

TNP Coalition Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2023
At Norwalk Public Library

Attendees: Daniella Arias (The Hub); Nicol Ayers (SAVE Inc); Jennifer Barahona, Barbara Beaujour, Maria Kougioumtzidis, Anamilena Moreno, Denique Weidema-Lewis (Norwalk ACTS); Yenesys Brito, Dajuan Wiggins (Youth Business Initiative); Chrissy Cacace, Vanessa Cortes, Katerina Masilameni, Daisy Velez (Family & Children's Agency); Nina Chanana (TNP Project Evaluator); MJ Chironna (Community Member); Daniel Cicero (Norwalk Hospital); Marge Costa (Norwalk Education Foundation); Amanda DeMane, Kirina Gair-MacMichael (Norwalk Grassroots Tennis); AnaVivian Estrella (City of Norwalk); LaToya Fernandez (City of Norwalk DEI officer); Jodi Giorlando (CT Counseling Centers); Jahliah Green (Health Department); Nicole Hampton (TNP member/parent); Ginger Katz (Courage to Speak); Douglas Lausten (In Tempo); Marissa Mangone (Mid-Fairfield Community Care Center); Jim Martinez (Norwalk Public Schools); Ed Milton, Corina Restrepo (Kids in Crisis); Vicki Oatis (Norwalk Public Library); Cadence Pentheny (Triangle Community Center); Jasmine Prezzie (Norwalk Mentoring Program); Diamond Sead (Human Services Council & parent); Kelley Tomlinson, Brian Weeks (Norwalk Health Department); Nancy Von Euler (Horizons); Dave Walenczyk (Norwalk Youth Services); Staff: Vanessa Wilson (Positive Directions); Ben Fitzgerald (AmeriCorps); Margaret Watt (Positive Directions & parent)

Welcome – Margaret Watt thanked everyone for coming and explained that today's meeting will use virtually all the time to share the results of our recent Norwalk Youth Survey, conducted in October 2022.

Freshman Forum – First event was at NHS/PTECH last night (1/24). Thanks to all the contributors! Margaret read an email received from a parent that showed the event succeeded in raising awareness among parents and youth and giving them conversation starters. Next week this event will be held at BMHS/CGS. The planning group will debrief next Friday. Jim Martinez commented that 'all day, every day I am helping kids at the school manage crises.' He indicated the large number of youth who are school avoidant or struggling with mental health issues. He is committed to doing this event next year because he knows how very much needed it is. "Having youth know where the resources are at school can be lifesaving."

Teen night out – working with SoNo Icehouse to plan an event for Norwalk teens. Diana R reached out to them and their Board is looking to provide a discount.

2022 Norwalk Youth Survey, Youth Voices Count – Margaret Watt presented the 2022 Norwalk Youth Survey data. The powerpoint and full survey report will be posted on the TNP Website. This survey is funded through our DFC grant from CDC. The coalition uses this data to support our planning, assessments, and evaluation and shares it with NPS and Norwalk ACTS to support school and community level planning and targeting. TNP and Norwalk ACTS have purposefully braided their efforts to support all aspects of youth social emotional health.

Discussion/Questions:

- Please promote the importance of asking youth comprehensive Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation as the data is critical to supporting youth.
- Concern about how Race and Ethnicity is captured, e.g. if you are black and Hispanic you are only being represented as Hispanic. Nina will connect with YVC to discuss modified this demographic data.
- Irregular eating behaviors -we have heard there is an uptick among youth and this was represented in our survey data
- Suicide - How do we know there has been a teen suicide? Information is reported to the HUB, and other prevention groups in the community.
- Gun Violence: Does the survey ask anything about gun violence? Not specifically, but about feeling safe at school and community.
- Alternative High School: Students from the Alternative High School did not participate in the survey; the school opened in Fall 2022. TNP needs to look into including them in the next cycle. TNP can survey the students there using another tool.
- Bullying: How was the term bullying defined? Is it the same as the Norwalk Public Schools definition?
- Anonymity: Some of the students feel that they are being tracked and are not honest on the survey. (Attendees reported that they saw their Student ID #'s at the top of the survey.) Diamond reported that not all the students were shown the video although the administrators were clear that the video needed to be shown in all classrooms.
- Sexual education – in school sexual behaviors in the LGBTQ community are not covered. The library has great resources/book on talking to your kids about sex or sex health. SBHC – could we develop a presentation to help parents talk to their kids about sex? Why do we not survey middle school youth? parents would not allow us to include this for middle school youth although we know many are sexually active. Lots of interest in this topic and need to follow up
- Gambling – add Dominoes to the list of examples (culturally relevant in Norwalk)
- Next steps – share this data with your networks. Will the data be shared with the schools? Yes Will the schools send the data out to parents? No definitive plan but we would like to.