

TNP Coalition Minutes of Meeting Held 11/29/23 (Virtual)

Present: Margaret Watt, Nina Chanana, Julie Foy (Odyssey Learning), Cadence Pentheny (Triangle Community Center), Mai Kader (Mid Fairfield Community Care Center), Jake Tejada (Norwalk Strong club president-BMHS/CGS), Nicole Hampton (High Focus Centers & parent), Shari Van Ness (Health Dept), Chitra Suresh (Kids in Crisis), Brian Weeks (Health Dept), Anthony Certo (Norwalk Strong club), Adrianna Romero (Norwalk Strong club), Dayna Macari (Positive Directions), Tory Sullivan (health & PE teacher), Jessica Vivencio (Family & Children's Agency), Ginger Katz (Courage to Speak Foundation), Dave Walenczyk (Norwalk Youth Services), Yohana Ramirez (Youth Business Initiative), Diana Revolus (Ase Kreationz & parent), Officer Justin Cullmer (NPD), Shaaron Sinvilcin (Norwalk ACTS), Jodi Kingsley (CT Counseling Centers), Dyan Somerville (Norwalk Strong club president-NHS and PTECH), Eve St. Surin (Community Action Agency), Anamilena Morena (Norwalk ACTS), Diamond Sead (HSC & parent)

1. Welcome & Intros (pls use the chat; if you're new, we'll invite you to introduce yourself verbally)
 - a. Officer Cullmer, part of the Behavioral Health division, 2 full time social workers on staff, able to connect residents to more appropriate resources. Also contract with Liberation Programs - connect anyone who needs substance misuse support - immediate resources are provided.
 - o Diana - worried about residents who are on Angel Dust; problems outside of marijuana and alcohol. Officer Cullmer - focus on issues case by case and helps to have social workers on staff as many mistrust police officers. Suggests she call patrol immediately.
 2. Chitra Suresh, Kids in Crisis Counselor at BMHS since October 2022.
 3. Julie Foy, ED at Odyssey Family Center
 4. Shari VanNess, Norwalk Health Department,
5. Norwalk Strong update - teens shared their poster campaign & discussed upcoming 8th grade assembly. "We are so excited to show all the 8th graders what we have done." We will also have a table set up at lunch time (at the Middle School) with information on vaping which includes an interactive guessing game. Want to educate on vaping and promote the club. Also have an upcoming Teen nights out will be a bowling night on 12/15.
 - o No Vape November - focus on voice, athletes
 - o Promoting the Yale quick vaping promo
 - o There are posters for all bathrooms at MS and HS ("Some people come in here to put crap in their bodies")
6. Coalition Update - please see attached **summary** of work since last month & bring any questions or comments
 - o Aim is to use 7 strategies in our work (e.g. providing information, provide trainings, etc.) In the past month we have done a lot of different trainings.
 - o Liquor control will publish results on retailers who are found to sell to minors. Norwalk PD also does alcohol retail compliance checks regularly. TNP tries to publish a 'thank you' to those who pass compliance.

- Officer Cullmer suggest reporting any locations that are known to be serving underage youth. Either report on tips line (anonymous) or call directly.
 - Nicole mentioned the neon flashing sign located at 25 Van Zandt. They are actively trying to recruit a grower to that location. MW does not think the cannabis laws about advertising products as they are marketing retail space. Brian Weeks - good to know these things, unfortunate that they are figuring out ways to skirt the laws.
7. Sector Data Sharing - Norwalk Health Department. Where are hot spots in terms of substance use incidents? Past month: 106 overdose incidents in Fairfield County. 13 in Norwalk; 3 fatalities in Norwalk. Also 3 OD's (not fatal) in Nwk just in the last week. (SOURCE: OD MAP, not a perfect data set)
- Brian's ER data updated as of October: Mostly 06854 (SoNo) - males, 25-44yo for opioids - African/American has the highest rate
8. Discussion of proposed initiatives:
- Drop-in events near town hotspots - where are some of the hotspots in City where substances are used? Idea of popup events where TNP and other providers can have liquor stickers, narcan, resources guides, parenting guides ready to distribute. Looking for ways to reach community members/parents where they are at.
 - i. "Better safe than sorry"- officers on the road are always using Narcan
 - Legislative forum - January 11th at 9am - tentative topics:
 - i. Funding for prevention
 - ii. Funding / enforcement related to compliance
 - iii. Flavored vapes
 - Putting a committee together to make recommendations around all these funds that are coming in; We want our children to grow up in safe communities. Environment - "a billion and one alcohol stores, vape shops" - Angel dust - people are scared to be around it
 - Next Teen Night Out: December 15
 - Screenagers event