



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

Minutes

Substance Abuse Prevention Commission

January 10, 2019 5:00pm – 5:45pm

Room 217

1. Roll Call:

- a. **Present:** Jean Schensul (co-chair), Chastity Rodriguez (co-chair), Jonathan Merritt (coordinator), Kim Ambroise, Nordia Napier, Benjamin Grippo, Carl Shields, Lorna Thomas-Farquharson, Helen Drohan, David Reyes, Kim Radda, Nikia Newkirk, Keren Paquette, Lillian Oliveira, Lisa Mason, Chase Mahoney
- b. **Absent:** Astrid Calderon, Amanda Martin, Ken Plourd

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes of Meeting of December 13, 2018
 - i. Coordinator Jonathan Merritt motioned, Co-chair Chastity Rodriguez seconded, 6-0 in favor, approved.

3. New Business

- a. **Drop box update:** During the WHPP meeting, there was concern from the senior advisory commission that the drop box in West Hartford is not yet functioning. The WHPP discussed perhaps drafting a statement in writing to that fact. Astrid Calderon is working on the issue for the PSA and advertising; they have the box and the locks; there are alternative places to drop unused Rx off (Bloomfield); grant included allocation of money for advertising for the drop box; the WHPP can assist in creating advertising for the drop box if needed.
- b. **Updates from members and public on vaping and vaping activities**
 - i. **Vaping issues:** Lorna Thomas-Farquharson attended the vape panel; there was a good cross section of different representatives (Derek Slap, Jillian Gilchrest); representation from diverse populations – parents, vape shops, schools, students; there was a balance of perspectives – legislators were very receptive and the goal was to gather information from the community; it was filmed and taped so there will be access to the session
 - ii. **Upcoming vaping panel:** Thursday January 31, 7pm at Conard High School. School resource officers, school staff, WHPP, parents, and students will all be present. This event is open to the community.
- c. **Discussion of West Hartford Tragedy**

- i. Event took place right before the holidays; school staff were proactive in coordinating services; counselors were on hand for students and for parents at town hall

d. **Presentation and Discussion on Narcan and Opioids: Benjamin Grippo**

- i. Discussed an NPR story on a CDC study from 2000-2017: study focused on women ages 25-45, and showed 4000 died per year in 2000; that number has increased to 18,000, and the ages also include 45-65 years.
- ii. Also discussed the Root Center for Advanced Recovery in Hartford (rootcenter.org); outpatient provider that provides methadone; Ben Grippo has 80 patients, more than half are active users, been working for 7 years; the push for Narcan (naloxone) started a few years ago
- iii. Ben Discussed the upcoming 2nd Annual Artists Against Overdose silent auction art event: last year at the first annual event, it had 8 volunteers; marketing and branding done by wife; raised 9200\$ in 5 hours; upcoming show will be held at the Goodwin Hotel; recipient of the award will be the Greater Hartford Harm Reduction Coalition; The Event will be on Saturday March 30, 2019 (visit aaoshow.com for more information); physical flyers are forthcoming at the February WHPP and SAPC meeting

4. **Adjournment**

- a. **Coordinator Jonathan Merritt motioned, Benjamin Grippo seconded; 5-0 in favor to adjourn the meeting at 5:48pm**



ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING SHOULD CONTACT SUZANNE OSLANDER, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES 561-7570, FIVE DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.