



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

Minutes

Substance Abuse Prevention Commission

June 13, 2019 5:00pm – 5:45pm

Room 422

1. Roll Call

- a. **Present:** Jean Schensul (co-chair), Jonathan Merritt (coordinator), Carl Shields, Nordia Napier, Howard Dashefsky, Ken Plourd, David Reyes, Emily Melnick, Nikia Newkirk, Bethany Hamilton, Lisa Mason
- b. **Absent:** Helen Drohan, Benjamin Grippo, Lorna Thomas-Farquharson, Kim Ambrose, Astrid Calderon, Amanda Martin

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes of Meeting of: May 9, 2019
 - i. Carl Shields Merritt motioned, Howard Dashefsky seconded, 4-0 in favor, approved.

3. New Business

- a. SAPC Membership Progress Update
 - i. SAPC currently has 11 sworn-in members out of the possible 15 for the commission
 - ii. Conard High School Counselor Bob Segee will be potentially joining SAPC for the upcoming year
 - iii. Bethany Hamilton is attending meeting and would be a welcome addition to SAPC
 - iv. Coordinator Jonathan Merritt will select upperclassman youths (2) from the Teen Center Leadership Group to serve on SAPC for the upcoming year
- b. SAPC Recommendations for Town Council
 - i. SAPC Recommends that Town Council approve funding in the WHPS budget to cover the cost of the high school and middle school survey, and to permit tracking and reporting of key prevention and health trends.
 - ii. SAPC recommends that the West Hartford Prevention Partnership (WHPP) be endorsed as a West Hartford entity by Town Council.
 - iii. SAPC recommends that Town Council explore the expansion of the West Hartford Teen Center and endorse adding additional hours,

an additional site, and/or providing transportation to and from each high school. *Howard Dashefsky motioned, Chair Jean Schensul seconded, 4-0 in favor, approved, with one abstaining. Coordinator Jonathan Merritt abstained citing his position as the Teen Center Director.*

- iv. SAPC recommends that the West Hartford Teen Center or the Elmwood Community Center charge all non-West Hartford youths to use the Teen Center facilities in line with policies and practices in place in other public West Hartford services (i.e. parks, pools, senior centers). *Carl Shields motioned, Howard Dashefsky seconded, 4-0 in favor, approved, with one abstaining. Coordinator Jonathan Merritt abstained citing his position as the Teen Center Director.*

- 4. **Chair Jean Schensul asks for a motion to extend SAPC time to 6pm; Coordinator Jonathan Merritt motioned, Nordia Napier seconded; 5-0 in favor to extend meeting until 6pm.**

5. Planning for Next Year

- i. A presentation of the survey/data
- ii. Board of Ed presentation / discussion
- iii. Reach out to the clergies
- iv. True Colors
- v. Development of peer support
- vi. Library representative
- vii. Orientation and sustaining membership
- viii. Retention and succession of membership

6. Adjournment

- a. Jonathan Merritt motioned, Carl Shields seconded; 5-0 in favor to adjourn the meeting at 6:00pm.



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.