



**Fairfield CARES Community Coalition
Leadership Special Meeting Minutes – August 24, 2020
Zoom Meeting:**

The Fairfield CARES Community Coalition held a Zoom Meeting.
<https://youtu.be/0uwfQV3aFRw>

Present: Cristin McCarthy Vahey, Reini Knorr, Phil Dwyer, Bernadette Coppola,
Positive Directions team: Margaret Watt, Jennifer Hrbek and Cathy Hazlett

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Cristin McCarthy Vahey at 9:11am

Chair Update - Cristin McCarthy Vahey

Introduction of new Positive Directions Team; Margaret Watt is new Director of Prevention and Cathy Hazlett is new CSC Grant Coordinator who will work directly with Fairfield CARES

Treasurer's Report - Bernadette Coppola

CSC Grant – balance of \$3,200 to be spent by September 30th

Resource Committee – Phil Dwyer

- LPC Grant application – we are awaiting word back from the HUB on the status of the application, which was submitted at the end of July.
- We continue to need to involve more volunteers.
- Will have further discussion of funding and Drug Free Communities Grant application at the next leadership meeting

Youth Committee – Reini Knorr and Cathy Hazlett (for Katy Rosenfeld, who was absent)

- Youth Committee application is online and has been distributed via Peachjar
- No new applications to date; suggestion to have Cathy update application and description
- Decided to conduct youth focus groups to hear from the students what they need and where they are as well as give them a way to engage and positively respond to COVID
- Margaret and Cathy have budgeted funds for gift cards to incentivize participation
- Will work with Dana Bossio, Superintendent Cummings and public schools to partner
- Use of April survey – Community Resources data – would be an important baseline

Programming Committee – Reini Knorr

- Let's Mention Prevention campaign
 - Use of materials will cost \$200 – coalition agreed to pay for that; CSC grant will cover
 - This comes from a joint coalition effort, originating in Milford. In the Fall, the same group intends to initiate a tobacco prevention message, which we might want to partner with given the focus of this year's LPC grant (tobacco)
 - Idea – to have us share the “Not Under our Roof” materials with other coalitions and ask for a similar fee to help fund our efforts
 - Leadership agreed that we want to move forward with this campaign.
 - Next steps – Cathy and Reini will work on a plan. Cristin can connect them to Fairfield Chamber of Commerce and local retailers
 - Cathy to seek out list of local retailers, which Health Department or Economic Development might already have
- International Overdose Awareness Event – Friday, August 28th at 7 pm via Zoom
- Community Walks
 - MADD – 9/12/20 – Virtual
 - Out of the Darkness – Suicide Prevention – 10/25/20 – Likely Virtual
 - We will like to host Fairfield CARES teams, so please sign up to join us
- Resources for Greif / Counseling – available on the website
- Youth Peer Advocate Position is open – Positive Directions is hiring
- Postvention for Suicide group is forming. Cristin and Reini are working with Julie DeMarco of Fairfield Human Services to bring stakeholders together. Regional Suicide meeting is 9/11 at noon.

CSC Grant Update – Cathy Hazlett and Margaret Watt

- Cathy spoke with Chief Lyddy – zero social host citation and limited on driving; Cathy will follow up with him regarding TIPS training. Can be done online.
- Work plan for the grant being updated to include Lets Mention Prevention
- Review of CSC budget, including programming budget. Determined that we will make determinations at an August 31 special meeting of the Leadership Committee
- With the agreement of the leadership team, Positive Directions will make another deposit of \$3,194 for the Search Institute Survey, which will close out the FY 20 budget for the grant
- Phil noted that we will want to consider if it makes sense for Fairfield CARES to shoulder the entire cost of the student survey, which is over \$7,000 in future years. This is an outstanding discussion item.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 10:32 am

Minutes Submitted by Cristin McCarthy Vahey