



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-
May 3, 2023, from 12 Noon – 1:00 pm
Zoom Meeting**

PRESENT		
NAME	AGENCY/ORGANIZATION	SECTOR
Christine Cavallucci	<i>ADAPP SA Prevention</i>	
Dawn Rodriguez-Insanalli	<i>ADAPP SA Prevention</i>	
Kassandra Bonilla	<i>ADAPP SA Prevention</i>	
Patrick Caruso	<i>Community Board 10</i>	
Officer Vargas	<i>NYPD 45th Pct.</i>	(Law Enforcement)
Stephanie Rodriguez	<i>Rep for: Councilwoman Marjorie Velazquez</i>	(Government)
Sherrill Cropper	<i>Throggs Neck Merchants Association</i>	(Business Organization)
Fabian Wander	<i>Wander Consulting</i>	
Aurora Ronda	<i>Community Education Council</i>	(Education/School)
Rhonda Morris Devlin	<i>Retired Police Officer/Former Liaison 45th Precinct</i>	
Lakiema Alexander Edwin Scott	<i>P & J Beacon</i>	(Youth Serving Organization)
Nanor Arakelian	<i>NYC PRC SA Prevention</i>	
Susan Vairo	<i>NYC Dept of Education</i>	(Education/School)
Betty Williams	<i>Parent Coordinator, PS 182</i>	(Education/School)
Kristen Harty	<i>SAPIS</i>	(School)
ABSENT		
Peter DelDebbio	<i>American Legion</i>	(Fraternal Organization)
Greta Ratjen, Principal	<i>Principal, PS 72 (New Member)</i>	(Education/School)
Felicia Mitchell	<i>P & J Beacon</i>	(Youth Serving Organization)
Veronica Brugeman	<i>Parent Coordinator PS 72</i>	(Education/School)
SSG Oscar Ponce	<i>NY National Guard Counter Drug Task Force</i>	(SA Prevention Organization)
Robert Spencer	<i>Office of Bronx DA</i>	(Law Enforcement)

Guillermo Flores	<i>NYC Smoke-Free</i>	(State Government)
David You	<i>NY National Guard Counter Drug Task Force</i>	(SA Prevention Organization)
Chevar Francis, Ronni Katz, Milo Ward	<i>NYC PRC SA Prevention</i>	
Leida Velazquez	<i>Throggs Neck Public Library</i>	
Sr. Patricia Warner	<i>Preston Center for Compassion</i>	(Religious)
Paul Gumina	<i>Renaissance HS</i>	(Education/School)
Turan Balik	<i>Bronx Arts & Science Charter School</i>	(Education/School)
Venus Moore	<i>NY Problem Gambling</i>	(SA Prevention Organization)
Teresa Wong	<i>Parent Coordinator, MS 101</i>	(Education/School)
Tamika Morales	<i>Outreach Coordinator, Montefiore Division of Substance Abuse</i>	
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 (New Member)</i>	
Kern Mojica	<i>Earl Monroe New Renaissance Basketball School</i>	(Education/School)
Dawn Morello	<i>First Lutheran Church of Throggs Neck</i>	(Religious)
Jonathan Pichardo Christina Barnes	<i>NY National Guard Counter Drug Task Force</i>	(SA Prevention Organization)
Millie Stone	<i>Fort Schuyler Presbyterian Church</i>	(Religious)
Deborah Acevedo Claudio	<i>Parent Coordinator, U/M</i>	(Education/School)
Lily Urban		

Members approved the April minutes.

Patrick Caruso: Welcome, and introductions of all the members were led by Patrick Caruso. Members were reminded to table at the upcoming P&J Beacon-hosted Health Fair on May 20th.

The Throggs Neck Merchant Association meeting, in conjunction with Community Board 10, the 45th precinct, and DA's office, will be on either May 24th, or June 1st. The topic will be getting businesses and residents to register their cameras so that if a crime happens, the police will have easy access to the camera footage.

Aurora Ronda: The CECD8 health fair will be at PS 14 on May 20th, from 10am – 2pm.

Sherrill Cropper: The Farmer's Market will open up at Preston HS starting Tuesday, June 27th, and will provide fresh food every week. The schedule for the Farmer's Market will be sent out to the members.

Patrick Caruso: Acknowledged and congratulated Peter DelDebbio and Lisa Schiliro for TNCAP Members of the Year. The awards will be given out on June 7th, at the Poster Contest Ceremony.

Officer Vargas shared the NYPD 45th precinct update: January – March 2023 were good with alcohol sales. An operation was conducted on January 6th at 9 locations. All results were negative. There were 3 operations in February, also negative. There were 2 operations in March, all negative. They conducted an underage operation in March for smoke shops. 2 businesses failed, and 1 failed seeing alcohol to minors. One was issued a summons and there was an arrest at another. In April, there were 4 smoke shop locations – operations done 3 times. Currently in the process of having the organizations closed down. Looking to expand operations to other shops within the precinct area. There was a marijuana truck in Co-Op City that was seized twice by the police for selling to minors.

Christine Cavallucci: Delis have been found to be selling cannabis gummies. She wonders if the 45th precinct is looking into other places where there has been an increase in usage. Christine also suggested acknowledging the places that have passed the operation from the 45th precinct.

Patrick Caruso: We need the public to help report smoke shops and such to help get them off the streets.

Fabian Wander: May is National Mental Health Awareness Month. According to a National Alliance of Mental Health 2022 report, 1 in 5 of adults experience a mental illness each year, 1 in 25 adults experience serious mental illness requiring hospitalization, and 1 in 6 U.S. youths, ages 6-17, experience a mental health disorder each year. Suicide is the second leading cause of death in youths, ages 10 -14. We need to engage young people in supportive therapy. In CUNY schools, almost half of the students experience anxiety and depression--and half of those looked for help. People use substances to treat their mental health disorders and symptoms. Some marijuana has other things in it that can lead to other illnesses. Some people use “uppers” like cocaine to treat depression. Alcohol used as an antidepressant (first drink) and depressant (more drinks).

There is a lot of stigma around Mental Health treatment vs. physical illness treatment. It's also not an easy service to navigate. There are a lot of obstacles and challenges.

Fabian's approach to treatment is to meet the patients where they are. He goes out to parks, and conducts walk and talk therapy.

Therapy is not the only resource available for support. There are Faith-based institutions and other resources in the community. Role models – how they keep their minds healthy. There has been a trend in NFL players talking about their own mental health issues. The NBA campaign talks about getting our minds healthy, instead of mental illness. NY Congressman Ritchie Torres talked about his own mental health struggles in high school. Now he is a champion on mental health.

Fabian shared some tips for improving your mental health which include: getting as much sleep as possible (8 hours recommended); nutrition, thinking about what, how, and when you eat; random acts of kindness; exercise – taking a 30-minute walk. Have to disconnect; Pets are a great way to destress;

Eating breakfast is important; and it is really important to connect with others for support, and not stay isolated.

Dawn Insanalli: For the health fair, Dawn can provide TNCAP brochures and paperwork for members tabling at the event. Dawn also encouraged members to pick a date to table at the Farmer's Market at Preston HS.

Poster contest update: Only 2 schools have responded and 1 brought in their posters. Numbers have been dwindling in recent years. She asked members to reach out to schools in their contacts to encourage participation. June 7th is the tentative date for the contest ceremony. The pending venue is the Jeanne Jugan residence.

Dawn will send out details for the poster contest as per Susan Vairo's request. She also announced a new hire, Jalinet Lajara. She lives in the neighborhood and starts on May 9th. She will be in 3 days a week as needed, attending events. She will be present at the next meeting.

Stephanie Rodriguez: Councilwoman Marjorie Velazquez will be hosting a movie night with Parks at Bicentennial Park on May 19th at 7:30 pm and will be showing Top Gun Maverick.

Sherrill Cropper: August 8th will be the Farmer's Market back-to-school event, offering free school supplies.

Johana from Senator Fernandez's office stated that the office in Throgg's Neck is soon to open on the same block as the Throgg's Neck Library. They will host an opening event, date, and time TBD. They will have satellite offices to have representation throughout.

There will be a Mother's Day event on May 20th at St. Benedict's Church. The flyer will be sent out when finalized. There will be another in Soundview. There are hoping to do Yoga on 5/27 in Pelham Bay Park.

They are looking into organizations to partner with food pantries to get other services such as housing, and mental health because people with food insecurity can be lacking in more resources. Johana shared her email address for members to get in touch regarding pending events and other issues.

The meeting concluded at 1:03 pm.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at the Jeanne Jugan Residence (pending).