



THE TOWN RESOURCE FOR HEALTHY CHOICES

Fairfield Cares Community Coalition

Minutes

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The meeting was opened by Reini Knorr with Introductions at 8:35am

**Present:** Jennifer Jacobson, Tim Morris, Philip Dwyer, Santina Jaronko, Michiko Kim, Reini Knorr, Jahliah Green, Wendy Bentivegna, Lori Mediate, Amanda Romaniello (starting 9:15am), Giovanna Mozzo, Steve Bogan, Stephan Genovese, Trudy Avery, Susannah Lewis, Peter Clark, Melissa Divito , G Mazzo, S Lewis

**Approval of April Minutes:** Jenn Jacobsen moved to approve the April minutes as presented, Wendy Bentivegna seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Chair update** - (given later in the meeting) – Amanda Romaniello reported that Cathy Hazlett has submitted her resignation as programming chair effective immediately. Phil Dwyer agreed to step into the role on a temporary basis, until a new resource committee chair is appointed. Dr. Jones' tenure as honorary co-chair will end with her departure to Greenwich at the end of June. The search for a replacement is underway. If needed a temporary co-chair will be appointed. Amanda will connect with Cristin McCarthy-Vahey on this topic.

Date change of June meeting: A motion was made by Reini Knorr, seconded by Jenn Jacobson, to move the date of the June meeting up by one week to **June 12th at 8:30am** in the Bigelow Center for Senior Activities due to the school year ending on June 14th. The motion passed.

**Treasurer Report** – Bernadette Coppola was not able to attend, so a report will be given in June.

#### **Committee Chair Reports:**

##### **Programming** – Reini Knorr:

- On Monday, May 13th, Jenn Jacobson presented the student and parent survey results at Fairfield PTA Council. The presentation was extremely well received.
- This week is National Prevention Week - look for all the related posts on social media
- Today, Fairfield CARES supports the joint Warde/Ludlowe PTA presentation of 'Life After High School', held at FWHS at 7pm on Wednesday, May 15th.
- Ludlowe held their Mock Crash, and Warde will hold theirs for the junior class this Friday, May 17th.
- Summer Fest 2019: Concert preparations are well underway. A banner is hung by the town green, ticket sales are at 130, Sammy's Pizza in Southport will supply pizzas to all in attendance (2/person, price of \$12/pizza, up to 70 pizzas. Might be less depending on final ticket sales). Our partner Glorious Recovery is doing an



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excellent job of fine tuning the event with detailed and minute planning. All are encouraged to purchase tickets for the teens in their circles.

**Resource – Phil Dwyer:**

Phil Dwyer agreed to take on the role as resource committee chair on a temporary basis and restated the role of the committee in bringing financial resources to the coalition, and also volunteer resources that will ensure a balanced presence of stakeholders at coalition meetings.

**Youth – Jenn Jacobson:**

The final youth committee meeting of the school year is scheduled for this coming Tuesday. The HS seniors on the committee will be acknowledged with a token of our appreciation. Work is underway with Carma Creative on a recruitment flyer to attract more members to the Youth

**CSC Coordinator Update – Jenn Jacobson:**

- Year-end allocation of funds: \$740 of CSC grant monies was allocated to support the middle school health curriculum with supplies. Other monies are being applied to purchase coalition logo stickers that can be applied to plain folders to 'brand' them in a cost-effective way, cling decals 'Fairfield CARES #LifeNotWasted, more #LifeNotWasted bracelets, 800 phone wallet stickers (Fairfield CARES single color on white).
- Youth Peer Advocate Representation for Fairfield CARES has been a struggle as it is difficult for High Schoolers to attend quarterly Governor's Partnership meetings in other parts of the state. The June meeting will be covered by 2 graduating High Schoolers currently on the youth committee. Going forward, we propose to add a stipended position (at about \$20/hour time commitment). A role description of duties and responsibilities is currently being finalized and will be forwarded to the coalition.
- The Survey Results presentation can be given at a variety of Fairfield constituencies on request. It is also available to [view on our website](#) along with the detailed survey results reports.
- 2019/20 budget planning is underway. A meeting with Positive Directions on grant budget priorities, goals and initiatives is scheduled for today, May 15th. The good news is that we have already met most of our grant goals in year four, except 30-day use, where we are 0.1 point short.
- Next steps include the preparation of year-end reports

**LPC Coordinator Update – Wendy Bentivegna**



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LPC funds (\$900) were provided to Fairfield Warde High School to support the planning of Life After High School, which is a joint Warde/Ludlowe program funded exclusively by Warde PTA. Another \$900 were provided to support the stage rental for Summer Fest 2019.

**Coalition Updates:**

**Health Department:** - Santina Jaronko and Jahliah Green: Jaliah is a returning intern at the Fairfield Health Department who will be working with Santina on opioid harm prevention strategies over the summer. Key deliverables include a June Narcan Training, a summer community forum (one idea is to hold a legislative round table), and to organize the second annual International Overdose Awareness Day vigil in Fairfield on August 30th (the actual IOAD is on August 31st). As part of an opioid harm reduction grant received by the Health Department, Jaliah will also work on social media initiatives on behalf of Fairfield CARES, one of which is working on our presence on Snapchat to increase our reach of teens.

**The HUB** - Giovanna Mozzo introduced the recently launched [The HUB](#), a newly formed regional mental health and prevention initiative overseen by DMHAS. Fairfield is part of Region 1 that includes 14 towns from Stratford to Greenwich (except Stamford). The HUB is a program under the [RYASAP](#) umbrella. RYASAP was awarded a grant to oversee the integration of the Regional Action Councils and the Regional Mental Health Board, as the organization had the required Mental Health and Prevention professional capacity. Giovanna stressed the availability of resources on the HUB, such as current [behavioral health directories](#). State resources, such as [suicide postvention resources](#), can also be accessed with the assistance of the HUB.

**[Will to Live Foundation](#)** - Steve Bogan described his efforts in bringing the Will to Live Foundation to Fairfield. This teen suicide prevention event will be brought to Sacred Heart University this Fall (September/early October). Check out a similar event held at Wake Forest University in 2018 here: <https://teammates.events.wfu.edu/> Discussions are held with Fairfield Public Schools on integrating a presentation with the middle and high school population. The current working plan includes a Sunday talk/presentation to athletes at SHU and a Monday morning town leadership breakfast through the Fairfield Rotary Club, which would leave some availability for auxiliary programming.

**Fairfield PLudlowe High School** - Tim Morris reported on plans for Grim Reaper Day on Monday with keynote speaker Nathan Harmon from [Your Life Speaks](#) who will be presenting to 7th and 8th graders at RLMS followed by the seniors at FLHS.

**Fairfield Middle Schools** - Lori Mediate informed the coalition that Risky Business, the popular 'last ditch' 8th grade program to reach teens before they head to high school, will once again be presented at all three middle schools.. The presentation has three parts:



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1. All three school resource officers present together on 'pitfalls', social media, common unhealthy and risky behaviors and how to avoid them.
2. High School Seniors and Fairfield CARES Youth Committee Members sharing with 8th graders about what they wish they had know in middle school that would have helped them better navigate high school.
3. Spotlight Anxiety in a way that highlights Anxiety is experienced by many and can be managed with coping skills, resources and sometimes professional help. A teacher and a student will each share their journey of learning how to manage anxiety and strong emotions.

**Human Services/Senior Center** - Melissa Divito introduced plans by the Senior Center to host a Suicide Prevention Training this Fall and goals to create a mental health outpost at the center that can connect with resources such as the HUB, NAMI Fairfield and local mental health providers. A reception will be planned for July to provide networking opportunities.

**Pharmacy Update** - Michiko Kim from Rite Aid reported that Rite Aid will stop selling e-cigarettes and supplies over the next 3 months. See a [related article here](#). Fairfield CARES applauds that decision.

**[Caron Treatment Centers \(Foundation\)](#)** - Trudy Avery shared information on the support of the Caron Foundation in bringing prevention themed speakers to Fairfield Public Schools.

**Causeway Collaborative** - Stephan Genovese introduced the [Causeway Collaborative](#) to the coalition. It is an all male agency serving an all male census that addresses many issues surrounding emerging adulthood and failure to launch in its three business divisions Career Development, Counseling, and Therapeutic Mentorship.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 9:45am

Respectfully submitted: Reini Knorr

Next Coalition meeting: **June 12th, 2019 @ 8:30 a.m - Bigelow Center for Senior Activities**