opportunities.

As you know, TNCAP is currently funded by SAMHSA's STOP ACT Grant. We are soon beginning our fourth and final year of the funding cycle. Sustainability is a key component for TNCAP to consider. The funding source does not permit the coalition to purchase food, giveaways, or gift cards, however, these items would enhance community outreach and participation efforts.

One recommendation is to establish an active Fundraising and Sustainability Committee/Advisory Group that would commit to developing a viable strategy and action plan to meet this need and help bolster future activities.

Questions for TNCAP: What other grant and fundraising opportunities can TNCAP take on for future funding needs? This would require TNCAP members to explore options and a TNCAP member to volunteer to spearhead the application process, and write and apply for the grant, or collaborate with another organization and ask to be a recipient of their grant.

Patrick recommends the TNCAP member would work with an ADAPP staff member to pursue this endeavor. Christine suggests the opportunities would be smaller specific grants or work with other organizations to be recipients. Not for State or Federal grant applications.

Aurora Ronda inquired about asking local politicians if they can help with their discretionary funds. From multiple people (i.e., Borough president's office, assembly, city council, senator). Christine explained these are often lengthy processes that sometimes take years to come to fruition. It requires a lot of work on behalf of ADAPP staff.

Patrick suggested making a list of funding needs and what it can be used for. Match up with grants that would be a good fit. TNCAP members can submit ideas that grants can be used for. He recommends



reaching out to corporations and businesses such as Pepsi, BJ's, Target, Outback Steakhouse for coupons and gift cards.

Dawn advised that there needs to be a monthly committee to meet and dissect this information and disseminate it to the collation. The question for the members is who will lead the committee? Who will do the work? What could be established within the next year? If implemented, who would like to join the committee? Aurora Ronda and Teresa Wong expressed interest in joining. Dawn will summarize this discussion and send it out to members to see who will join.

Brittany Harris: Shared a google form in the chat asking for members to fill out a mini-bio that will be used for the TNCAP website.

The meeting concluded at 12:58 pm.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at Fort Schuyler Presbyterian Church