



Fairfield CARES Community Coalition Meeting
Zoom Meeting (details below)
September 22, 2021, at 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), Coreen Ahmad (Youth Serving Org/Gov), Leonora Campbell (Parent, Community member), Steve Bogan, (Community member Volunteer) Donna Fletcher, (Child/Family Guidance), Vicki Gustafson (Kiwanis Club), Steve Baker, (PTA Council, Parent Community member), Dana Bassio (Fairfield Public Schools), Kaitlin Comet (The Hub), Dorrie Coralan (Volunteer), Alida Ward (Co-Pastor Greenfield Hill Church), Kelsey Ciarlegio (Community youth prevention), Santina Duronko (Fairfield Health Services), Jennifer Jacobsen (BOE, government, Parent), Margaret Watt (Positive Directions) () indicates community sector.

Welcome & Call to Order: 8:33am

Approval of Minutes: Phil Dwyer made the motion to approve the June 16th Coalition Minutes and Jennifer Jacobsen seconded the motion. There was no objection and/or changes so motion was unanimously approved.

Co-Chair Update:

Mr. Cummings welcomed everyone back and stated that for Cristin, this will be the last meeting as co-chair of the coalition and will be stepping back. A great deal of thanks to Cristin and know she will still be involved. In this transition phase, as New co-chair, Phil Dwyer will be stepping into that position. A full official vote will take place at the Oct 20th Coalition meeting. – Thank you, Phil!!

Cristin provided an update and shared we are waiting to hear about the DFC grant and being optimistic. Cathy is still working on the LPC grant and funding details

Substance Use of Higher Risk Student Groups: DR Survey Data & Next Steps: Cathy provided a PP presentation about the data results from the January 2021 survey. Refer to attached PowerPoint. Will help guide as we make decisions of extra work to be done.

Goals for FY22: Cathy provided a resource of the Goals for 2021-2022 for Fairfield Cares Coalition. Cristin reviewed each area briefly and the need to implement these once we hear about the grant and moving forward. Some highlighted areas - with regard specifically to outreach – with a monthly newsletter – (distribute to, PTA, church groups, BOS, BOE, Recovery Org just to mention a few). Financial Sustainability was discussed by Phil – who highlighted the need to fundraise and if you believe in a cause – you help make that cause happen, but you also need to help fund those causes, by supporting the organization. Also need to identify sooner than later a 501c3 Fairfield Organization to be the financial fiduciary partner for charitable contributions.

Advocacy Topics -What Should They Be? Discussion about the final Advocacy Policy and asked coalition members to share and consider what will the Coalition advocate for this year. There is the hope that there will be folks from the coalition involved in a Sub-committee and will discuss and decide what to take as a leadership stance on – present to the FCC Leadership and decide – then develop a statement(s). Cristin mentioned the commitment and comprehensive

approach by the town and CT government to address the overall wellbeing and mental health of youth mental and will also be advocated. Be sure to review and look at new laws and combine with efforts. Jennifer Jacobsen also mentioned the valuable assets that have been identified areas of strength and service to programs and provide to all youth. Build on and forward with these assets that we know. Not work in a silo, and try to combine efforts throughout the town and work together.

Coalition Committee Descriptions & Sign Up: Heart of the coalition work and many hands are needed. Discussion about asking members to identify their #1 and # 2 choices to be actively involved on a committee. Each committee description was discussed and the following who are the **Chairs of the committees:**

Data & Evaluation – Chaired by Jennifer Jacobsen

Educational Programming – Chaired by Reini Knorr

Resources & Sustainability – Need to recruit a chair – vacancy

Youth Committee – Chaired by Cathy

Follow-up of committee selections will be sent to all members and additional contact w/members not present will occur

Announcements from Coalition Members:

Cristin mentioned that the next October 20th meeting will be in person – future updates will be made

Jennifer Jacobsen reviewed and mentioned a training/learning opportunity with the CT Problem Gambling Association – especially with the new online gambling opportunities.

She also thanked Cristin for the volunteer and incredible effort she has brought to coalition. Thanked Phil for stepping up.

Kaitlin – The Hub – The priority report is on their website and events that are happening this month. Regional efforts and Suicide Prevention Awareness month – and QPR trainings and events to get involved. Kaitlin also thanked Cristin for all of the work she has done.

Coreen – Wakeman Boys & Girls club has over 200 teens – if you need volunteers, they are ready and willing to work. Also, if anyone wants to come in and would like to do a presentation to these students as well.

Donna Fletcher – Wanted to share that they applied for a SSTRY Grant – 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 schools. Looking to help all the regions – major task, but one that will help many and continue to support the efforts locally and would like to partner more with Fairfield Cares. Hoping to treat young people and into the teenage group. DCF funded grant and will be partner with DEMAS and working with a larger team – of folks especially Recovery coaches who can connect with youth.

Adjournment: Cristin asked for a motion to adjourn, Jennifer Jacobsen made the motion to adjourn – no objections and it carried unanimously. The Coalition meeting adjourned at 9:56am.

Respectfully Submitted: Leonora Campbell, Secretary

Attachments:

Fairfield CARES Community Coalition meeting recording has been uploaded to YouTube with the link: <https://youtu.be/YJQwZ2jBmhg> As always, links to recordings of all our meetings can be found at:

<https://www.fairfieldct.org/fairfieldcares/files> (choose category Zoom Meeting Video recordings) or on our YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXAxPbi5qfv-6I533czUEfg/playlists?view_as=subscriber