**Minutes of May 26, 2021, 2-3:30pm**

**Present**: Dave Walencyk (YSB), Maria Escalera (Norwalk Human Services), Denique Weidema-Lewis and Anamilena Moreno (Norwalk ACTS), Sabine Romsaint (Odyssey FEC), Marcea Koffsky (community volunteer), Ed Milton (TeenTalk counselor), Nina Chanana (project evaluator), Laila McGeorge (prevention intern), Jodi Giorlando (CT Counseling Centers), Denise Rollinson (Norwalk CHC), Margaret Watt (Positive Directions), Diamond Sead (Human Services Council), Nicole Hampton (Norwalk Hospital and The Hub), Sgt. Orr and Sgt. Barr (Norwalk Police Dept)

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| Work in Progress Sign | Work | Clipart Panda - Free Clipart Images **Prevention Updates** * Last Youth Town Hall tonight on Mental Health
* June 10 is Creating AntiRacist Communication
* Norwalk ACTS Convening June 15
* Next Community Day will be June 26
* TeenTalk is very busy though many kids still not coming in
* 40% of kids are still failing 2+ courses
* SMART Recovery group has started at NHS and BMHS
* Youth survey will now take place week of June 6
* Haitian community group
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|  **Community Survey Follow-up*** Summarize awareness
* Resources discussion & showcasing
* Role of schools
* Follow us on social media and link to our webpage
* Ongoing job for us all to raise awareness
* Ed M - Tools provided from TNP are clear and concise but outreach is a full time job
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| **Community Norms*** Dave W – questioned survey size - 270 is a convenience sample
* Sgt Orr - surprised by p. 2 where people said used less
* Someone asked at the beach if they could smoke MJ
* 2019 data on narcotics complaints they’ve received – they get daily calls about street-level narcotics sales – about people getting high at the beach, etc. – calls are coded as “narcotics”
	+ Coded by where
	+ Jan 1-Apr 30 2019: 93 overall complaints, 41 initiated by Narcotics Division – 52 citizen reports
	+ Jan 1-Apr 30 2020: dropped to 46 – Jan/Feb normal
	+ 2021: up to 62 during that period
* Now common to be smelling MJ everywhere – beach last weekend – could smell it several times an hour in the area/ parking lot
* Anamilena M - Asked if towns can have ordinances specific to the town itself. Expressed concern that youths have a low perception of harm around marijuana and ordinances should be made to limit the exposure of marijuana to youths.
* People take their cues from community leaders and politics
* Dave W – but can people smoke in public?
* Possession charges
* 2019 117 possession charges of any substance – same time last year 50 – same time this year 21 arrests (1/6) – so not a lot of enforcement because the consensus is that the general public does not look favorably on LE activity – so not doing it formally – can still stop people who are speeding, can stop people and seize it - why do it when it’s about to be legalized
* See kids vaping everywhere
	+ Go to the shops and do compliance checks – in Feb did their last round of checks and 3 out of 4 stores sold to 17/18 yo’s – stores make more money from selling than they lose from
* Try to educate parents and kids on dangers of MJ
	+ Postcards
* PCP?
	+ Norwalk Hospital has seen huge increase in PCP
	+ SBHC / SMART – more than half the kids said they had smoked PCP and found out when they were drug tested
	+ YSB drug tests and weed is laced with PCP etc
* What penalties for kids and parents ?
	+ Dave W: For alcohol – referral to JRB
* What about driving?
	+ .02 for juveniles vs .08 for adults – every year they have grant money for selective enforcement for DWI – have officers who specialize in that and are very productive – so DUI enforcement is good. Do get a few complaints a week when people are following someone they think is drunk. Doesn’t seem like a massive problem – but probably several 100 arrests a year. More on weekends and holidays
	+ Driving under influence of MJ – easiest when accident with injuries because then can do search warrant and panel of drug and alcohol screening.
* What about ordinances?
	+ 3 shops on North Main St
	+ Everywhere
* Jodi showed alcohol postcard
* What about alcohol?
* How can we help the PD the most?
	+ Sgt Orr – educate about adverse side effects / health impacts on developing brain of adolescents – slide it into the mandatory health curriculum at HS and MS
	+ Sgt Barr – hitting the schools hard, especially middle school (12-14 yo age group)
	+ Signage – SAM
	+ Denique’s take away: upstream – focus on ES parent, vs MS parent, vs HS parent
	+ Ordinances - don’t need to reinvent the wheel since other towns are doing similar things
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|  **Action Items*** Please forward your events/ flyers for the June bulletin
* Email Margaret & Diamond to help with committee work around alcohol, vaping/marijuana, prevention postcards, freshman forum planning
* NEXT MEETING: **Wednesday, July 14, 2021 from 2-3:30pm**
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