

# Fairfield Cares Community Coalition

## September 30, 2015 Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:** Wendy Bentivegna, Cristin McCarthy Vahey, Lisa Mason, John Daviau, Jenn Jacobsen, Andrea Leonardi, Nina Chanana, Joanne Ryan, Karin Shaughnessy, Dana Hilmer, Basil Hero, Jennifer Barahona, Karen Parks, Lori Mediate, Denique Weidema-Lewis, Tim Morris, Amanda Romaniello, Beth Kelly, Michelle Walker, Janice Kessler, Reini Knorr, Alida Ward, Cheryll Houston, Stephanie Swist, Philip Dwyer

**Opened:** The general meeting was opened at 8:30 am by co-chair Cristin McCarthy Vahey , followed by introductions around the room of current and new coalition members

**Minutes:** By consent, the June 23, 2015 meeting minutes were approved.

### **Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF):**

John Daviau, along with Lisa Mason, of the DMHAS Training and technical Assistance Center (TTASC) provided an introduction and overview of the 5 step SPF process that the coalition will be going through under the new CSC grant. (Summary sheet attached)

The 5 steps include:

- Community Needs Assessment
- Capacity building
- Planning
- Implementation
- Evaluation

A smaller work group of 7 coalition members has been designated as the Steering committee to help guide the process. This group will meet outside of the coalition meeting and report back to the members at our monthly coalition meetings. Committee includes: Wendy, Cristin, Karen Parks, Archie Swindell (evaluator), Nina, Denique and Chris Tracey (Fairfield Fire Department)

### **Key Informant Interview Process:**

- As part of the information gathering phase of the needs assessment qualitative data will be gathered through interviews with individuals identified as Key Informants (KII). Coalition members wrote their suggestions, including specific names as well as categories of individuals to interview, on index cards, which were collected during the meeting.
- Members were also asked to sign up to conduct interviews

- Interviewers will receive a list of questions and a guidance sheet and will provide typed summaries of their interview responses to Wendy. Additionally, a survey monkey link for inputting the responses is in development.

#### **Local Prevention Council (LPC) Grant:**

LPC funds allocation over the past 3 years was reviewed and a request was made for 2-3 volunteers to form a sub-committee to recommend allocation for the upcoming year and complete the grant application. RYASAP confirmed that the LPC funds for 2015-16 had increased to \$7,111. LPC allocation funding summary sheet attached.

#### **Identification of Potential Coalition Members:**

Coalition members were asked to identify missing stakeholders that we should reach out to. Suggestions were collected on index cards. Physicians, youth and a local business representative were identified as key missing stakeholders.

#### **Suicide Prevention Update:**

Fairfield Cares developed a suicide prevention banner using the “One Voice” campaign and included logos from the Fairfield police, fire and health departments as well as RYASAP. The banner was hung over the town green for the last two weeks in September in support of suicide awareness month.

#### **Additional Announcements:**

- First annual Mental Health Breakfast at Bigelow Center for Senior Activities on Tuesday October 6<sup>th</sup> at 8am. Fairfield Cares will be featured and Cristin is guest speaker. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- Medical Marijuana speaker and conversation today at 11:45am at Norwalk City Hall
- MADD Walk at FLHS on Saturday October 24. Fairfield Cares has attended planning meetings and has partnered to connect youth groups with the MADD walk manager, Jennifer Owen. Wendy and Jennifer presented at the Town Youth Council meeting on 9/21; resulting in formation of teams from FWHS and FLHS. We are also meeting with interested FLHS SADD students.
- In recognition of Wellness month, NAMI and SWRMHB are promoting get your “Check-up from the neck-up” in conjunction with other wellness events, including flu clinics around Fairfield county. GO to: [healthymindsct.org](http://healthymindsct.org) for full listing of events/flyer.

