



## Fairfield CARES Community Coalition Leadership Minutes

August 2, 2021 at 8:30 am

**In Attendance:** Cristin McCarthy Vahey, Mike Cummings, Phil Dwyer, Reini Knorr, Bernadette Coppola, and Cathy Hazlett

**Call the Meeting to Order** at 8:35AM

**Approval of the July 12th Minutes:** Reini Knorr moved to accept the July Leadership minutes as amended and Phil Dwyer seconded. There were no objections and minutes as amended were unanimously approved.

**Co-Chair Update:** Mike Cummings mentioned that Dana Bossio has accepted a position with another school district; she will be missed. Cristin McCarthy Vahey commented on the importance of addressing mental health issues and having resiliency skills. Cristin also had the chance to meet with the police chief who confirmed that the department will be conducting compliance checks with the Department of Consumer Protection, Division of Liquor Control.

**Responding to the New Cannabis Law:** Leadership continued discussion on how the coalition should respond to the new cannabis law. Fairfield CARES will take a leadership role to explain the law and be a clearinghouse for information regarding the cannabis law, educate parents on the negative impact of cannabis on youth; develop talking points that articulate the risks of youth cannabis use and discuss the idea of issuing a position paper with the full coalition at the September meeting.

**Coalition Goals for FY 22:** Leadership discussed four categories of goals: 1) Fundraising/Sustainability, 2) Program, 3) Operations, and 4) Community Outreach/Advocacy

**August Coalition Meeting:** We will cancel August coalition meeting. Due to Labor Day, the next Leadership meeting will be September 13<sup>th</sup> and the coalition meeting will be Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Grant/Committee Updates:** Leadership discussed the desire to meet with the First Selectwoman and provide her with an update on coalition activity and schedule a date to present to the Board of Selectmen. We should hear the outcome of our Drug Free Communities Grant application around the end of August.

**Adjournment:** Reini Knorr made the motion to adjourn the meeting; Phil Dwyer seconded the motion; it carried unanimously. The Leadership meeting adjourned at 10:00AM.