



THE TOWN RESOURCE FOR HEALTHY CHOICES

Fairfield Cares Community Coalition

Minutes

March 28, 2018

Opening and Introductions: The meeting was opened at 8:05 by Chair Amanda Romaniello who asked all to introduce themselves.

Present: Wendy Bentivegna, Arsena Campio, Dawn Carlson, Philip Dwyer, Santina Jaronko, Reini Knorr, Cristin McCarthy Vahey, Lisa Pribesh, Katy Rosenfeld, Melissa Squeo, Denique Weidema-Lewis, and Josh Zabin

February meeting minutes – approval was postponed until the April meeting

Leadership Updates and Announcements: Amanda Romaniello said planning is underway for the Annual meeting. It will be conducted as required, but this year we will host a Whiffle Ball tournament on June 9th (rain date is June 10th). The focus is on recruiting various teams from town agencies and departments, including our youth committee members. The organizers will meet with Anthony Calabrese for advice on how best to structure and organize the tournament.

Committee Chair Updates:

- Program Committee Chair Reini Knorr reported that 150 people who attended the recent movie night and reported very positive reactions. The Opioid grant programs are proceeding with 135 letters being sent to service providers with follow up meetings planned. The Narcan training went well and a second one is planned for May 17th. They are looking at which, if not all, of the CCM “Ten Things Your Community Can Do” checklist can be accomplished. Cristin reported that two bills have moved from the Legislative Committee and advocacy is needed to support raising the age for cigarette purchase to 21 and that E Cigarettes must be sold face to face (i.e. be kept behind the counter). Reini reported they are on track and on time for the Opioid STR grant performance.
- LPC grant report – Wendy Bentivegna reported that there is \$ 2,400 remaining in the LPC grant that can be re-allocated to other related activities. Following discussion on various ideas, those present agreed the Program Committee can review the options and seek approval from the funding source for permission to use the funds as deemed most appropriate by the Program Committee.
- Resource Committee – Philip Dwyer reported that conversations are underway with Positive Directions on creating a year four budget for the CSC grant. He indicated that Positive Directions is projecting \$ 101,000 in

expenses and received \$ 95,000 in grant income due to the general 5% reduction in state grants that were ordered by the Governor. We have to look carefully at the level of administrative overhead being incurred by this grant. Cristin McCarthy Vahey reminded the group that FCCC must constantly look for new coalition members and to keep better data so the organization can grow and be a credible “agency” for future grantsmanship activities.

CSC coordinator update: Jennifer Jacobson reported that:

- She met with Lori Mediate who has agreed to work with Fairfield Cares in creating a component in health classes focused on the # *Life Not Wasted* campaign. The goal is to have it in place for the 2018/19 school year.
- Emily Larken of Darien provided materials on how best to organize middle school programming focused on asset building activities.
- Jennifer is excited by the work of the youth committee who is anxious to have the # *Life Not Wasted* campaign featured in health classes. They are interested in being mentors to the middle school population with a focus on the “Risky Business” format, with a special focus on substance abuse. They will look for ways to push wearing the bracelets. Youth reported that Vaping is an issue and increases each time a new “flavor” is introduced. Their next activity will be to visit each of the downtown liquor stores and ask them to post the “Not Under Our Roof” window sticker. There will be two new posts in April as part of the social media campaign.
- Denique Weidema-Lewis reported on National Prevention Week and distributed handouts describing the activities.

Upcoming events: Amanda Romaniello handed out the agenda for the organization meeting of the Mental Health Network taking place on March 29th at the Bigelow Center at 8:00am.

Committee List revisions: The assembled members reviewed the list of volunteer members of the three committees and indicated their willingness to continue to serve. Amanda Romaniello is discussing the chairmanship with various people and the list of officers to be voted at the Annual meeting. Dan Landry will be stepping down as secretary and so a new person needs to be recruited to fill this role, which includes coordinating our technology presence. Phil Dwyer will update the committee lists and work with Amanda on finalizing them.

Discussion on the Parent Panel was postponed to a future meeting. The Fairfield University and Sacred Heart University presentations will be held in April since scheduling conflicts prevented their staff from attending this rescheduled meeting.

Next Coalition meeting: April 18, 2018, at Bigelow Center at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted
Philip Dwyer, Temporary Secretary