



Fairfield Cares Community Coalition Meeting Minutes – 2/20/19 (8:30-9:45am)

In attendance:

Jenn Jacobsen, Katy Rosenfeld, Reini Knorr, Margaret Watt , Amanda Romaniello, Karin Shaughnessy, Santina Jaronko, Lori Mediate, Michiko Kim, Cathy Hazlett, Wendy Bentivegna, Julia Smith, Steve Bogan, Karin Shaughnessy, Pat Tinto, Aleksa Bemonista, Dorrota Trojak, Katie Reilly, Phil Dwyer, Brooke Maxfield, Amanda Harman, Susannah Lewis, Kathy Chair

1. Minutes from January meeting were approved.
2. Chair's Update:
 - a. Student survey is almost complete. Once closed, report will come in within about a week.
 - b. Parent survey went out to both public and private schools. In 2017 had 741 responses; currently have 478.
 - c. ACTION: Everyone please continue to push out the parent survey through the PTAs and schools. Survey will be open until February 28.
3. Glorious Recovery event in May:
 - a. Alexa and Dorrota? are 2 local women who started Glorious Recovery, a 501(c)(3), to create events to celebrate recovery. Will host recovery concert from 7-11pm on evening of Memorial Day at Penfield Pavilion. Performers are lined up, including hip hop artist in recovery (suggested by 22yo in recovery). Connected with Shatterproof, TurnBridge, Above the Noise Foundation. Targeting middle school and high school; max of 250 people.
 - b. Coalition's goal is to promote this as a sober prevention activity more than recovery.
 - c. ACTION: Coalition needs help with running event, food truck vendors, check-in tables, resource tables, police department, advertising, youth committee connection. Please sign up to help with any of those activities or to be on the planning subcommittee.
 - d. Cost: \$5000 for 2 bands: one band for middle schoolers (provided by the main band) from 6:30-8pm, then B-Rain for the high school band from 8:30-10pm. Discussion about whether it's realistic to get kids in and out in a half hour and to run 2 events during this time frame.
 - e. Funding: Glorious Recovery submitted grant proposals to Above the Noise Foundation and TurnBridge. Youth committee has \$1750 that they voted to put toward this. Decision to charge for tickets, probably \$10. Need to decide how funds will be used if there is a surplus.
 - f. Include brief testimonials from B-Rain, TurningPointCT young people in recovery (2 are from Fairfield), or members of youth committee.
4. Treasurer report: Nothing to report.
5. Sustainability Plan Framework:

- a. CSC grant ends 6/30/20. 3 objectives: (1) sustain coalition [required]; (2) social norms; (3) youth engagement. DMHAS wants final sustainability document to be a working document for the coalition to use for future planning / grant writing, not just as a report. Grant is around alcohol primarily, not opioids.
 - b. Cathy has drafted the sustainability piece; Jenn has drafted the other objectives; everyone please read drafts before March and provide feedback.
 - c. ACTION: At the March coalition meeting we will discuss and finalize. Please also look at the budget part, including other possible funding sources.
 - d. Cathy asked for comments about why the coalition is important. Answers:
 - i. Prevention: starting things before they start.
 - ii. Network: Possibilities offered through the collaboration of the different stakeholders organized around a common mission.
 - iii. Before there was Cares, there wasn't a place for everyone to come together, so there were siloes; now pooling resources.
 - iv. Destigmatizing the conversation; addressing some of the real mental health and substance use crises.
 - v. Community based; resources allocated more efficiently this way. Have created a real mission and vision that is pushed out to the community in various ways; visible.
 - vi. Voice of the youth that provides so much surprise. If coalition didn't exist, wouldn't have a way to harness that. (Still need to grow it.)
 - vii. Get to parents and let them know that the mental wellbeing part is just as important as the physical part. In suburban communities it's easy to ignore these problems and pretend they don't happen. Fairfield Cares brings them to light.
6. Social norms campaign (Counties and Reds & Whites): Campaign has been effective because people will no longer host kids at their house so there's nowhere for kids to go! 😊
7. Updates:
- a. Narcan training coming up March 18th at fire station. First 30 people will get a Narcan kit.
 - b. Hidden in Plain Sight on March 4th in teen room at Fairfield Woods Branch Library.
 - c. Health Fair at Fairfield U on March 16th from 11am-4pm in Rec Center. Need youth volunteers to staff the table.
 - d. Ludlowe Freshman Forum coming up in the spring.
 - e. Cathy is going to work on the SOR grant (due March 1st) which continues STR opioid grant through October.
 - f. Fairfield Health Dept focus group tonight.
 - g. SMART Recovery Teen group will probably move to Westport.
 - h. INTERNS: Sacred Heart University is doing field placements for 150+ students (undergrad seniors, MSW students, and specialized year for clinical and macro placements). Available from September 1st-April 30th (21 hrs/week) or Sept 1-June 30th (14 hrs week). Email Amanda Harmon at harmona@sacredheart.edu.
 - i. ACTION: Please think about Mental Health Awareness Month activities for May. (MHFA?) Discuss at next meeting?

Next meeting: **March 20th at 5pm-6:30pm** for next youth meeting at 205 Richard White Way (previous address 205 One Broad Highway). **Note time change!**