



## The Coalition for a Better Wallingford Meeting Minutes

Date: March 28, 2024

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Location: 136 Center St. Wallingford, CT 06492

Meeting called to order by: Dianne Mark, Executive Director

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Dianne Mark	Natalie Campagnuolo	Fatoumata Gakou
Lynette Coleman	Jillian Mark	Diane Tourangeau
Karen Nagbe	Nikki Trocchio	Sean Cecchini
Rajan Doering	Christina Barber	Carolyn Tirado
Odali Rodriguez*	Chris Grande*	Pam Cremo*

State Rep. Mary Mushinsky  
Michael McAnulty (Media Sec. Rep.)  
Elizabeth Davis (Business Sec. Rep.)  
Phyllis Gordon\* (representing Susan Burt) - (Religious Sec. Rep.)  
Melanie Rossacci (Parent Sec. Rep.)  
Jared Couto (Youth Sec. Rep.)  
Aimee Turner\* (School Sec. Rep.)  
Sharon Hanford\* (Org. Involved in Reducing Substance Use Sec. Rep.)  
Vaness Bautista\* (Healthcare Org. Sec. Rep.)  
Cori Hass\* (representing Mayor's Office) - (Government Sec. Rep.)

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes from December's meeting were read and approved.

### **BODY OF MEETING:**

Executive Director Dianne Mark officiated the meeting. Dianne opened with an introductory thank you to all attendees. The listed attendees (\*attended via Zoom) introduced themselves, provided a brief bio, expressed their interest in volunteering their time, and explained their specific areas of expertise.

- At 6:32, Program Coordinator Natalie Campagnuolo called the meeting to order and distributed the attached Quarterly meeting agenda dated March 28, 2024. This two-page document listed all prior activities, efforts, and updates.
- Brief words were spoken by Natalie, reminding all the members and attendees that we, as adults in the community, need to be mindful of what we post on social media and to be an example for the youth in our community. (This was about some recent social media posts depicting a celebration party with adults consuming alcohol in the presence of at least 1 child.)



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- Natalie shared prior and current efforts being made by the Coalition, volunteers, members of contributing agencies, and programs including feedback on the youth initiatives. Natalie and Dianne further described highlights regarding specific events and initiatives.
  - The Night of Remembrance was a success, with good attendance. Pastor Hass and Mayor Cervoni's attendance and support were highlighted. This event is scheduled yearly.
  - Acknowledged and thanked Kiwanis for their donation to the Coalition.
  - Review of APRA programs.
  - Discussed vaping and marijuana use amongst Wallingford teens, specifically in the town high schools. An open discussion was had regarding the use of teens in an undercover capacity at smoke shops. Attendees shared data and state resources for follow-up. Specifically, the PPET program. Our Youth Sector Rep. Jared spoke about the vaping of marijuana in his school and where it frequently occurs, i.e., bathrooms, lunchrooms, etc. He spoke about 1 incident where he walked through the hallway, and there was a very strong odor of marijuana.
  - Dianne introduced Fatoumata Gakou, an intern courtesy of the Wallingford Health Department. Fatoumata provided a health department data sheet that illustrated overdose trends and data. She provided a brief description of the data, in which she highlighted a specific data point on page two, which illustrates an overdose rate increase in the age bracket of 10-19. Fatoumata further described her specific alarm at the data, stating that it was clear this is an area of grave concern and needs further review.
  - Natalie described a youth program the Coalition runs in which teens specifically share their feelings about the impact of substance abuse. Natalie described the feedback received as impactful and how the program and its efforts brought this information to the surface of the Coalition's efforts.
  - Updates concerning the "Week of Appreciation" with the Wallingford Public Library and the efforts summary of success are pending some input from library staff.
  - Dianne brought attention to the continued need for volunteer attendance, thanking all volunteers and encouraging an increase in attendance at each event.
  - Natalie and Dianne requested closing remarks, and numerous attendees provided input. Prior supportive efforts, plans, and endeavors were described.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Request for future participation, fundraising, and recruitment of new members.

### **ROUND TABLE:**

An opportunity was given for attendees and members to give Town and Community updates.

### **NEXT MEETING:**



## The Coalition for a Better Wallingford Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 27, 2024 @ 6:30 P.M.

### **MEETING ADJOURNMENT:**

Natalie asked for adjournment at 7:30 P.M. after all further input was received for the record.