**The Norwalk Partnership**

**Meeting Minutes**

**March 27, 2024**

**Attendees:** Jodi Kingsley (CT Counseling Centers), Cadence Pentheny (Triangle Community Center), Noelle Swift (MADD), Brian Weeks (Norwalk Health Department), Dave Walencz (Norwalk Youth Services), Anthony Certo (Norwalk Strong), Vivian Balacz (Norwalk Strong), AnaVivian Estrella (City of Norwalk), Chanelle Campbell (Norwalk Community Health Center), Jess Vivenzio (Family & Children’s Agency), Shaaron Sinvilcin (Norwalk ACTS), Jake Tejada (Norwalk Strong club), Paul Reinhard (New Canaan Parent Support Group), Officer Justin Cullmer (Norwalk Police Department), Daniel Cicero (Norwalk Hospital – Community Support Program), Diamond Sead (HSC, School Based Health Center), Nina Chanana (TNP project evaluator), Hiba Nbou (Prevention Corps member), Margaret Watt (Positive Directions)

**Introductions:**

New members introduced themselves -

* Chanelle – Norwalk Community Health
* Hiba – Prevention Corps
* Paul Reinhard – New Canaan Parent Support Group (for those who have lost a loved one to overdose)
* Noelle Swift – MADD, new Program Specialist
* Vivian – Norwalk Strong club at CGS/BMHS

**Coalition Activities:**

a. Highlights of past month

* Wellness Fair at NHS/PTECH (14 providers, 4 student-run tables, almost 400 teens attended)
* Updated teen-created resource videos
* Teen awareness tables at both high schools during lunch (most attendance -over 300 youth came to the table)
* FCA organized a virtual conversation about “parenting in a complex age” – several TNP member agencies were invited as panelists, great discussions
* Marijuana Committee met to discuss materials to provide to the new retailer in town
* Teen Nights Out – planned next 4 events: 4/5/24 Talent Show + Games and Silent Disco; 4/19/24 mini golf; + 2 others in May
* NorWALK for mental health committee is meeting regularly; held fundraiser at Panera (raised $325)
* Provided Narcan training to NPS nurses
* Provided suicide posters for schools
* Working on DFC grant proposal, due 4/17

b. Cannabis Support

* Fine Fettle – 1st adult use location in Norwalk opened last week; Margaret met with the Store Manager and Inventory Manager twice; they will display 2 of TNP’s posters – “Cannabis: What You Need to Know” & “Educating Your Kids about Cannabis” (in English and Spanish); Fairfield County Medical Association has also added their logo to the posters and is sending to over 1000 medical offices
* Billboard – Fine Fettle still has their illegal billboard in Norwalk; they have been asked to remove it multiple times; Attorney General has now brought Fine Fettle in and said they have to remove it.
* Posters & Poison Control Cards – got updated PC cards and posters for members to take and distribute
* Goal is to put signs in public spaces that you cannot use tobacco, cannabis, vapes

c. Alcohol Awareness Month Support

* If They Had Known – 30 minute file; true story of death of Clay Soper’s by mixing alcohol and Xanax. Positive Directions is making the streaming link to the film available for April through June to local families. RSVP to get the link at positivedirections.org/events
* Tables at HS – Alcohol awareness tables at HS (Norwalk Strong clubs)
* Talk. They Hear You- 30 and 60 second PSAs that TNP will circulate throughout the month of April
* For agencies – Liquor stickers, social host cards, parent postcards and MADD parent resource guides available for members to distribute

d. Mental Health Awareness Month/National Prevention Week

* May Walk + Wellness Fair – May 4, 33 groups with activity tables; agency sign up provided
* Lawn signs are here and asking members to sign up for distribution throughout the City

e. Video Project

* Short videos that TNP has made in the past – sharing resources, substance prevention, Prevention Corps, School-based resources. Updating videos through Norwalk Strong
* Looking for volunteers for video series – idea is to pull together 1-minute “the more you know” type of videos that we can all participate in to engage /educate parents and community members, as parent turnout is consistently low at both in person and virtual meetings. Everyone can make video(s) based on information familiar to us.
  + Dissemination Ideas:
    - Emily Morgan – NPS communications – pull into discussion on school communication to parents
    - Parent Square; Student Square – you can put videos on both
    - Norwalk Community Health – TVs in the lobby
  + Will form an ad hoc committee to begin discussions and planning. Interested members: Dan, Vivian, Brian, Hiba, Anthony, Jake, Cadence, Noelle, Jody, Dave, Justin, AnaVivian, Margaret, Jess, Shaaron, Nina

f. Social-Emotional Health Initiative, convened by Norwalk ACTS

* SEH’s current goal is to have youth-serving groups/organizations in Norwalk (e.g., scouts, youth ministers, coaches, mentors, after-school programs) commit to a Standard of Care, whereby they will work to have all their adults trained in a set of competencies that the SEH group has identified. These competencies (mental health, QPR, de-escalation, prevention messaging, LGBTQ competence, restorative practices, etc.) will allow youth-serving adults to truly serve as the trusted adults to the youth they work with. Norwalk ACTS will provide 1-2 annual Days of Training to this end.
* Please reach out to anyone who works with youth and let them about this opportunity that is free to them. First upcoming Day of Training will be on June 18th.
* Norwalk Acts, Community Mindfulness Project, March 28 at 12; still can register

Feature Presentation by Brian Weeks, Epidemiologist, City of Norwalk Health Department

* Norwalk Substance use Emergency Department Visits Overview for the Norwalk Partnership Meeting; Data on substance use and mental health.
* Please see attached slides