



# TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

Minutes

## Substance Abuse Prevention Commission

April 12, 2018 5:00-5:50pm

Town Hall, Room 400

### 1. Roll Call

Present: Jean Schensul (Vice Chair), Jonathan Merritt (Coordinator), Nordia Napier, Alysha Williams, Joseph Kalache, Amanda Martin, Lillian Oliveira, Mitch Irving, Benjamin Grippo, Anastasia Khrenova, Helen Drohan, Emily Melnick, Julian Hartt, Astrid Calderoni, Helen Rubino-Turco, David Reyes

Absent: Nicole Edlund, David Eppner, Amal Ali, Nicole Edlund, Chastity Rodriguez (Chair), Kim Ambroise, Lorna Thomas-Farquharson

### 2. Approval of Minutes

Jonathan Merritt motioned and Ben Grippo seconded to approve the Substance Abuse Prevention Commission (SAPC) minutes from February 8, 2018. Approved, 6-0.

### 3. Nominations/Announcements

- a. Joe Kalache: Drop box has been approved by Chief of WHPD, and will be implemented in fall of 2018. Funding will be provided by North Central Regional Mental Health Board (NCRMHB). There will be press releases, and work on advertisement.
- b. Emily Melnick reported on the SAPC self-assessment that was given several months ago; it was a self-examination of the performance of the group. Highlight of results:

Strengths: members have high respect for the other members involved; SAPC work would be hard to do without other stakeholders in the community; members represent a good cross section of stakeholders; members are dedicated; members have open communication.

Weaknesses: all organizations that need to be members of SAPC have not become members; people of SAPC do not have a clear sense of their roles/responsibilities; leaders in West Hartford do not recognize

SAPC as relevant; there is a lack of collaboration between members; SAPC members have not established reasonable goals.

This survey can be done again, independently, for the coalition, and can be revisited for SAPC as our goals and vision for the groups have become clearer. This survey was a self-reflection and is useful for continued self-evaluation. The survey results and the survey instrument will be forwarded to SAPC members and community.

- c. Lillian Oliveira presented on “Feb Fest” at the West Hartford Teen Center. “Feb Fest” was a party that was organized, planned, and marketed by the West Hartford Teen Center with collaboration and support from the Institute for Community Research (ICR). A survey was presented to attendees, and the results along with the presentation PowerPoint will be forwarded to SAPC members and community.

#### **4. New Business**

- a. Mitch Irving lead a discussion on the formation of an action oriented substance abuse coalition for West Harford. The coalition is endorsed by SAPC. SAPC members can be volunteers on the coalition, and anyone else interested can be a part of the coalition. During the SAPC meeting, coalition projects can be brought to the attention of the group and can be endorsed by SAPC but not acted upon. The coalition can decide to act on endorsed projects or other projects they are interested in bringing forward. Coalition meetings will be held immediately following SAPC meetings.
- b. Jonathan Merritt moved and Ben Grippo seconded to change the regular monthly SAPC meeting time to 5:00pm-5:45pm. Approved (5-0), 1 member abstained (Jean Schensul).
- c. Discussion on Town Council Recommendations, 2018
  - i. Helen Rubino-Turco: Include West Hartford Board of Education as a recipient of the recommendations as well; SAPC should organize the recommendations by subject.
  - ii. Jean Schensul: what is the process for submitting recommendations? We can decide at a later date. The group considered targeting the June meeting for final approval and submission plan.

#### **5. Adjournment**

Jonathan Merritt moved and Ben Grippo seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:50pm. Approved (6-0).

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Jonathan Merritt  
April 12, 2018