

## **Faces4Change DFC/CARA Community Coalition**

### **October 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

**Dr. Thandi Hicks Harper called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.**

**Members Present:** Dr. P. Thandi Hicks Harper, Billo Harper, Luke Morgan, Nate Riddle, Cynthia Prieto, Christine, Jonny Morris, Maren McGehee, Victoria Riddle, Brenda Bechler, Justin, Amari Lewis

### **Faces4Change “Harrisonburg Drug-Free Community (DFC) Coalition” October 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

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### **Faces4Change “Harrisonburg Drug-Free Community (DFC) Coalition”**

1. Welcome by Dr. Hicks Harper
2. Introductions of the collaborators and sector members and the F4C Team
3. Introduction of Meeting Agenda by Luke
4. Participants were asked to put their comments and questions in the Chat Box

### **Meet Our Speaker**

- Cynthia Prieto talks about different ways of addressing Youth substance abuse without solely punishment such as suspension.
- Address the different types of strategies to approach and touch base with students that need support.

### **FC4 in Harrisonburg High School**

- Dr. Harper talks about how we can utilize our youth coordinators to connect with the youth to establish a form of connection that is not an older adult.
- Christine adds that after two actions of suspension they are put into A.S.A.P and if another offense occurs then they're suspension is increased.

### **Youth Matter: A Community Conversation**

- Luke re-introduces our Youth Matter community conversation.
- Dr. Harper shows gratitude for the help of the Boys and Girls Club.
- Dr. Harper adds that a hip-hop cypher will be at the youth matter summit. There will be staff acting as experts for the cypher and another group focusing on drug prevention.

### **Meth Prevention Toolkit**

- Announced by Dr. Harper with Adam Stourt

### **Meet Our Speaker**

- YP
- Nate starts off with the mission statement and continues into how they help the Rockingham Community with homelessness.
- Open Doors does not work with anyone under 18 years of age.
- Christine mentions how Harrisonburg High School has a pantry from students that may be unsheltered.

- Nate mentions a food truck that it provided by the faith community to implement strategic intervention.
- Nate talks about the 34 who self-reported substance abuse how does it connect.
- Discusses Difficulties of struggles with substance abuse and homelessness
- Drug abuse does not indicate homelessness or a reason that they have ended up homeless.
- People can turn to substance abuse because of homeless and life stressor. A side effect or a result of homelessness not a sole factor.
- The long-term impacts of substance abuse can prolong homelessness because of barriers to affordable housing.

### **Wrap Up**

- **No meeting in November**
- Social Media links for Faces4Change.
- Dr. Harper mentions the success of the Summit as well as a report on the summit on the Faces4Change website.