

Fairfield Cares Community Coalition
May 15, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Wendy Bentivegna, Cristin McCarthy Vahey, Michelle Walker, Tim Morris, Dorothy Timmerman, Philip Dwyer, Stephanie Moran, Nina Chanana, Leonora Campbell, Rev. Alida Ward, Ginna Paules, Denique Weidema-Lewis, Tom Mrozek, Marty Hauhuth, Pam Paulmann, Lori Mediate

Opened: The meeting was opened at 9:04am by co-chairs Wendy Bentivegna and Cristin McCarthy Vahey

Minutes: By consent the minutes of April 24, 2013 were approved

Summary of Past Activities: Wendy Bentivegna handed out a two page summary of activities covering May, 2010 to present. It was clear the group has built momentum and credibility over time.

Draft Mission Statement, Area of Focus and Sub-Committee Structure:

Mission Statement: The group reviewed the Mission statement presented by the ad hoc committee. Following discussion it was approved by consensus.

Areas of Focus: The group then addressed the Areas of Focus which were listed as:

Social Norms	Suicide Prevention
Life of an Athlete (Falcon / Mustang)	Prescription Drug Take Back / Enforcement
Improved Publicity / Communications	Parent education

Comments included that some of the areas are really strategies (social norms, was mentioned as an example) and that we should add substance use and abuse (including tobacco) as an area of focus

Sub Committee organization Structure: The conversation moved into how best to organize ourselves to accomplish the mission and goals of the organization. A proposed format was provided listing all the practical work that is done, listed under seven potential sub-committees, including:

Parent Education & Outreach	Youth Education & Outreach
Suicide Prevention	Prescription Drug Take Back / Enforcement
Publicity / Communications	Research and Resources (research, data, grants)
Co-chairs – Membership / Coalition Building; Policy and Advocacy	

Comments included:

- We can organize by target market (youth and parents) and then integrate various programs or we could organize by programs and integrate by target market.
- We should separate what is a strategy, a tactic, a program and governance issues
- While Prescription Drug Take Back is important, it is a function of the police department and thus this is more of a publicity issue.

- It was suggested that fewer committees may be in order and that we could group all activities under four main committees (two program and two governance):
 - Substance Use and Abuse activities (ATOD: Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs)
 - Mental Health (Positive Caring Environment /lifestyle) Activities
 - Development (membership and financial resources)
 - Publicity & Communications

It was agreed that the Coalition leadership will give further consideration to what areas of focus we should have and how best to organize and lead a conversation on this at the next meeting.

Updates and Announcements:

1. The group agreed to volunteer, on a rotating basis, to serve as Secretary. Philip Dwyer volunteered to write up the minutes of this meeting.
2. The Suicide mini-grant is being worked on. Following discussion it was decided the best course of action was to apply by June 1st for this \$ 2,500 grant. This grant is somewhat different. You file a request for the funds (application) and then attend training, after which you decide what activities you will engage in, from a menu of possible activities. This might be aimed at the professional development day in November.
3. Dorothy Timmerman reported on the Parent Connect Program. The group has grown slowly and this activity has proven worthwhile. Four more sessions are scheduled and then a new series will start in September. The program needs more publicity.
4. The New Social Norms posters have been distributed to the high schools and middle schools. Wendy has additional for those who need them.
5. Tom Mrozek distributed the Responsible Hosting posters to his police force and they have been posted in all Fairfield liquor stores
6. Wendy asked the group if they would like to receive an e-newsletter from Positive Directions. All agreed.
7. Tim Morris reported that Chris Herron will speak on June 17th from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. He was an NBA player whose life and career were interrupted by drugs and alcohol. He now presents to students and parents on the subject. Others reported he is an effective speaker and holds the attention of both parents and youth.
8. Leonora Campbell reported a successful presentation at Warde on understanding Teenage as a second Language, by Dr. Barbara Greenberg on May 8th.
9. Tom presented a brand Fake ID detection machine recently purchased by the police department.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 19th at 9:00am and will be the last meeting for the summer. Individuals will meet in small groups to continue the work.

Respectfully submitted
Philip Dwyer