



Fairfield Cares Community Coalition

Minutes - April 18, 2018

Opening and introductions: the meeting was opened at 8:40 by Chair Amanda Romaniello who asked all to introduce themselves.

Present: Captain Josh Zabin, Cathy Hazlett, Julia Smith, Bernadette Coppola, Caryn Campbell, Ellen Brezovsky, Lisa Pribesh, Katy Rosenfeld, Jane Conway, Alida Ward, Tim Morris, Reini Knorr, Wendy Bentivegna, Melissa Squeo, Terry Giegengack, Jenn Jacobsen, Lori Mediate and Maureen Janda.

March meeting minutes - approved unanimously.

Next meeting on May 16th is the annual meeting and officers will be elected. There is a committee list and each person is part of a committee.

Treasurer's Report - Bernadette Coppola said that there is still money left to be spent by June 30th. In the LPC Grant, \$10,141.55 has been spent and \$3,797.56 is left. Wendy Bentivegna said that the STR Grant has \$2,732 remaining. Cathy Hazlett suggested using the funds for tablecloths, a banner, give-aways, table displays. Items that would be used for outreach and for drug enforcement. Captain Zabin suggested snap in messages such as monthly messages in the cafeteria. The messages need to be sent to Vanessa and 5 sets are needed for the 5 schools. Amanda needs to get the budget for Positive Directions for next year.

Committee Updates - Katy Rosenfeld said the field trip went very well and they supplied materials to local restaurants. It was a positive experience for the students giving out letters and the packets of information. Jenn Jacobsen said she will go back next week to see if the flyers are up. Captain Zabin said that letters can be given out when he does the "Tips" meeting at the Police Department.

Reini Knorr said the "All American Addict" is next weekend. Information was sent to the press and parents. The Narcan Training has a wait list of 19 people. "Life After High School" is May 16th at Andrew Warde High School and information was given to all seniors. The Wiffle Ball event was discussed. It is June 9th. There will be 5-10 players on a team with 8 teams and invites will be sent out to adults and kids. Jenn Jacobsen said that \$500 will be used for prizes. Reini suggested having food trucks.

Coalition Events - Jenn Jacobsen is creating a Prevention Week calendar. The junior prom is May 19th and the senior prom is June 2nd. Jenn said they can host for free a "Hidden in Plain Sight" event. It would be for 1.5 hours for adults on April 30th or May 1st from 7:00-8:30pm. A bedroom is set-up, but they need a site.

Lori Mediate discussed the "# Life Not Wasted" campaign and the "Risky Business" program at Fairfield Woods Middle School where there are 3 sessions with high school mentors.

Presentation: Julia Smith, who is a therapist at Fairfield University presented and discussed the **Center For Collegiate Mental Health 2017 Annual Report** and the **American College Health Assessment Data Report for Fall 2017**. 700 students have been seen at the center at Fairfield University this year. The students take computerized assessments and the center tracks national trends. The information goes to Penn State University. There are 147 colleges and universities participating. It has been found that anxiety is the number one issue overtaking depression among students. 80% of these students have reported using alcohol in the past 30 days and they found college counseling is very effective. The top tip for students coping is exercise and mindfulness. Also help the student connect with what they like to do. Julia said that there are two sober houses at the University.

Lori Mediate said the LPC grant has been supplied materials for non-public schools.

"Drug Take Back Day" is April 28th.

Amanda Romaniello said that there will be an election of leadership officers at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Next Coalition meeting: May 16, 2018 at Bigelow Center at 8:30 a.m.