



Fairfield CARES Community Coalition

Minutes

January 20, 2021

View a recording <https://youtu.be/ffbCpLcpkXQ>

Welcome: Cristin McCarthy Vahey welcomed all to the meeting at 8:35am

Attendance:

Co-chair Cristin McCarthy Vahey (Government/State Rep, Parent), Mike Cummings (Superintendent)

Members: Steven Baker (PTA Council, Parent and Community member) Wendy Bentivenga (Parent, Community Member), Steve Bogan (parent, Community member) Leonora Campbell (Parent, Community Member), Kelsey Ciarlegio (community youth prevention), Kaitlin Comet (prevention liaison for the Hub), Philip Dwyer (Civic/Volunteer Org), Cathy Hazlett (Staff), Jennifer Jacobsen (Government/BOE, Parent), Beth Leetch (Detective – working with youth -Fairfield Police), Reini Knorr (Parent), Lori Mediate (Fairfield Public schools Health Education), Emily Melnick (Evaluator), Tim Morris (Student, Assistant Counselor FLH School) Bridie Murray (parent), Michael Patota (Community prevention guidance center), Alison Seyal (Government/Social Services, Parent), Karin Shaughnessy (Asst Principal FLMS), MScinto (?), Jana Tvedt (parent) Pam Walker (Student Assistance Counselor FWH School), Margaret Watt (Substance Misuse Prevention Org). () indicates community sector.

Approval of Minutes: Wendy Bentivenga made the motion to approve the December 19th Coalition Minutes and Reini Knorr seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Co-Chair Update: Cristin McCarthy-Vahey provided an update regarding what is happening in the legislature campaigns for tobacco, vaping and these efforts with kids as a focus will have a concerted effort in Hartford and Bridgeport.

Superintendent, Michael Cummings is fully engaged and understanding the importance of this work and wanted the Coalition to know that FPS is fully prepared to provide whatever support is needed with the grant process.

Fairfield County Giving Day: Scheduled for February 25th a discussion was had to look at the opportunity to look for additional funds for the coalition. Reini created a vehicle and is now working with Margaret through Positive Directions for Fairfield CARES page and have folk's review. A donate button through PD website to help support Fairfield Cares. Supported by Fairfield County Foundation as a backbone for community organizations and raise funds. \$50 to register, a tool kit provided to help support the campaign, and take advantage of the webinars. Need to develop and formulate messages to support our cause. There are "bonus hours" specific times to generate more money through the day of giving and scan share various videos. Pam Walker expressed interest in assisting with the Giving Day. The link for the page is the following: <https://fccfoundation.org/community-impact-fund/center-nonprofit-excellence/giving-day/>

Marijuana Discussion: Cristin provided insight about state level discussion and plans for specific legislation for legalizing and how it pertains to adult use mostly and awareness levels. Cathy began the discussion and provided various resources to share with the members: PowerPoint presentation with the Video – 3-minute Brain Development, a data-based resource and a 14-minute TedX with Ben Cort who is in recovery and has done extensive research.

Link to Brain Development: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/18EfUihgQkeXKdu8fz69J8zqve-6PDZDYiMRlqePtth0/edit?usp=sharing>

Link to Ben Cort's TedX: <https://youtu.be/ffbCpLcpkXQ>

Most of the meeting focused on the discussion and thoughts by the coalition members and next steps. Emily shared that there has been rich conversation and information that will be forthcoming from the focus groups that talked with middle and high school students and parents of both of these aged students.

Cristin also shared that she will be discussing the issues related to impaired driving with the DOT and what training is needed to allow for better drug recognition. Need to consider what would be the best way to ask for assistance and support in funding, courts accepting the DRE efforts and evidence and blood draws be protected with this evidence.

Lori Mediate appreciated the discussion and will be bringing it back to the school system as well as her department. She emphasized that some of the issues is the perception of risk by parents.

Beth Leetch expressed her sentiments that this is an especially important discussion and how it will affect the juvenile system within the courts.

The vaping postcards will also allow for more connection with parents and the possibility of more parents responding to the survey which will be on the cards. There will be a link and Qr code to drive up more responses

Further discussion revolved around links to the website, advocacy, what other supports does the coalition have, review of future bills and any legislation and how to engage more individuals.

The Hub Update: Reini shared that the Suicide Resources pocket cards here is the link, they also sent the link to Ben Cort's presentation advocacy tool kit – hub subscribe to the weekly email update. Weekly Narcan training on Wednesday starting at the end of the month.

1. SOR is the \$5,000 State Opioid Response Grant; the coalition will be submitting an application to conduct opioid prevention education, perhaps working in partnership with neighboring towns.
2. Narcan is the chemical that is given to reverse an opioid overdose to prevent a fatality. Fairfield CARES will be conducting Narcan education trainings, to learn how to use Narcan, and giving out a free container of Narcan to participants, but please pass the word on the Hub's Narcan trainings.
3. Wheeler Clinic and CT Clearinghouse is hosting "Adolescent SBIRT: Adolescent Girls and Opioids." This free training will be on Thursday, January 21st from 9AM – 12:30PM. Please see the attached flyer for more information. Below is the link to registration. Once you register, you will receive the meeting link and PowerPoint before the training.

<https://www.ctclearinghouse.org/registration/virtual-adolescent-sbirt-adolescent-girls-and-opioidstuesday-september-24-2020-1/>

4. The Hub and Data Collaborative is hosting "Basics of Data Literacy." This training will be held on February 4th from 1PM – 3PM.

5. The Hub and The Office Based Addiction Treatment Training and Technical Assistance will be hosting "Methamphetamines Training" on February 10th from 12PM – 1:15PM. This event includes free CEUs.

6. CT DPH has released an updated Drug Overdose Monthly Report with key findings of drug overdose deaths from 2019 – December 2020. Please see attached for the report.

7. The Hub has an updated guide to Suicide Resources available on our website and it is attached here.

Adjournment: Cathy closed the meeting at 10:05 am.

Respectfully submitted.

Leonora P. Campbell
Secretary