



Fairfield CARES Community Coalition
Zoom Meeting
March 1, 2021 at 8:30 am

LEADERSHIP AGENDA

Call the Meeting to Order: 8:39am 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 February 1st Minutes: Reini Knorr moved to accept the January Leadership minutes and Phil Dwyer seconded. There were no objections and minutes were unanimously approved.

Co-Chair Update: Mr. Cummings shared week away from opening the schools with excitement some anxiety and relief from all sides. Looking forward to discussion with Advocacy and the Schools and the surveys. Cristin asked about the update with the budget and how the school system will be providing extra support for the social and emotional supports. Mr. Cummings shared, kids first, community building, and relationships – mental health and social emotional needs will be prioritized. Potential audit for the emotional and social needs of the students for next year and how to align for all the needs for next year.

The Developmental survey has a teacher component as well and think about using this at some point. Parents social and emotional needs should also be considered and what will need to be done.

Cristin shared she is in the throws of the Legislative session, May and June very busy and will do her best to stay fully present, involved and connected. Highlighted the legislation: Social/Emotional learning – Youth Survey, Tobacco, Marijuana, Alcohol, Suicide Prevention.

Role of Coalition and Advocacy: Considerable conversation about what this will mean for Fairfield CARES and how it needs to be addressed and moving forward. An effort to be thoughtful and considerate to do this right. We may have follow-up after the meeting as well.

There is an agreement that there is some thought we would like to do can do some advocacy work and the questions are: Do we have capacity and resources? What kinds of policies do we want to put in place? How does advocacy fit into the activities that we already prioritize and have been doing for many years? These are the framing questions that guided the conversation today.

Do we want to? – as a group and what does that mean. Need to understand the difference between Education Advocacy and Lobbying?

Education - Presenting facts on educating people on a topic.

Advocacy - would be taking a position on that topic – one way or another.

Lobbying – is focused on specific legislation whether it be at a local, state or federal level.

FCC has been doing a great job in education on topics not been quite too sure about advocacy – Cathy talked with several coalitions to find out what they are doing. Advocacy has always been something a coalition – youth coalition has always done.

Taking a position on an issue does happen – what does this coalition want to do.

Everyone shared voices and interests within this context.

Updates on Grants:

Cathy clarified the following with the grant's specifics:

we could NOT apply to both the CPP-Part B grant and the DFC grant. The CPP grant was only a one-year grant, and frankly as much work to apply for it as the five-year DFC grant. The DFC grant is a grant that the Fairfield CARES Coalition has been wanting to apply for a while. It is time to do it. Also, although this is a bit of a moot point, at the time when Fairfield CAES was considering both grants, Positive Directions was going to be the fiscal agent for the CPP since it was more or less a continuation of our current CSC grant. However, Positive Directions was also looking to be the fiscal agent for the Westport Coalition's CPP-Part A grant, but it was then learned that DHMAS would not permit Positive Directions to be the fiscal agent for both, another reason why Fairfield CARES focused on the DFC grant. As it turned out, the Westport Coalition was not eligible for the CPP-Part A grant, but Fairfield CARES had made the decision to apply for the DFC grant.

CSC – lots of activity with this grant specifically with the surveys involving students – contact with all the principals about coordination and process and timing. Week of March 15th dates specifically 16th and 17th - letter to parents about the survey – detail about the survey and information. Parent survey as well that blends in with the LPC grant – snag with the postcards – 1 per week through each week in February. Concern with families receiving the postcards – because the link for the parents is on the postcard. Looking at all the schools Prep, FCD, ND and Thomas Aquinas – also consider the Walter Fitzgerald high school,

Alcohol awareness month programming

Youth committee – Alcohol awareness – radio PSA

MADD presentation on the power of parents in underage drinking

Parenting tips in the school newsletters

News Items in the FCC website to let people know about what is going on.

Social Media posts as well with the links with the postcards as well.

Link for the post card will also go out via email.

LPC

SOR - was approved and getting a check early march – have had a head start with the adult trainings – with 4 people QPR training in march, and the ads for the pharmacy bags will be soon out.

DFC – The school business office is monitoring the grant and ready to go from the schools. Cathy is monitoring as well. Bring together groups about the strategy about the grants efforts. Cathy heard that the date of March 15th with a due date if My 15th.

Committee Updates:

By-laws – sent out a document that will highlight the suggestions so far and will see that a s a working document with suggestions made. Will be made available later and will update wit committee efforts.

Treasurer report was submitted and made available for the leadership to review.

Programing: Been working with Cathy dfofr the annual meeting in May which will be a comedian presentation about humort.

Annual Meeting Presenter: <https://www.mattbellace.com/natural-high-extras>

Every Brilliant Thing (Play) virtual (Fairfield Center Stage? Suicide Prevention Comedy) <https://www.dramatists.com/cgi-bin/db/single.asp?key=5451>

Giving Day De-Brief: Thank you to everyone abut the effort. Total amount was \$2,275.00 and it was 50 new donors and names. Allowed for new – good awareness of FCC and overall a positive experience. Youth committee did a thank you and it was sent out.

JRB Discussion: Overall discussion on the JRB looking for a new home – should it be Fairfield CARES? Decision was to have a meeting with folks from Park & Rec, Cathy Hazlett. Cristin McCarthy-Vahey, Michael Cummings, Beth Leetch, and another member from the coalition. Other options of organizations to consider maybe, Wakeman, YMCA, Schools, it was early on with Rotary. Thoughts about asking local bar association, Center for Family Justice, Child & Family Guidance Center, and possibly others.

Adjournment: Cristin moved to adjourn and unanimously all-in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:38AM.

Links shared during the meeting:

Vaping Postcards: <https://www.fairfieldct.org/fairfieldcaresnews/?FeedID=4112>
Thank you card for Giving

Day: <https://www.fairfieldct.org/fairfieldcaresnews/?FeedID=4148>

Annual Meeting Presenter: <https://www.mattbellace.com/natural-high-extras>

Every Brilliant Thing (Play) virtual (Fairfield Center Stage? Suicide Prevention Comedy) <https://www.dramatists.com/cgi-bin/db/single.asp?key=5451>

Juvenile Review Board Bridgeport: <https://www.ryasap.org/what-we-do/juvenile-review-board/>

<https://www.fairfieldct.org/fairfieldcaresnews/?FeedID=4112>

<https://www.fairfieldct.org/fairfieldcaresnews/?FeedID=4148>

<https://www.mattbellace.com/natural-high-extras>

Every Brilliant Thing (Play) virtual (Fairfield Center Stage? Suicide Prevention Comedy)
<https://www.dramatists.com/cgi-bin/db/single.asp?key=5451>