**Minutes of Coalition Meeting held January 26, 2022**

**Present:** Denique Weidema-Lewis (Norwalk ACTS & TNP leadership), Jim Martinez (NPS & TNP leadership), Tory Sullivan (NPS & TNP leadership), Ginger Katz (Courage to Speak Foundation & TNP leadership), Nina Chanana (TNP evaluator), Nicole Hampton (person in recovery & parent), Maggie Young (Liberation Programs), Edson Rivas & Cadence Pentheny (Triangle Community Center), Aniella Fignon & Megan Faugno (Norwalk Health Dept), Vanessa Wilson (Positive Directions), Amy Jeffereis (Family & Children’s Agency), Sabine Romsaint (Odyssey Learning Center), Mai Kader (Regional Network of Care Manager, Beacon Health Options), Chanda Brodnax-Nino (EMS), Jeff Santo (RIPPLE), Anamilena Moreno (Norwalk ACTS), Mireiya Mayorga (Norwalk CHC), Jennifer Rollinson (NPS), Nicole Wichowski (MADD), Daniela Arias (The Hub), Staci Peete (Norwalk Hospital), Michelle Barker, Jahliah Green, Dajuan Wiggins (Youth Business Institute & parent), Jodi Giorlando (CT Counseling Centers), Diana Revolus (Ase Kreationz & Common Council & parent), Gail Melanson (Mid-Fairfield Child Guidance), Claudia Pierrette (FCA), Margaret Watt (Positive Directions & parent), Diamond Sead (Human Services Council & parent) , Katie Gallo (media rep & parent), Rebecca Oliveira (Positive Directions)

NPS guests: Sandra Faoies (NPS Asst Superintendent of Operations), Qadir Abdus-Salaam (BMHS), Megan Snyder (CGS), Sam Yurman (PTECH)

1. Introductions & Announcements were made in the chat
   * Margaret welcomed new visitors, including several from the schools, and reviewed our mission and role as a community coalition.
   * Welcome to our new project coordinator, Rebecca Oliveira, a recent SHU grad currently enrolled in a Master’s for criminal justice. She can be reached at [roliveira@positivedirections.org](mailto:roliveira@positivedirections.org)
   * Welcome to our new Media sector rep, Katie Gallo. Katie is a Norwalk resident with a 7 year old at Naramake and has her own marketing firm, Daydream Communications. If you receive The Hub’s weekly behavioral health blog post, then you are familiar with Katie’s great work in behavioral health!
2. Reviewed agenda & minutes.
3. Highlighted Recent Coalition Accomplishments
   * Our prevention clubs have started in both high schools. The teens will run awareness tables in each high school building during all lunch waves each month, focusing on different topics. In January: vaping.
   * Our parent newsletter is being disseminated by school district each month – we issue it in English and Spanish and coalition members receive it through our blog posts. Please share with your networks! Back issues can be found at thenorwalkpartnership.org/parents and thenorwalkpartnership.org/espanol. **Thanks to the many agencies collaborating to provide information and resources!** While TNP takes the lead on producing and coordinating it, each month we invite guest writers; feature a resource of the month; include an LGBTQ corner due to the importance of that community; etc. We include mental health and substance use info and resources aimed at parents supporting their families.
   * Parent presentations: We offered two online evening events this month aimed at educating families about what our youth survey found; what they can do to support their kids’ mental health and prevent substance use; and raise their awareness about resources in the community and schools. We anticipated turnout would be low, so we recorded the presentations and they can be found on the TNP website on the relevant pages (mental health, substance, resources, Spanish). **Thanks to the agencies collaborating to put these together: Alateen, Child and Family Guidance, Kids in Crisis, Mid-Fairfield Child Guidance, Norwalk ACTS, Positive Directions, Triangle Community Center and more!**
   * Silver Hill Hospital: We thank SHH for the presentation they did for Norwalk families earlier this month.
   * Legislative forum on cannabis: Our recent legislative forum successfully brought prevention, youth services, treatment, recovery, health, and community advocates together from Westport and Norwalk, with coordination from Positive Directions, to educate the entire legislative delegation from both towns about today’s marijuana, the new law, and the areas of change that are needed. Please see the recordings and slides on our website.
   * Discussed marijuana call to action! Ordinance hearing coming up to vote on a moratorium on sales. Please join our marijuana committee meeting to discuss.
4. Focus on Vaping – Please see slideshow
   * Trends and feedback from youth
   * Report from Schools & SRO
   * Discuss options along the continuum of prevention strategies including recommendations from our Norwalk Strong teen clubs
   * Identify next steps
5. Upcoming Dates - RSVP to Rebecca at [roliveira@positivedirections.org](mailto:roliveira@positivedirections.org) for Zoom
   * TNP marijuana/vaping committee: Thurs. Feb. 3rd, 4-5pm
   * TNP alcohol committee: Wed. Feb. 9th 3-4pm
   * ORDINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING: **February 15, 2022 at 7pm**
   * NEXT COALITION MEETING: **February 23, 2022 from 2-3:30pm (same Zoom as above)**