

**BOUND BROOK/SOUTH BOUND BROOK
MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE/YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION
No Child Left Behind: Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Community Act**

February 26, 2009 – Minutes

In attendance were Janeen Kinney, Ronnie Weiner, Vinnie Petti, Sascha Higazi, Joyce Smith, Lt. Prudente, Cindy Brit, Elaine Quinlan, Eric Harris and Maria Strada.

A motion to approve the January 22, 2009 Minutes was made by Lt. Prudente and seconded by Janeen.

Ronnie gave the Alliance report and stated that the fate of the Alliances are unknown at this time. Attempted legislation to move the Alliances under the Department of Human Services is being made however no decisions have been made yet. Should this occur, Alliances run the risk of being disbanded. The Governor may decide on this issue even before legislation is passed and we may know the decision by 3/10/09. If this move takes place, the funding would then be available to more people including professional grant-writers. In addition, you would be told very specifically what programs could be funded and what they can and can not do. The 2009 budget did pass but the 3-year funding cycle might not remain in place. Reporting will be more involved and there will be a high level of accountability. The cash match will also be an issue with money not being nearly as flexible as before. Ronnie urged the Alliance to carefully review the contract and make any necessary modifications immediately. Any subsequent modifications will require more work and will be much more involved.

Ronnie also encouraged people to write letters to Governor Corzine and other appropriate officials asking them to keep the Alliances intact as they are now. Janeen will forward everyone contact information as to who they can write to.

Cindy Brit gave the Youth Services Commission report. She stated that grant applications will be coming out in 4/09. The competitive grant is being reduced to \$15,000 this year. She also distributed some materials re: League Eagle Newsletter, upcoming workshop on 3/20/09 re: navigating through personal loss, etc. She also distributed information on the Richard Z. Voorhees Award. They are seeking nominations. If anyone would like to make a nomination they can submit the appropriate nominating form and/or contact Marylyn Flock at the office. Monitoring and evaluation reports are also due 4/09.

Janeen reported that character education money is being used to help sponsor a presentation on 4/16/09 at the Smalley Middle School. Principal Kafele will be speaking to the students 2x during the day about pride in your ethnicity, education and achieving excellence. A follow-up parent workshop will be held that night along with dinner. Peer Leaders will offer babysitting. The idea is to help students to become motivated to do well on the upcoming testing. Kids are having a difficult time understanding the importance and relevance of these tests and what it will mean for them.

Maria reported on the Center and said that we continue to see a lot of youth at the Centers. The Valentines Day dance was a big success as was the Lock-In. No news on the 21st CCLC after-school program other than we will be taking in 5th graders soon.

Eric reported that the Hispanic Support group finished their group at the Middle School and a new group will be starting at the High School soon.

Sascha reported the following for the time period of 1/22/09 through 2/26/09: 2 thefts, 1 assault, 3 misc and 1 runaway.

Lt. Prudente reported that there has been a lot of vandalism lately in town. He reported slashed tires, a stolen vehicle, damage to cars and other vandalism. The police have an idea of who is doing this and feel it is the same set of youth who live in SBB and go to BBHS.

Joyce reported being very busy due to Black History Month. She has been working on several projects among which was going to the schools to talk about the Underground Railroad. On 4/25/09 there will be a Rutgers Day and more information will follow. There will also be an upcoming college fair some time after Easter. On 3/6/09 there will be a Word Day of Prayer.

Janelle reported that they received one more donation from Applebees towards Project Graduation.

Janeen distributed information about an upcoming REBEL sponsored event that will take place on 5/27/09 which is designated as World No Tobacco Day. She is attempting to collect 1200 pairs of shoes which will be placed on the Somerville Court House lawn. 10 other schools are participating and will also bring 1200 pairs of shoes each. The shoes represent the 1200 people that die per day from smoking in the US. There will be a press conference at this event. REBEL youth will be wearing orange shirts saying "...every 72 seconds..." with the idea that people will ask them to complete the sentence. Every 72 seconds someone dies from smoking. Janeen asked that people bring in any shoes to her. They will be donated to the Salvation Army if they are in good condition.

Vinnie reported that the voting machines will be placed in BBHS and at Lafayette school. The idea and hope is that people will more likely support the budget. Janeen stated that they are planning events in conjunction with the vote to also encourage support between the citizens and the school. Kids Vote will take place simultaneously as voting with the students from each school being asked to vote on something pertaining to their lives. In addition a Senior Citizens Day will be held on 3/12/09. Students will interact with senior citizens and will have dinner with them. The students will attempt to engage the senior citizens and to let them know what they are doing in school. They will provide tours of the school as well. The hope is that this will also encourage senior citizens to understand the needs of the schools and the students resulting in them voting to pass the budget.

Quarterly Reports are due 3/20/09 and Janeen reminded everyone to keep their receipts for everything. Make sure you can document the line items listed in your budget. For example, Middle Earth and Family and Community Services would need to provide documentation supporting salaries only.

Eric reported that FCS is experiencing a growing waiting list. More people are seeking services in this trying economic time and the waiting list is getting longer as a result. Urgent cases are prioritized but right now all of the FCS counselors are booked.

The next meeting will be held on March 26, 2009 at 3:30.