

## TNP Coalition Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2022

Via Zoom

**Attendees:** Margaret Watt (Positive Directions / TNP leadership / parent), Nina Chanana (project evaluator), Edward Milton (TeenTalk counselor at NHS), Denique Weidema-Lewis (Norwalk ACTS / TNP leadership), Lisa Scher Gregory (Norwalk Hospital), Frank Castorina (Positive Directions), Nick Hoffman (Keystone House), Mai Kader (Beacon Health), Marilyn Moreau (Community Action Agency of Western CT), Ginger Katz (Courage to Speak Foundation / TNP leadership), Kelley Tomlinson (Norwalk Health Dept), Diamond Sead (Human Services Council school-based health centers / TNP leadership / parent), Nicole Hampton (woman in recovery & parent, candidate for elected office), Dajuan Wiggins (Youth Business Initiative), Dave Walencyk (Youth Services Bureau), Cadence Pentheny (Triangle Community Center), Rebecca Oliveira (TNP coalition coordinator), Daniella Arias (The Hub), Jahliah Green, Victoria Pereira (Mid-Fairfield Community Care Center), Jim Martinez (Norwalk Public Schools), Anthony DiLauro (Human Services Council), Aniella Fignon (Norwalk Health Dept) **Absent:** AnaVivian Estrella & Tory Sullivan (TNP leadership team)

1. Welcome – Margaret asked everyone to introduce themselves in the chat.
  - a. New members were asked to introduce themselves in person: Mai Kader, Beacon Health
2. Updates
  - a. Norwalk Youth Survey
    - Rebecca shared that the 2022 survey is currently underway! Schools are taking it this week through next Monday. See [survey FAQ here](#).
    - Margaret shared [this instructional video two youth members made that is being used to introduce Norwalk Public School youth prior to taking the survey](#). The youth developed the video themselves. The video has subtitles in Spanish. Topics include confidentiality, what the data is used for, options to skip questions, time to complete and importance of the data.
      1. Coalition members had positive reactions to the video.
        - Fantastic, welcoming, makes you want to take the survey
      2. Ginger asked about sharing the data with the Family Center.
        - We will be presenting at multiple locations and for multiple community partners. In January the data will be presented to the BOE, school Principals, and assistant principals. School administrators will identify how to get data back to their faculty/staff. At the end of January we are presenting to the full coalition and community partners during our regular TNP meeting time at the Norwalk Library. There will be other presentations for parents.
      3. Youth members will be assisting us in developing a presentation for sharing the data with their peers.
      4. Cadence is currently providing LGBTQ training at the elementary school level and many faculty/staff are not aware of the TNP data – we will work with them to get the new data to this population.
        - Denique – initially had been presented to all school principals and they were very engaged and interested. A prime opportunity to engage them in this work.
      5. In February data is being presented to all school Health Teachers at a professional development day.
      6. Ed Milton – glad to see the messages around the importance of the data and how it has guided the programming. Just as important as the data itself. GUIDES THE PROGRAMMING IN OUR COMMUNITY.
      7. Margaret shared this [brief video from the TNP website that shows what we learned from the last round of survey data](#). The clips are also being posted on social media.

8. Nina mentioned the difficulty other communities are having with administration due to polarized groups, parents, etc. Norwalk has done a good job of working with all our community partners to continue administering the survey.
  - b. Freshman Forum – Trying to schedule. Waiting on a postponed meeting with high school principals which Jim is coordinating. Very excited to have this programming especially for the transitions. Margaret asked providers if they would be able to pull together in time for an early December date, since November seems unlikely.
    - Dave commented on how busy December is, might want to wait until January after break (folks busy, lots going on).
    - Margaret is concerned that January runs into the time that we're doing all our data presentations, plus we want kids to get info in their first semester. Also worried that if we don't get a date this year it will not happen (similar to last year).
    - Jim was able to join late and stated that the principals can support doing it either right before or right after Thanksgiving.
    - **ACTION:** Margaret will email everyone to get moving on planning for that time frame. Please let her know if you want to have a table at the prevention & wellness fair aspect or be involved as a presenter. [mwatt@positivedirections.org](mailto:mwatt@positivedirections.org)
  - c. Trainings – Denique discussed that we would like to create an inventory of what is available to the community in terms of trainings, professional development etc. Currently there is a lot and on a myriad of topics (Kelly – suicide prevention, TNP – on website, Norwalk ACTS). It would be prudent to consolidate these listings so people know where they can go and have more collaboration across agencies. This will provide people with a clear understanding of what is available.
    - **ACTION:** In order to accomplish this in a short amount of time we are hosting a short-term action group so we can get this finished before Thanksgiving. There will be 2 meetings and folks will be asked to do some pre-work: Nov 4<sup>th</sup>, 9-10am and Nov 15<sup>th</sup> 11am-12. Let Denique know if you want to participate: [dlewis@norwalkacts.org](mailto:dlewis@norwalkacts.org)
3. Focus on marijuana
    - a. Emerging issues: Nina shared a short presentation on emerging trends including nicotine pouches, cannabinoids (Delta-8, Delta-10, HHC), and candy-colored fentanyl. This was also information on illegal sales in CT.
    - b. *Johnny's Ambassadors* curriculum – Margaret explained the *Johnny's Ambassadors* curriculum (which some members are trained in) and shared that Laura Stack (the founder) is presenting virtually tonight. All members were encouraged to attend. RSVP at [www.thenorwalkpartnership.org/events](http://www.thenorwalkpartnership.org/events)
      - Students were trained to deliver this program and in November they will be presenting the information to Health classes at Norwalk High Schools.
      - **ACTION:** Members were invited to get trained in the curriculum and be able to present to others in the community. Let Margaret know: [mwatt@positivedirections.org](mailto:mwatt@positivedirections.org)
4. Sustainability
    - a. Diamond discussed the City grant that HSC receives in addition to the Local Prevention Coalition (LPC) grant. The City grant is about \$16,000 per year, which covers part of Diamond's salary allowing her to provide the SMART Teens weekly group, do trainings, work with the coalition, etc., since the state LPC money only provides \$1400 for staff time but includes other prevention deliverables.
      - This year, the City has not yet approved the grant, so the first quarter of Diamond's time has been donated by HSC.
      - Please consider what the most effective and efficient way we can use these funds? Eg. Share mailings, trainings et. In general the funding is not sustainable.
    - b. Suggestion: Does Philip Morris moving to Stamford provide opportunities for funding?
    - c. Norwalk was allocated \$26.5K from the national opioid settlement. Where is that money going and how will it be used? **ACTION:** Ask Lamond?

5. Announcements:

- a. Drug Take Back Day, Saturday October 29<sup>th</sup> at Norwalk Police Department
  - b. Courage to Speak at Roton MS Nov 2, PTech Nov 4<sup>th</sup>, Courageous Parenting at NCC for nursing students Nov 7<sup>th</sup>
  - c. This is Rebecca's last week on the job!
6. Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 12-1pm via Zoom