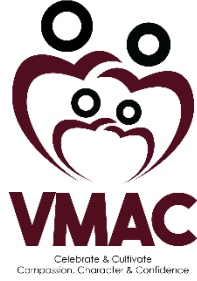


TOWNSHIP OF VERONA
COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY



VERONA MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING

5:30 P.M.

March 31, 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Members reviewed the Letter of Intent from the Governor's Council on Substance Use Disorder (GCSUD) to provide a grant in the amount of \$18,100 for fiscal year 2026. The program and financial plan as submitted by the Grant Coordinator received unanimous approval. The Members agreed to ask the Township Council to pass a resolution accepting the GCSUD grant and approving matching funds of \$4,252. The Members also agreed to securing in-kind contributions equal to \$13,575.

CALL TO ORDER- The meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm by Chairwoman Kimberly Manis via zoom call.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-

Chairwoman Manis read Open Public Meeting Act statement, and attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Members in attendance: Colin Boyle (Community Representative), Katie Cuartas (Laning School Representative), Jim Day (Community Member), Councilwoman Cynthia Holland (Verona Town Council), Ann Jocelyn (Coordinator), Rachel Klansky (Past Chairperson), Kimberly Manis (Chair - Community Representative), Carol Lynn Moy (VHS/HBW Representative), Officer Alyssa Kirby-Pinto (Verona Police Department), Regina Tully (FN Brown Representative). There were no members of the public in attendance.

With a quorum of Members in attendance, Chairwoman Manis proceeded with official business by reminding members of the VMAC vision, mandate, and our mission to celebrate and cultivate the compassion, character & confidence it takes to make good choices.

FISCAL YEAR 2026

The details of the Letter of Intent from the Governor's Council on Substance Use Disorder (GCSUD) to provide a grant in the amount of \$18,100 for fiscal year 2026 were reviewed for the Members. This award is an increase of \$1,178.74 from fiscal year 2025.

The increase in the GCSUD grant will require the Township to increase their cash match by \$294.68 to \$4,525 (25% of GCSUD grant). The Council will be asked to approve the cash match and accept the GCSUD grant at their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, April 7, 2025. If approved, the total grant funding will be \$22,625, which results in a total funding increase of \$1,473.42.

In addition, the Committee and community will pledge to make in-kind donations of their time, facilities, and services, valued at \$13,575 (75% of GCSUD grant).

Chairwoman Manis asked Grant Coordinator Jocelyn to review the program and grant allocation plan for fiscal year 2026, as shown on the attached chart (appendix A). Member Day moved for a vote on the plan and member Boyle seconded the motion. The plan was unanimously approved as presented.

Coordinator Jocelyn indicated that a final requirement of the plan is a Capacity Assessment to be completed by members. This was circulated to all Members with a return date on or before April 4, 2025.

Chairwoman Manis called for public comment. There being no public comment or additional business to address, the Chairwoman reminded members that the next regularly scheduled meeting of VMAC will be April 22, 2025 via zoom call and that detailed information will follow. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Member Day and seconded by Member Tully. The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Cuartas, Holland, Jocelyn, Kirby-Pinto, Klansky, Manis, Moy, Tully

NAYS:

ABSENT: Boyle, Day, O'Sullivan

ABSTAIN: DiGiuseppe, Mikhael, Puleo, Schmidt

Respectfully submitted,



Ann Jocelyn, Coordinator

APPENDIX A:

Fiscal Year 2026 (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026) Program & Spending Plan Proposal

The plan will be detailed in an online submission to the Township, County and State as outlined on the plan (shown below). The final online submission is approved by the Grant Coordinator, Chair, Township CMFO, and Township Mayor.

	FY25 (24-25)	FY26(25-26)	YoY
TOTAL GRANT	\$21,151.58 \$16,921.26 (GCSUD) \$4,230.32 (TOV) w/ \$12,690.95 (in-kind)	\$22,625.00 \$18,100 (GCSUD) \$4,525 (TOV) w/ \$13,575.00 (in-kind)	+1473.42 +1178.74 from GCSUD +294.68 Verona Match +884.05 Community
Alliance Coordination	\$2,500.00(12%)	\$2,715.00 (15%)	
Schools	\$14,662.25(69%)	\$15,775.50 (70%)	
Community Activities	\$3,989.33(19%)	\$4,134.50 (18%)	
Alliance Coordination: towards stipend	2,500.00	2,715.00	+215.00
Schools: AwareAwakeAlive PSA	0	0	
Schools: BABES	3,500.00	3,500.00	
Schools Elementary Peer Mediation	900.00	900.00	
Schools: Heroes & Cool Kids Program	5,000.00	5,500.00	+500.00
Schools: Heroes & Cool Kids Stipend	2,000.00	2,000.00	
Schools: Heroes & Cool Kids Peer Activities	0	500	+500.00
Schools: HBW Peer Leadership Stipend	2,555.25	2,575.50	+20.25
Schools: HBW Peer Leadership-materials	500.00	500.00	
Schools: VHS Peers (discontinued by VHS)	0	0	
Schools: Project Graduation	7.00	100.00	+93.00
Schools: Red Ribbon Week	200.00	200.00	
Community: Activity with Library (art-based)	2,400	2,400	
Community: Natl Ngt, FairSq, Family Ngt	89.33	234.50	+145.17
Community: Host Law Awareness PSA	0	0	
Community: Parent Sessions (webinars)	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Community: PSAs	0	0	
Community: Safe Homes	0	0	
TOTAL	21,151.58	22,625.00	1,473.42 increase YOY