



TOWNSHIP OF VERONA
COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY



**VERONA MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

REGULAR MEETING

7:00 P.M.

JANUARY 17, 2024

CALL TO ORDER- meeting called to order at 7:07pm by Chairperson Rachel Klansky

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- Chairperson Klansky read Open Public Meeting Act statement, and attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL- In attendance: Rachel Klansky (Chairperson), Ann Jocelyn (Coordinator), Colin Boyle (Community Representative), Councilwoman Cynthia Holland (Verona Town Council), Kimberly Manis (Community Representative), Carol Lynn Moy (HBW/ VHS Representative); Regina Tully (FNB); Elizabeth Hynes (Forest); Rosanna Gionni (Laning), Officer Pinto (Verona Police Department)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from October 18, 2023 Meeting- Colin Boyle moved to approve, Kimberly Manis seconded approval.

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

Review of Plan for Grant Year 2024-2025 (FY25)

- Coordinator Jocelyn reviewed Grant Allocation for 2024-2025. The total grant amount are unchanged from FY24, although the specific allocations have changed slightly.
- FY25 Grant is a total of \$21,151.58=\$16,921.26 GCSUD grant (state) + \$4,230.32 cash match (township). \$2500 is allocated to Alliance Coordination, \$13,635 to in-school programs for Verona Public Schools, and \$4993.58 to Community Activities. A detailed allocation was reviewed by the Committee.
- After soliciting input from Committee Members, a vote was taken on the 2024-2025 grant budget. The budgeted values were unanimously approved by attending membership.
- On Monday, January 22, 2024, the Verona Township Council will consider a resolution for FY25 matching grant in the amount of \$4,230.32 (25% of the state allocation of \$16,921.26).
- As part of the grant planning process, Coordinator Jocelyn will solicit feedback from community stakeholders, including the Director of Guidance and Verona Police Chief.
- A final plan for FY25 will be submitted to the County on or before April 5, 2024.

Discussion: Modification for Grant Year 2023-2024

- VMAC will not be reallocating \$500 towards a Success Street webinar on Positive Discipline for VPS district staff as approved at the October 2023 meeting, as they have elected to pursue a similar program elsewhere.
- Proposed Modifications
 - \$3,284 Unused stipend VHS Peer Leadership currently under the Guidance Office
 - + \$ 72 previously approved increase to Middle School Peers
 - + \$ 500 previously approved increase to Heroes & Cool Kids training sessions
 - + \$ 500 NEW required additional BABES group for Forest Ave
 - + 2,212 NEW allowable allocation of grant towards Coordination stipend
 - \$ 288 Reduction of Community Activity budget
 - + \$ 288 NEW allowable allocation of grant towards Coordination stipend
- The aforementioned modifications were voted on and unanimously approved by attendees.
- \$2,164.30 remains from previously planned Community Activity (summer movie). Coordinator Jocelyn has reached out to HIB, Verona Recreation, and other community stakeholders to partner with and potentially provide funding for programs and issued an ongoing call for ideas from VMAC Committee members regarding opportunities to support and drive VMAC's Mission. These modifications will be addressed at the meeting on April 17, 2024.

Financial Report Fiscal Year 2024: 2nd quarter spending-

- Spent \$289 at Fair in the Square to replenish supplies to make stress balls.
- Recorded in-kind of \$3,622.24 (\$2,500 coordination expenses, \$200 from Jimmy Hill, \$922.24 in volunteer hours).
- Encumbered \$7,267.50 for Heroes (\$5,000) and advisor stipends (\$2,267.50).

Program Reports

- HBW Peers Food & Toy drives, week of gratitude & teacher appreciation
- Red Ribbon Week: Be Kind to Your Mind slogan was reinforced with theme days in dress and discussion topics
- Heroes & Cool Kids: training Nov, Feb, May. HBW Dec "physical activity as alternative", Mar "resolving conflict and preventing violence", May "navigating pressures of ATOD use."
- VHS Peer Leadership under umbrella of VHS guidance office
- Presentation to Township Council in October with an overview of VMAC and appreciation to the Council
- SAFE Homes – November declared SAFE Homes month by Township Council, weekly social media posts highlighting the pillars of program, 539 participating families
- Fair in the Square: 9 adults, 3 VHS Honor Society Students, and 11 OLL confirmation students helped with making stress balls and Community Outreach
- Host Law Awareness – social media campaign in conjunction with Township of Verona in early December

UPCOMING (Jan-Mar)

- Success Street: Jan 18 Helping Children Manage Anxiety (Elementary), Feb 22 Social Media Safety (Middle School), Mar 21 Building Self-Esteem for Teens (High School). Sessions via webinar at 8PM.
- Family Night: March 7, October 10, 2024, March 13, 2025. Call made for an additional subcommittee member to co-manage event with Chairperson Klansky.
- BABES: for 2nd grade, session added at Forest; VMAC SCA representatives are awaiting Principal response regarding scheduling/ dates post-Spring Break. There is a preference for Fridays for programming. Coordinator Jocelyn suggested initiating scheduling discussion for 2024-2025 dates.
- Migrating website over the course of 2024 from www.VMACnj.org to www.VeronaNJ.org/VMAC

Next Meeting: April 17, 2024 held via Zoom; Coordinator Jocelyn confirmed with attendees that Zoom remains the preferred meeting format.

VMAC MISSION/MANDATE/MISSION

VISION: The vision for the Verona Municipal Alliance Committee (VMAC) is an informed, healthy, vibrant community free of misuse and abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and other substances.

MANDATE: VMAC is designed to support programs in the Township of Verona that would not otherwise be offered. The mandate under the grant from GCADA is to combat underage use, and all abuse, of alcohol and other substances.

MISSION: The mission of VMAC is to work toward community wellness through the celebration and cultivation of the compassion, character, and confidence that individuals, especially our youth, need to make good choices in all aspects of their lives.

PUBLIC COMMENT- no public comment

ADJOURNMENT- meeting adjourned at 7:58pm ET by Chairperson Klansky

Submitted by: Kimberly Manis for Julianne Boyle