**Minutes of Coalition Meeting Held November 18, 2020**

**Present:** Denique Weidema-Lewis, Norwalk ACTS; Jim Martinez, Norwalk Public Schools; Maria Escalera, Norwalk Human Services; Tory Sullivan, BMHS; Ginger Katz, Courage to Speak Foundation; Dave Walencyk, Youth Services; Peter King, Alateen; Kelsey Ciarleglio, High Focus Centers; Daniella Arias, The Hub; Nicole Hampton, Community Care Team and parent; Jessica Minieri & Shamariah Grant (Norwalk Hospital); Erika Keyes, Mid-Fairfield Child Guidance; Ed Milton, Kids in Crisis/Teen Talk; Anthony DiLauro, Human Services Council & NPS parent; Diamond Sead, Human Services Council/School-Based Health Centers & NPS parent; Pat Tinto, communications consultant; Sgt David Orr, Norwalk Police Dept; Eve St Surin, Community Action Agency of Western CT; Neal Brodsky, LMFT; Margaret Watt, Positive Directions and NPS parent; Laila McGeorge, TNP Prevention Intern; Nina Chanana, TNP Evaluator

1. Introductions were made
2. **Featured topic:** Mental Health & Anxiety in Our Youth. In response to the most requested item on our coalition survey in October, Nina & Laila gave a presentation on trends in youth mental health, including local data from the 2018 youth survey in Norwalk, the focus groups we conducted in October, and provider input shared ahead of the meeting. Diamond discussed options to address some of these concerns over the holidays. Longer-term planning will be informed by the results of our community and youth surveys.
3. **Coalition Update:** Margaret provided an update on the work we are undertaking and how community members can help.

* TNP data collection:
  + Community/parent survey: Has been drafted with member input
  + Youth survey: Superintendent is supportive and has discussed in meetings with Norwalk ACTS
* Alcohol:
  + Based on our workgroup meeting, we will be focusing on education & support related to the risks of alcohol and the social host law. This will include a [Liquor sticker](http://southingtonsteps.org/steps-liquor-stickers/) campaign aimed at parents followed by a [#mentionprevention](https://milfordprevention.org/mentionprevention/) campaign, both conducted through alcohol retailers. We want to make sure we provide community support for police enforcement of the Social Host Law.
* Marijuana:
  + Our strategic focus will be on youth & parental attitudes toward marijuana and increasing the perception of harm.
  + Uphill battle due to legalization efforts, “medical” MJ dispensary
  + We recommend that our next coalition meeting focus on marijuana to educate the members so we are all on the same page
* Website:
  + We are working on a website that will be published soon!

1. **Action Steps:**

* We are looking for help to translate & disseminate our community/parent survey
* Subgroup will meet to finalize plans and get approvals for youth survey
* We will be sharing a Coalition Involvement Agreement
* Please help spread work of our new coalition and invite those who are interested

1. Announcements:

* Giovanna gave an update from The Hub
* We will not meet as a coalition in December due to the holidays. The alcohol/marijuana workgroup will meet; let Margaret know if interested.
* Next meeting: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 from 2-3:30pm focused on marijuana.
* Happy holidays!