



Fairfield CARES Community Coalition  
Leadership Meeting Minutes February 1, 2021 at 8:30 am  
Zoom Meeting

The Fairfield CARES Community Coalition held a Zoom Meeting,  
[https://youtu.be/Zs2h2Z28\\_Bw](https://youtu.be/Zs2h2Z28_Bw)

LEADERSHIP AGENDA

**Call the Meeting to Order 8:36AM.** Leadership present included, Cristin McCarthy Vahey, Mike Cummings, Reini Knorr, Margaret Watt, Bernadette Coppola, Emily Melnick, Phil Dwyer, Cathy Hazlett, and Leonora Campbell

**Approval of the January 4th Minutes:** Phil Dwyer moved to accept the January Leadership minutes and Reini Knorr seconded. There were no objections and minutes were unanimously approved.

**Chair Update:** Cristin shared that her work and responsiveness will be stretched and she would like a text and email to follow-up so that she can answer as soon as possible.

Legislative session work - Flavor Bill, Children's committee bill related to delivery signature verification, expand Communication with expansion of QPR training efforts, CT Suicide Advisory Board- any legislation on the ground is looking at what folks are talking about

Michael Cummings – please keep him on all correspondence and any effort to help with regard to concerns and issues as well as Cristin's demands he will work and assist with everyone.

**CSC Grant Update:**

**LPC Grant Update:** Wendy Bentivenga regarding the LPC grant. She had no new update to report – thanks to all – PD postal permit. Cards are going out thank you to Mike staff and the postal count and mailing numbers. Success of pre-test (over 1000) response and hopes for as large of a response for the post test.

**Committee Updates:**

**Treasure Report – Bernadette:** Full amount for the postcards should be \$4900 for postal. SOR are grant will be forthcoming with expenses once we get it. Waiting for update from PD about spending and expenditures for year to date.

**SOR – Reini:** grant in anticipation of getting the money – stated it would be out Jan 1<sup>st</sup> – not until Jan 4<sup>th</sup> – Also in preparation with collaboration with Westport and Norwalk the ad will go on 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the prescription medication brown bags of the pharmacies in Southport and Fairfield ready to go with information once \$ is in.

Discussion of Lamp post Banners in Fairfield – spoken for the entire year - 1<sup>st</sup> 3-months process – through Chamber of Commerce and remaining part of the year April through the town's economic development office go like hotcakes. We decided to purchase between Norwalk, Fairfield and Westport the Feather looking banners with logos and message to be used. Different message on all the boards together a coherent theme and ideas. Good collaboration with these towns.

**Meeting was called to recess at 9:03am**

**Meeting was reconvened at 9:40am**

**Resource Committee report: Phil**

Bylaws mission change be sure to be added to the Feb coalition meeting –with a 14-day notice and the copy of change is resent out so that everyone can review and vote.

Second part of the By-Laws review – email to the leadership group to look over and noted the process for that review and highlighted 4-5 areas that needed to be reviewed and changed. Some discussion today to see if there are changes that were noted to review and provide some information to bring back to the group who will be reviewing and reconvening. Phil had noted article 2-4-7. Review Committee Structure, job descriptions, review of the rules and procedures of the leadership can and cannot do, FOIA, relationship with the town, identity needs to be clarified, please emphasize the Fairfield CARES in all caps, spell out that if you are a member to make efforts to attend events virtual and in person, responsible membership and attendance, annual membership and ties with leadership – naming of the sectors that would be part of the by-laws. Phil get the conversation going with the existing group.

**Role of Coalition and Advocacy:** Conversation focused on what the role of the Coalition as a body in terms of advocacy on different issues and areas of conversation. All members provided various levels of insight and how to best support this process and what is the most relevant and effective way to be a part of what is going on regarding various topics. Also discussed what the coalition would like to help see what is in a bill, any legislative discussions and educate and provide testimony if applicable. To be seen as advocates or an advocacy as a whole.

**DFC and PCC Part B:** Cathy discussed the update and status of the PCC Part B and the concentration of the grants and what it entails. Little confusion of the way the grant is written. with certain stipulations. Need to provide two people to learn more about the grant and be contacts. To provide with questions to be submitted by the 5<sup>th</sup> – response 11<sup>th</sup> and letter of intent

for later in the month the 17<sup>th</sup>. Discussion was focused on whether we can work on both grants and apply for both which will help each application. There is confusion about whether we can apply for both and Cathy will clarify this. PCC due March 12<sup>th</sup> DFC – has not announced yet, DCF = 5 years of funding – hire a full-time coalition director which is needed.

Can the school district be available for both? And the administrative overall efforts involved. – Positive Directions can apply as well. There are questions that need to be reviewed – with both grants. Do we have the capacity of moving forward with both applications?

**JRB Discussion:** Detective Beth Leetch from Fairfield Police has brought to the Coalition to look for support and more help to become involved and provide input regarding the Juvenile Review Board. Will ask Detective Leetch to prepare and come back to the group with more information clarifying what she is looking for and the relationship of FCC and JRB and community support. Juvenile Restorative practices need to be more available and emphasized and having her involved would be helpful.

More insight about Juvenile Restorative practices and what we can learn and Cathy will do some research and Reini has provided links to review.

**Adjournment:** Cristin moved to adjourn and unanimously all-in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:33AM.

Resources that have been discussed and related to the agenda.

PCC Grant:

[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DMHAS/RFP/DG\\_SM\\_MM\\_1212021-PCC-PART-B-FINAL-for-posting.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DMHAS/RFP/DG_SM_MM_1212021-PCC-PART-B-FINAL-for-posting.pdf)

Advocacy - sample guide to submit testimony for a bill:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/14OJZ6EzdSOT\\_6PHk\\_jhk3Nmn6jWrcRX3aaAVH-S3gl0/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/14OJZ6EzdSOT_6PHk_jhk3Nmn6jWrcRX3aaAVH-S3gl0/edit)

JRB related info:

[https://www.fairfieldct.org/filestorage/2765/Juvenile\\_Review\\_Board\\_Members\\_Needed.pdf](https://www.fairfieldct.org/filestorage/2765/Juvenile_Review_Board_Members_Needed.pdf)

<https://uwc.211ct.org/juvenile-review-boards/>

[https://www.ctyouthservices.org/Customer-Content/WWW/CMS/files/Establishing\\_a\\_JRB.pdf](https://www.ctyouthservices.org/Customer-Content/WWW/CMS/files/Establishing_a_JRB.pdf)