

TNP Coalition Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2023

Via Zoom

Attendees:

Daniella Arias (The Hub), Nina Chanana (TNP Program Coordinator), AnaVivian Estrella (Norwalk Public Schools), Ben Fitzgerald (TNP, Prevention Corps), Sofia Gulino (Norwalk Police Department), Nicole Hampton (High Focus Centers), Libby Huerta (Norwalk Public Library), Ginger Katz (Courage to Speak Foundation), Dayna Macari (TNP), JoAnn Malinowski (NPS Health Centers), Mireiya Mayorga (Norwalk Community Health Center), Ed Milton (Teen Talk, NPS), Vicki Oatis (Norwalk Public Library), Cadence Pentheny (Triangle Community Center), Diana Revolus (City Council), Jennifer Rolinson, Eve St Surin (CAAWC), Kelley Tomlinson (Norwalk Health Department), David Walenczyk (Youth Services Advisory Board), Margaret Watt (TNP Co-Chair), Denique Weidema-Lewis (Norwalk ACTS), Dajuan Wiggins (Youth Business Initiative).

. **Introductions** from new members or members who have not attended in a while: Cadency Pentheny (TCC)

a. **Updates:**

. Education Report

1. Ginger updated on Courage to Speak parenting presentations and youth trainings (Sunny's story). On 5/25 at 5pm there is a Spanish presentation at the NPS Family Center.
2. Ben & Dayna coordinated a Hidden in Plain Sight training for participants of the ASPIRE training program (10 participants in total). Great group, super interactive and participants were very interested.
 1. A similar event in SPANISH was rescheduled to 5/17
3. Overdose Awareness and Narcan training on 5/12, 4pm at Positive Directions. Ben has also done some Opioid awareness presentations at Norwalk Community College.
4. Mental Health and Substance Use session at NPS Family Center. Small turnout but good information.
5. MADD – Power of Parents presentation on 4/24. Good training which was recorded if anyone wants to view
6. QPR Suicide Prevention trainings:
 1. Free for Norwalk teens, May 1, 4-5:30 at The Hive
 2. Trainings offered monthly 1st Wednesday, 6-7:30 and 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 9-10:30am
7. Margaret and Diamond did at 'Sport Prevention and Wellness' session which is a EBP training curriculum– 1 hour conversation based on marketing principles. If anyone has a group that would be interested let TNP know.
 1. AnaVivian is interested in adding this training to the summer youth employment training as a module. Consider providing groups of kids that are part of a program (job training, internships, etc.)
 2. Vicki – 'Volunteens' program
 3. Dave – middle school peer support members
8. Today's Marijuana – What Parents Need to Know at Norwalk Public Library, 4/26 at 7pm at Norwalk public library.

About Us: Our coalition seeks diverse representation from the many cultures and groups that make up Norwalk, including youth and families, individuals in recovery, schools, community and volunteer groups, municipal services, business, faith-based groups, treatment providers, law enforcement, and others.

We are funded by the federal **Drug-Free Communities** grant to **Positive Directions** and the state's **Local Prevention Council** grant to the **Human Services Council**.

Communications

1. Kelley updated us on recent meetings with TNP, NPS and Health Department on how we can best streamline and promote communications and messaging around substance use prevention esp. around marijuana as new retail stores are opening. How best to utilize communication opportunities and highlighting resources. There is the power of social media which can be used by all TNP members but looking at ways to go further in terms of reach. Also discussed the need to have some cannabis related DMHAS materials translated into additional languages.
1. Also talked to NPS about communications with schools and how to send messages when substance use events occur on school property.

Mental Health Awareness Month & National Prevention Week. Denique & Dayna:

2. NorWALK for Mental Health – May 6, 9-12pm
 - o Will be “Bigger and better!”
 - o 38 organizations and groups are tabling as part of the fair and there will be a farmers' market. Teens and Mayors will speak at the event.
 - o Event is being framed around 8 dimensions of wellness (more than just social, emotional health).
3. Mental Health Month Calendar of Activities - Already have 12 offerings on the calendar and still adding.
 - o Let Denique know if you have anything to add. If anyone is interested in being part of the wellness fair or activities let her know.
4. National Prevention Week - Dayna updated on current programming plans.
 - o Will use Social media to promote.
 - o At BHS and NHS, alcohol awareness tables this week and next. Students will see data from youth surveys as it is shared via slides on screens that are located in the cafeterias.

Teen Nights Out - Dayna

1. Bowling Teens night out – 34 teens participated and loved it (about 60 had signed up.) Had a lot of food and everything went well. Getting good feedback from participants.
2. Please promote the event this Friday, 5/28 at SONO Ice House, 7-9pm. The Mayor plans to attend for a photo.
3. Wheels to You – please promote this transportation service for any youth who need a ride (\$2). Coalition discussed adding this to the registration page to streamline process

Police Sector –Sergeant Gulino

1. NPD will be at NorWALK for Mental Health
2. Looking at developing hour-long weekly training sessions for NPS parents in the upcoming school year around what they need to know. Would survey parents on topics.
3. Met with churches in town who serve many Spanish speaking community members and these are parents that would most likely not attend other community/school meetings.
4. Diana encouraged inclusion of the Creole community.
5. NPD is now fully staffed and hopefully they can attend TNP meetings. Also adding back School Resource Officers into the folks at schools.

a. **Sector MOAs – Dayna will be contacting members to resubmit MOAs.**

b. **Next meeting:** May will be our annual meeting held in person at the library, 12-1:30pm; there will be no meeting in June.