



Fairfield CARES Community Coalition Meeting  
In-Person at 501 Kings Hwy East, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl, Board of Education Conference Room  
And by Zoom Meeting (details below)  
October 20, 2021,  
8:30 -10:00 am

**In Attendance:**

Co-chair Cristin McCarthy-Vahey, Mike Cummings (Fairfield Public Schools, Superintendent), Philip Dwyer (Civic/Volunteer Org), Cathy Hazlett (Staff), Bernadette Coppola (Parent, Treasurer), Reini Knorr, (Parent, Community Member), Wendy Bentivenga, ( Parent, Community member), Vanessa Wilson, (Positive Directions), Lisa Labella, ( Center for Family Justice), Julie Demarco, ( Fairfield Human Services), Coreen Ahmad (Youth Serving Org/Gov), Leonora Campbell, (Parent, Community member), Steve Bogan, (Community member Volunteer) Donna Fletcher, (Child/Family Guidance), Vicki Gustavson (Kiwanis Club), Steve Baker, (PTA Council, Parent Community member), Kaitlin Comet (The Hub), Kelsey Ciarlegio (Community youth prevention), Santina Jaronko (Fairfield Health Services), Jennifer Jacobsen (BOE, government, Parent), Emma Sharp, (Fairfield Health Department), Caryn Campbell, (Fairfield Public Schools), Pamela Walker, (Fairfield Public Schools), Margaret Watt (Positive Directions) () indicates community sector.

**Welcome & Call to Order:** 8:36a.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** Steve Baker made the motion to approve the September 22<sup>nd</sup> Coalition Minutes and Phil Dwyer seconded the motion. There was no objection and/or changes so motion was unanimously approved.

**Co-Chair Update:**

Mr. Cummings welcomed everyone and announced that the new position that Cathy now holds as the Project Program Director of the grant. Cristin shared with the coalition the areas she will address today, Fundraising, and an organization to assist with the Fiduciary need, Leadership transition, and the need for all of us to consider bringing in new - Parents of Middle and High school students to help build the coalition and leverage the opportunity for them to make a difference in their children's lives and the community.

**CT's Cannabis Law – Kaitlin Comet, Program Coordinator, The Hub**

Presentation was made by Kaitlin from the Hub regarding CT's Cannabis Law. She stressed this was a draft presentation and was hoping for any feedback and thoughts once delivered. Various questions were asked and points regarding specific to help with clarification and understanding of the content

**Coalition Committees**

Review of the Coalition Committees was discussed and for reference the following folks will be the Chairs of the committees:

Data – Jennifer Jacobsen

Education/Programming – Reini Knorr

Resources/Sustainability – Phil until he takes over as co-chair

**Grant Updates - Cathy provided two resource sheets that highlighted each grants goals and objectives. Drug Free Communities (DFC)** – this is the newest grant and efforts to coordinate and set the process in place is underway. A brief review of the work plan was presented

**Local Prevention Council (LPC)** - just sent in the application paperwork related to this \$12,000 and awaiting a response. Focus on Vaping, Substance abuse – alcohol and the state will provide resources to reduce.

**Leadership Transition and Vote for Co-Chairperson –**

Cristin formally submitted her resignation – which prompted the Co-chair nominations.

Cristin made the motion to nominate Phil Dwyer and Vicki Gustavson second. Phil accepted the nomination, and a vote was taken, and all were in favor and Phil was unanimously voted in to the co-chair position.

Phil proceeded to comment on a few goals he had as a new co-chair that focused on:

1. Bylaws need to fill the vacancy
2. Raising Funds and the level of commitment from members of the Coalition to show 100%
3. Giving Day in November – way to move this fundraising effort into motion

At this point in time, there was a presentation of flowers and a framed poster of signatures to Cristin for her service and dedication to Fairfield CARES. Various coalition members shared their gratitude and notes of appreciation and love for what Cristin has given the coalition, the families and children of Fairfield.

**Announcements from Coalition Members**

Vicki Gustavson. – shared the Field of Valor event – November 7<sup>th</sup> Flags to be displayed and folks can still purchase – proceeds go to Homes of the Brave

Lori Mediate. – shared that the Public-School Health Department completed a 4-day training on DBT Skills (Didactic Behavioral Therapy – skills and tools provided to staff in addressing students with anxiety and depression will be utilized in grades 6-12 an initiative with the Health class teachers Counselors and Psychologists in the schools.

Donna Fletcher. shared the great news the SSTRY grant they had applied for, they have received. This grant will to be utilized for screening and additional adolescent efforts with the community reinforcement evidence based – approach using for 8 years as well as offering training and recovery - hope to hire recovery coaches – client will increase and help 12-24 – which will bring them into higher level drug use – so they have partner with other recovery network programs to address this concerns, but the grant expects a great deal of screening - as well as presentations and be a presence in the school

Steve Bogan – announced the Will to Live presentation on Thursday Nov 4<sup>th</sup> at the Greenfield Hill church 8pm. John Trautwein will also be presenting to both Warde and Ludlowe and all the coaches in the FCIAC.

**Adjournment – Phil** asked for a motion to adjourn, no objections and the Coalition meeting adjourned at 9:57am.

Respectfully Submitted: Leonora Campbell, Secretary

**Attachments:**