



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

Minutes

Substance Abuse Prevention Commission

March 14, 2019 5:00pm – 5:45pm

Room 422

1. Roll Call

- a. **Present:** Jean Schensul (co-chair), Jonathan Merritt (coordinator), Nordia Napier, Benjamin Grippo, Carl Shields, Lorna Thomas-Farquharson, Astrid Calderon, Helen Drohan, Amanda Martin, Ken Plourd, David Reyes, Kim Radda, James Mahoney, Emily Melnick, Julian Hartt, Lt. Michael Alquist
- b. **Absent:** Chastity Rodriguez (co-chair), Kim Ambroise

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes of Meeting of: January 10, 2019
 - i. Coordinator Jonathan Merritt motioned, Carl Shields seconded, 5-0 in favor, approved.

3. New Business

- a. SAPC Membership Progress Update
 - i. Rep for Superintendent – tabled until next meeting when member is present
 - ii. Membership outreach: the commission would like to gain voting members from the following sectors/organizations: True Colors and/or members from LGBTQ community, any clergy or religious leadership, business community, doctors/dentists/pharmacists, and a student from each high school; we are looking for 3-4 committed people to hold a voting position; Carl Shields and Nordia Napier will reach out to True Colors
- b. Update on Prescription Drop Box in West Hartford: Lt. Michael Alquist
 - i. Box was officially opened on 12/17/18; has been open for 3 months; the box is very small for 60,000 residents; the intent was to target the removal of opioids and narcotics, but some residents are using it to “clean out their cabinets”; there is a need to reeducate the public on the proper use of the drop box; SAPC is not tasked with doing any advertising or anything else besides advising town council; the WHPD has a link on their website and Facebook re: the proper use of the drop box

- c. DPH Opioid Surveillance Report: Helen Drohan, RN, BSN
 - i. Helen Drohan presented the surveillance report; statistics were passed around and will be sent out via email, post meeting
- d. Update on High School Survey
 - i. Survey for 2019 has been submitted and is underway; includes data on drug use tracked for 6-7 years; the data will be available for presentation in the early Fall 2019.
- e. Reminder of national prevention week, May 12 – 18
 - i. WHPP will be creating activities throughout the week; focusing on alcohol and tobacco (specifically vaping); tobacco awareness (vaping) event will be held during athletic events at the high schools; a teen from the teen center will be making announcements at the high school
- f. Plans for next meetings
 - i. Discuss candidates submitted for membership to SAPC
 - ii. Carl Shields to present on data
 - iii. Theresa Learner to present on JRB

4. Adjournment

- a. Carl Shields motioned, Nordia Napier seconded; 5-0 in favor to adjourn the meeting at 5:47pm.



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.