

Stigma Free Task Force February 26, 2020 - Minutes

In attendance: Cindi, Caroline, Aly, Michele, MJ, Joanne, Stella, and Isabelle

1. Mental HealthFirst Aid Training - There was great interest from town stakeholders in participating in MHFA. However, the challenge is finding a set of days and times that would maximize participation - recognizing varying work schedules and availability. As per the trainers from Bergen County, SF needs to have our participants and times set before scheduling with them. We have sent out a Survey Monkey to the following potential partners to try and find a schedule that would best for most. Surveys were sent to the police department, the recreation department, the Senior coordinator, the library, the volunteer fire department, and the DPW.
2. Potential partner with ACS - mindingyourmind.org - We will partner with ACS HASA when they bring this free program to a HASA meeting.
3. Autism Awareness Month - Aly reported that she and Alissa are working on activities for the month. Michele volunteered to work on this initiative as well.
4. Mental Illness Awareness Month - Caroline and Isabelle will meet to discuss activities for this month.
5. LMS Health and Wellness Fair - Stella has ordered small green rubber bracelets as a giveaway. MJ offered to help work the table at this event on Friday, March 13.
6. Support the Rec's program - Bounce Out the Stigma - April 18 - May 23 - SF will support this program through volunteering to help with the sessions as well as providing snacks on the last day of the session. A SignUp Genius will be sent to all task force members at the beginning of April.
7. Unity in the Community - SF will table at the Unity in the Community event on Sunday May 31 at Overpeck Park. It is a community event partnering law enforcement with Mental Health related services. More details will follow.
8. Leonia Day and Wear Orange Picnic - SF will table at both events. We will think of appropriate activities as we get closer.

New Business:

We discussed the potential of applying for a 501C3. This would enable us to fundraise. Isabelle is looking into the details.

Cindi raised the issue of how students with special needs are excluded and isolated in Leonia's schools. The TF would like to form a solution focused work group who is able to work with key people in the schools to generate interventions. One intervention discussed was sensitizing neurotypical students to their peers. Stella sent an initial email to Dr. Bertolini. Caroline and Cindi will follow up with calls to Anthony Servis and building principals.

