

TOWNSHIP OF VERONA
COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY



VERONA MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

7:00 P.M.

JULY 16, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: meeting called to order at 7:05 pm by Coordinator Ann Jocelyn via zoom call.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Coordinator Jocelyn read Open Public Meeting Act statement, and attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Prior to Roll Call, Coordinator Jocelyn indicated that Chairwoman Manis would recuse herself from the meeting due to a need to waive conflict through her new employer. Being no objections, Coordinator Jocelyn would conduct the meeting on her behalf.

Members in attendance: Colin Boyle (Community Representative), Katie Cuartas (Laning Representative), Diane DiGiuseppe (Superintendent-Verona Public Schools), Ann Jocelyn (Coordinator), Carol Lynn Moy (VHS/HBW Representative), Staci Puleo (Brookdale Representative), Regina Tully (FN Brown Representative). Kimberly Manis (member of the public).

Members in attendance were reminded of the VMAC vision, mandate, and the mission to celebrate and cultivate the compassion, character, and confidence it takes to make good choices. Without a quorum of members in attendance, approval of minutes from the April 22, 2025 meeting and official nomination and vote on the appointment of Carol Lyn Moy as Secretary were tabled until the October 15, 2025 meeting.

FINANCIAL & PROGRAM REVIEW

Year-End FY2025 Review: The FY2025 grant from GCSUD in the amount of \$16,921.26 with matching funds of \$4,230.432 from the Township and \$12,690.95 of in-kind donations of time and services was expended in its entirety and according to the plan approved by the members of the Committee. All quarterly reports and program evaluations were filed. A site visit from the County will be scheduled at their convenience.

\$21,151.58 **State & Township funding, total FY25**

\$ 2,500.00 **ALLIANCE COORDINATION Stipend (12% of total funding)**

\$14,865.96 **SCHOOL PROGRAMS (70% of total funding)**

\$ 3,785.62 **COMMUNITY OUTREACH (18% of total funding)**

\$12,690.95 **INKIND:** actual total far exceeds 75% of the grant, but we can't report outside of what is budgeted volunteer hours, township administrative support, program space provided by the schools and library

4th quarter activities included:

- **Heroes & Cool Kids** –final visit to HBW 5th graders and preparation for welcoming incoming freshmen
- **HBW Peer Leaders** –4th grade orientation for parents and students, support of **Peer Mediators (elementary)**, preparation for **Red Ribbon Week**
- **DEA TakeBack Week** in April to encourage responsible disposal of unused or expired medications. Chance to promote Verona's dropbox in the police station.
- **AwareAwakeAlive** presentation by the VHS guidance office of the 911 Amnesty Law and dangers of alcohol poisoning and overdoses in anticipation of celebrations around prom, Memorial Day, and graduation parties and support of **Project Graduation** – an event the night of graduation for all interested graduates from VHS.
- **Art & Meditation** total of 11 sessions this spring on the healing benefits of the creative arts. The program was very successful for adults, with limited youth participation. Ann Jocelyn will work with the library staff to address increasing youth participation.
- **Community Outreach** at Verona Chamber Wellness Fair June 28 with focus on opioid related issues. Table cover and banner purchased for such events.

FY2026 (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026)

FY26 grant is \$22,625 (\$18,100 from the State through GCSUD and a 25% match of \$4,525 from the Township) plus in-kind match of \$13,575.

1st quarter FY26 Activities (July-September)

- National Night Out – August 6th in Verona, will work with VPD to support efforts (Jocelyn/MEMBER)
- Welcome Back events for VHS & HBW Peer Leaders (Jocelyn/Moy/Club Advisors)
- SAFE Homes-distribute Back to School (Boyle/Moy)
- Planning 2nd quarter FY26 Activities (October-December)
 - Family Night scheduled Thursday, October 9th (Klansky/Manis)
 - Red Ribbon Week (Oct 27-31) "Life is a Puzzle, Solve it Drug Free" by HBW Peers (Jocelyn/Moy)

Sub-Committee Interest: The coordinator provided a brief overview of opportunities for members to become more actively involved in various programs by joining or forming sub-committees. This information will be reviewed in greater depth at the October 15 meeting. A list will be shared with Committee Members prior to that meeting.

Conflict of Interest forms were circulated and should be returned to Ann Jocelyn.

FY26 quarterly meeting schedule of third Wednesday following quarter-end:

July 16, 2025 October 15, 2025 January 21, 2026 April 15, 2026

Strategic Plan: Coordinator Jocelyn indicated that the financial plan for FY27 will be preceded by a multi-year strategic plan which will require a needs assessment study with members of the committee and community through the use of focus groups and surveys. More information will be available in the coming months.

There being no other public comment or additional business to address, the coordinator adjourned the meeting at 7:26 PM.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Boyle, Jocelyn, Moy

NAYS:

ABSENT: Cuartas, DiGiuseppe, O’Sullivan, Tully

ABSTAIN: Day, Holland, Kirby-Pinto, Klansky, Manis, Mikhael, Puleo, Schmidt

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann Jocelyn", followed by a vertical line.

Ann Jocelyn, Coordinator

Carol Lyn Moy, Secretary

October 15, 2025