



Fairfield Cares Community Coalition

Draft Minutes - June 20, 2018

Opening and introductions: the meeting was opened at 8:35 by Amanda Romaniello who asked all to introduce themselves.

Present: Wendy Bentivegna, Tim Morris, Dorrie Carolan, Philip Dwyer, Amanda Romaniello, Jennifer Walsh, Alida Ward,, Lisa Pribesh, Melissa Divho, Reini Knorr, Santina Jaronko, Arselia Campir, Melissa Squeo, Lori Mediate, Cathy Hazlett, Michiko Kim and Cristin McCarthy Vahey

March meeting minutes: Reini Knorr may a motion to approve May Minutes with revisions and Tim Morris seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously with revision in coalition updates to clarify that Wendy Bentivegna asked if we wanted to spend the remaining LPC dollars on coalition t-shirts or carry funds over into next fiscal year.

Chair Report/Amanda:

Secretary/Technology Recruitment : we are actively recruiting for the Secretary position ; secretarial responsibilities will be primarily administrative, including attending monthly coalition and leadership meetings, taking meeting minutes and maintaining e-mail correspondance with coalition members. There will be a separate position for Technology responsibilities.

Rotary Presentation : Presentation in early May to Rotary was well received and will act as Framework for our Coalition « Road show ». Need to determine other key leaders/organizations to présent to.

Committee Lists : requested coaliiton members review committee lists and confirm committee choice with Amanda via e-mail if you have not yet done so.

Meetings : this is the last coalition meeting of the school year ; we will break for July & August and resume in September with 2 meetings. Leadership will continue to meet over the summer to discuss vision for the future.

Areas of Focus : continue to address opiate crisis, marijuana and vaping. Additionally need to improve ways to reach parents.

Guest Speaker: Dorrie Carolan, Founder and Executive Director of Newtown Parent Connection, spoke about their success with bringing the Stutman Group, an educational program about opiates and addiction in general, into the High schools, middle schools and into hospitals to speak with to nurses and doctors. Tim working on bringing this group to the high schools in October as part of Red Ribbon Week.

Cathy Hazlett suggested we conduct focus groups with people in recovery to gain insight into what programs/services we should put in place based on what they feel might have helped them.

Treasurer Report: Bernadette submitted treasurer report to Amanda; discussion of how to spend remaining LPC Funds of approximately \$800. Wendy Bentivegna proposed moving forward with printing white Sport Tek coalition t-shirts: Fairfield Cares logo on front, #LifeNotWasted on back (option #2). Everyone supported this. Cristin McCarthy Vahey suggested using some funds for recertification of QPR suicide prevention trainers. It was agreed to explore cost of recertification for 1-4 coalition members and proceed with t-shirts and training as funds allow.

Wendy to follow up with Denique regarding costs and report back to Amanda.

Officer Position/ Resource Chair: Philip Dwyer officially resigned as resource Chair and Cathy Hazlett was voted in unanimously as the new resource chair.

Committee Updates: Reini announced that the \$500 CSC /programming funds previously allocated to the Wiffle ball tournament had been reallocated to sponsoring 2 Town concerts on the green; one in July and the other in August. There will be coalition banner and table set up at these events. Coalition members are encouraged to register for the MADD walk on 9/15 and the Out of the Darkness suicide prevention walk on 10/27, under Fairfield Cares.

STR Grant is producing brochures for first responders to hand out to families of overdose victims.

Mom's of Fairfield is hosting meeting July 17th; opportunity for mental health providers to connect.

Ally Kernan's SMART Teen Recovery Group event had approx. 20 youth attendees; they will have representation at future coalition meetings.

Amanda highlighted that, in the wake of this years annual event/Wiffle ball tournament being cancelled, coalition members will need to gear up for next year. A successful event will require help from many coalition and community members.

Everyone is invited to The Regional Mental Health Board for Southwest CT's annual meeting and speaker presentation on Ketamine in behavioral health treatment on Thursday June 21st at 3:30pm at Norwalk City Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

Next Coalition meeting: September 5, 2018 at Bigelow Center for Senior Activities at 8:30 a.m.

