

Fairfield Cares Community Coalition
December 17, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Wendy Bentivegna, Cristin McCarthy Vahey, Marty Hauhuth, Michelle Walker, Tim Morris, Rev. Alida Ward, Karen Parks, Denique Weidema-Lewis, Pam Paulmann, Stephanie Swist, Catherine Giff, Patsy King, Reini Knorr, Lauren Lanham

Opened: The general meeting was opened at 9:20am by co-chair Cristin Mccarthy Vahey (sub-committee discussions are captured in updates below)

Secretary: Wendy Bentivegna volunteered to take the minutes.

Minutes: By consent the minutes of November 19, 2014 were approved

2015 Meeting Schedule:

The 2015 calendar year meeting schedule was approved with meetings scheduled for the 3rd Wednesday of the month with the following exceptions: we will meet the Wednesday after April break-April 22nd and we will skip August and schedule two meetings in September : 9/9 & 9/30. Approved schedule attached. At this point the meetings are scheduled for Sullivan Independence Hall but we will investigate other options with more space, including the newly opened Beanery.

FOI & Standards of Conduct:

Coalition members were asked to review FOI and Standards of conduct documents and instructed to direct specific questions regarding FOI to Karen Parks. Recognize that FC is a public group.

Leadership Election:

Pam P nominated Cristin and Wendy to continue as Co-Chairs of Fairfield Cares; Catherine G. seconded, and all approved.

High School Funding Requests:

The coalition reviewed the high school funding requests and agreed that the requested funding would be put to good use, but will hold off on making allocation decisions until a meeting can be had with the middle school representatives to determine their funding needs. Wendy and Cristin will schedule a meeting with all school reps (pta and administrative liasons) in early January (prior to coalition meeting on 1/21). Funding decisions back on agenda for January.

FWHS PTA has several dates on their program calendar but needs to know what other programs are happening (especially how 2nd semester senior health students will receive the college student speakers as this will impact design of transition program -parents only or parents/students) and what funds they will be getting. Two dates & tentative topics to note are:

March 16-healthy relationships

April 22-transition to college program.

Sub Committee Updates:

A. Wellness:

QPR:

- Looking at 2 potential Sundays for delivering QPR to Wakeman youth: 1/25 and 2/8
- Two presentations to youth on same night at two venues with Cristin/Alida leading one and Lauren/Wendy leading the other. Waiting to hear back from Wakeman.
- Alida reaching out to Jenn Campbell at First Church to inquire about their interest in offering QPR for youth.
- Denique will set aside 80 QPR booklets for Wakeman training.

Stress Reduction & Mindfulness:

- Options for reducing stress- send out link to 3-5 minute guided meditation
- Stop Breathe & Think app for kids
- Linda Love at Warde runs mindfulness meditation group class weekly

Substance Abuse:

- Strong interest in using/adapting Marijuana Tool Kit for parents, created by Croton Community Coalition
- Exploring costs associated with modifying/customizing.
- Discussed creative ways to disseminate information (less costly than mailing postcards): hand-outs, outs, electronic communications, FaceBook page etc...
- Karen Parks offered Peach Jar as option for sharing information
- Explore middle school interest in getting MADD parent program ; perhaps at PTA meetings
- Discussion on best way to get information presented to parents (beyond disseminating printed info or electronic means)- sponsor tea, attend book groups etc...conversation to be continued

Announcements:

- Stephanie received permission for a spring assembly on healthy and unhealthy relationships with the RAFT group and some sports teams

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 21, 2015, with Sub-Committee's at 8:30am and the full meeting at 9:15am.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45am

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Bentivegna