**MEETING MINUTES**

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| Meeting Name:   | Fairfax Prevention Coalition, Member Meeting |
| Meeting Date:   | March 12, 2025 |
| Meeting Time:   | 6:30-7:45 PM |
| Venue:   | Virtual  |
| Attendees:   | Yolonda Earl-Thompson, Anaya Moparthy, Emily McPhie, Mark Greer, Marvin Quintero, Kimberlyn Pena, Kierystan Johnson, Caitlin Viccora |

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| **Meeting Notes:** * Celebration of Youth Leaders Event Summary
	+ Approximately 11 young people attended, with many coming from Lazera Ministries.
	+ The event included reflective activities, with the youth discussing who they turn to when needing help to reach their goals.
	+ Impressed by the youth, especially the young men who were thoughtful and committed to improving their communities.
	+ The youth demonstrated a willingness to embrace the coalition and engage in discussions. The youth did brainstorm activities and came up with several excellent ideas.
* **Debrief and Group Discussion:**
	+ **Event Promotion & Planning:**
		- Future event recruitment: The coalition could benefit from reaching out to more youth across the county. This would increase the diversity of participant perspectives. Increased promotion of the coalition to other potential stakeholders would help to increase recruitment of youth.
		- Appreciated the consistent and prompt communication. Considering there were changes to the event around the date, communication and updated flyers helped with recruitment.
	+ **Event Location:**
		- The bowling alley was a great choice for the youth. It is important to select similar venues that resonate with the youth to encourage continued excitement and engagement.
	+ **Teamwork:**
		- Youth teamwork was impressive. For example, even though not all of the youth knew how to bowl, they worked together and helped each other. It was great observing them work together and help each other feel included.
	+ **Flexibility and Accessibility:**
		- Future events should ensure flexibility and be accessible to all participants. Example given of the youth who was still able to attend the event, despite having to babysit younger sibling. The youth was still able to attend and enjoy the event, and the younger sibling was included as well.
* FPC Youth Team Meeting (March 10, 2025) summary
	+ The meeting focused on making youth more aware of their ability to make a change in their community. The youth viewed themselves as “Agents-of-Change.” The youth were commended for their efforts
	+ The group of youth discussed how they view their community, highlighting safety as a positive aspect. The youth also discussed topics of concern that are not being addressed by adults as well. The youth discussed quality of parks in their communities as a concern.
	+ A photovoice project was discussed as a potential activity. Photovoice is a research method where participants take photos based on guiding questions. The youth would be provided cameras to capture the photos. During this project, the youth would take photos of community activities addressing litter in the community (i.e. photos picking up trash and beautifying the environment, engaging in litter pick-up, basketball games).
	+ Afterward, participants reflect on the photos, and the photos might be showcased in community centers.
	+ Project timeframe: Expected to take place over the summer with a showcase in the fall.
	+ There is a plan to incorporate both youth and adults in these activities.
	+ Despite challenges like daylight savings time and the timing (Monday evening), the youth showed up and actively participated.

**April Youth Meeting Suggestion*** **Focus:** Promoting healthy and safe graduation/prom celebrations.
	+ Aim to involve more youth from across the county.
	+ Encouraging youth to consider how their environment (cleanliness, safety, etc.) connects to substance misuse and mental health.
	+ Emphasis will be on leading with positive behaviors and healthy relationships, focusing on “what to say yes to” rather than “what to avoid.”
* **Connection to Prevention:**
	+ The event will allow youth to connect community health with substance misuse prevention.
	+ Youth will explore how environmental factors can influence mental health and substance use, with an emphasis on positive youth behaviors.
* FPC Information
	+ Drug Take Back Day – Saturday, April 26, 2025, from 10:00am-2:00pm
		- Coalition is responsible for promotion: Coalition members are encouraged to sign up to volunteer for Drug Take Back Day related activities
		- Caitlin will email [the link for sign-ups](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfekGjNIQN57TmiJejCPCdrMt8cGwu2HK86CEJrKYIHX_F7Uw/viewform?usp=preview): Members can sign-up to distribute posters and flyers in various areas of the community. Members can sign-up to assist with distributing prevention resources, on-location, during the Drug Take Back Day event
	+ All Hands Meeting - Wednesday, April 2, 2025, 6:30pm-8:30pm (in-person at King’s Park Library)
		- Opportunity for networking and coalition planning
		- FPC Partners and FPC Members to attend together
			* Usually FPC Members meet monthly, FPC Partners meet quarterly
			* Youth encouraged to attend
		- Calendar invite sent, let Caitlin know if you did not receive
* Open Discussion
	+ Continued discussion around fear of ICE raids and immigration status has caused drop in attendance in schools, seeking health care, going to food banks
		- Focus on creating safe spaces for youth and community members
		- Must think of ways to connect people to access resources safely
	+ Caitlin will be out from June 5th until September. WHPP staff will support during the Coalition in her absence.
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| Action Items:  |   |   |   |
| No.  | Description: | Responsible party/parties:  | Due by:  |
|  | Interest in volunteering and/or passing out posters for Drug Take Back Day, complete the [interest form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfekGjNIQN57TmiJejCPCdrMt8cGwu2HK86CEJrKYIHX_F7Uw/viewform?usp=preview)  | All members | Ongoing |
|  | Recruit youth to attend the All-Hands meeting | Yolonda | April 2 |
| 3. | Recruit more youth across the county for FPC Youth meeting | All members | Ongoing |

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| Next Members meeting will be on April 9, 2025, at 6:30pm via Teams |