



Fairfield CARES Community Coalition
Meeting Minutes – April 22, 2020

The Fairfield CARES Community Coalition held a regular meeting at 8:30 am via [Zoom e-meeting](#).

Present: Cristin McCarthy Vahey, Phil Dwyer, Jenn Jacobsen, Reini Knorr, Andrea Flynn, Wendy Bentivegna, Gabrielle Diaz, Lori Mediate, Giovanna Mozzo, Bernadette Coppola, Trudy Avery, Russell Edgett

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 8:41 am

Approval of minutes: Lori Mediate made a motion to approve the March 18th meeting minutes, seconded by Phil Dwyer. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Update - Cristin McCarthy Vahey

Legislative session was canceled for the rest of the year and is operating by executive order. There may be a special session this summer. Flavor ban will wait until 2021. Programming continuing meeting updates and agenda via Zoom.

Treasurer's Report - Bernadette Coppola

There are some changes and more spending in Positive Directions, more was added to the Social Norms campaign. LPC and SOR Grants were spent and accounted for fiscal year 2018-2019.

CSC Grant Coordinator Update - Jenn Jacobsen

- Working with Karma Creative meetings on the middle school asset campaign and messaging. Something will be available in May and will launch this fiscal year.
- Parent and student survey questions were finalized and the survey is ready to send out once there is a link. The data will be analyzed, reviewed and presented.
- DMHAS there is a one year CSC Grant extension until June 2021. Task to update the implementation plan for the next fiscal year and finalizing a draft with input.
- Annual Event Community Conversation is looking to possibly have a virtual meeting in June with a panel of speakers from the Health Department, Counseling, and members to talk to the community.
- Collaborating with the CSC coordinators, maintaining the current work in an adapted environment, planning for next fiscal year, and working with the State to fulfill our mission.

- Positive Directions hired the youth peer advocate Nicole and has a master of social work at Sacred Heart University. She is getting familiar with the documents, collation and work.
- Partnering with the Philip Bahr at the Public Library mental for health awareness month in May for a virtual resources and books for the community.

Programing Committee Update - Reini Knorr

- National Prevention Week 5/10-5/16 – Picture with Sign and share post in social media. #ctpreventionweek. There are themes each day: Mon-Preventing prescription drug and opioid misuse, Tues-preventing underage drinking and alcohol misuse, Wed-preventing illicit drug use and youth marijuana use, Thurs-preventing youth tobacco use (e-cigarettes and vaping), Fri-preventing suicide
- Website www.fairifeldct.org/fairifeldcares Orientation Packet online, social media links, information, brochures and resources
- Medication drop box and medication disposal video
- A Online Courage to Speak Event was held
- CT State police digital safety and spending time online
- 4/23 at 7pm The First Day with Chris Herren virtual screening, to attend for a best practice for hold in a future an event
- Talk it out Hotline is anonymous Call: 1-833-258-5011 or Visit: www.talkitoutct.com

Resource Committee Update - Phil Dwyer

- SOR grant was finalized.
- LPC grant reporting is complete and has been accepted.
- CT Realtor's grant did not come through.
- Parent recruitment is put on hold through the PTAs and it is encouraged to invite parents to next month's zoom meeting

Youth Committee Update - Jenn Jacobsen for Kathy Rosenfeld

- Connected with the youth committee with email and looking to have zoom meetings in May.
- Looking so share them with how they can be involved with a voice including the health curriculum and district improvement planning

The Hub Update - Giovanna Mozzo

- Resources have been going toward Corona, substance abuse and mental health
- The website www.thehubct.org recommended to join and access zoom meetings
- Disaster Distress Helpline Call: 1-800-985-5990 Text: "TalkWithUs" to 66746
- Soundview Warmline 1-800-921-0359, 9am to 9pm Free peer support
- National Prevention Week – speaking engagements and live webinar #ctpreventionweek
- CT Clearing House website <https://www.ctclearinghouse.org/>
- LPC verifying the grant check has been sent and a zero balance by June 30th and paperwork and Programs are the High School Vaping and looking to support the Police S.H.A.P.E. Program.

- LPC reorganization is in process and hope to know more by the end of April. There is a meeting to set expectation with goals on vaping and capacity building. Virtual training for capacity coalition building with 12 stakeholders, roles and responsibilities, and how it work. The goal is to strategizing on getting stakeholders at the table and aligning goals
- CADCA is a nonprofit organization that is committed to creating safe, healthy and drug-free communities globally. It drives local prevention work, resources, and lead for the community.
- Janice will the contact while Giovanna is on leave

New Business

Jenn – Leadership with be meeting and please share ideas for next year’s planning. It may have to be on-line programs. Be creative on programs for recovery, prevention and PTSD.

Giovanna – According to Police, HIDA, DEA, there is less access to drugs. There is a concern for overdoses increasing as the community opens up.

Reini – Concern about alcohol consumption and local moms groups supporting drinking.

Russell – Focus on children and families. Concern on the homeless vets. Primary Fairfield CARES is for youth prevention in part due to funding. The Fairfield CARES is the Town LPC. There is PTSD and mental issue for veterans. Eagle Scout created backpacks and they would be handed out on Saturday. Looking to expand capacity and collaboration.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:06 am. Wendy made a motion to adjourn, passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Andrea Flynn