



**Fairfield CARES Community Coalition Meeting
Minutes**

June 16, 2021

View a recording of the coalition meeting- YouTube with the link: <https://youtu.be/tuqg5YUBUI0>

Welcome & Call to Order - Cristin McCarthy Vahey welcomed all to the meeting at 8:33am

Members: Co-chair **Cristin McCarthy Vahey** (Government/State Rep, Parent), Mike Cummings (Superintendent/School), Reini Knorr (Media/Parent), Wendy Bentivenga (Parent, Community Member), Philip Dwyer (Civic/Volunteer Org), Cathy Hazlett (Staff), Alison Seyal (Social Services/Gov., Parent), Diana Liptak (YMCA, Youth Serving Org), Bernadette Coppola (Parent and Treasurer), Lori Mediate (Health Curriculum Coord, School), Jennifer Jacobsen (BOE, government, Parent), Margaret Watt (Positive Directions, Other Substance Misuse Org), William Hass (SHU & Civic/Volunteer Org), Vicki Gustafson (Civic/volunteer Org), Santina Jaronko (Health Dept/Gov), Steve Bogan (Parent), Alida Ward (Greenfield Hill Congregational Church/Clergy), Donna Fletcher (Child & Family Guidance Ctr/Healthcare Org.), Dana Bossio (Teacher-Leader for Psych & Social Work/ School).

Approval of Minutes - Phil Dwyer made the motion to approve the May 19th Coalition Minutes and Wendy Bentivenga seconded the motion. There were no objections and/or changes. The motion was unanimously approved with one abstention.

Co-Chair Update – Cristin McCarthy Vahey and Mike Cummings welcomed everyone and stated their appreciation for everyone's involvement in the coalition this year.

2021 Student Substance Use Data – Cathy Hazlett went over the substance use data results of the Developmental Relationship Survey and its Supplemental Survey.

Coalition Meeting Schedule – Coalition members decided not to meet in July, but will meet on August 18th for its scheduled August meeting.

Fun-d-raising – One fun-d-raising event during the coalition's next fiscal year will be an activity that the Resources Committee will take on. The coalition needs to build its financial sustainability so it has discretionary funds and to comply with CDC expectations.

Advocacy – Coalition members will be surveyed on topics they would like to see Fairfield CARES take a position on and/or advocate for. A coalition task force will be formed to help draft position papers.

Committee and Grant Updates – Reini Knorr mentioned that August 31st is International Overdose Awareness Day; the Program Committee will be planning an event to be held on Sherman Green – stay tuned.

Adjournment: Reini Knorr made the motion to adjourn; Wendy Bentivenga seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:55am.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine T. Hazlett, Acting Secretary