

**TOWN OF NEW FAIRFIELD
SAFETY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, June 14, 2023**

Due to a lack of a quorum the meeting was not conducted, but The New Fairfield Prevention Council made their presentation. In attendance was Olga, Melnikov, Kara Mehler, and Linda Fox. Guest attendees were Kathy Hanley, Liz Yoho, and Cindy White.

The following was presented and discussed.

Kathy Hanley introduced herself and the organizations she is associated with. She explained what the New Fairfield Prevention Council/ New Fairfield was focusing on:

Alcohol/Substance abuse prevention, suicide issues, gambling issues, and better mental health
Educating about OPIODs, vaping, cannabis
Reducing the stigma of the above issues to help prevent crisis

Liz Yoho, Chairman of the Prevention Council (to be renamed New Fairfield Together in Wellness) spoke about:

Their focus on a more positive approach
Need to change the culture of the way people understand problems
Need to help before trouble happens
Need to reach a wider community

Cindy White spoke about how beneficial the Council meetings were and how she was able to help educate those she serves.

The NF Prevention Council would like to collaborate with the Safety Committee and other organizations to get out information on what the Prevention Council does and all the resources available to help and promote mental wellness. Some means currently used to get information out are the town website, printed brochures, NF day, flyers in the Town Tribune, etc.

Gun safety and how to easily find resources for parents and others dealing with a crisis are big concerns. Kathy Hanley will be connecting with the local Gun Club.

Suggestions to provide information were:

Put materials in all town government buildings
Have QPR and NARCAN training for town employees
Provide informational flyers for town employees
Have information available at the Health Wellness Fair run by Human Resources
Put information in physician's offices

Meeting ended 11:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Fox, Chairman

Received by email on 06/20/2023 @ 10:40 a.m.
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield