



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

Minutes

Substance Abuse Prevention Commission

June 14, 2018 5:00-5:45pm

Town Hall, Room 400

1. Roll Call

Present: Chastity Rodriguez (Chair), Jean Schensul (Chair), Jonathan Merritt (Coordinator), Kim Ambroise, Alysha Williams, Benjamin Grippo, Joseph Kalache, Lillian Oliveira, David Reyes, Mitch Irving, Ken Plourd

Absent: Lorna Thomas-Farquharson, Nordia Napier, Anastasia Khrenova, Helen Drohan, Amanda Martin, David Eppner

2. Approval of Minutes

Chastity Rodriguez motioned and Benjamin Grippo seconded to approve the Substance Abuse Prevention Commission (SAPC) minutes from May 10, 2018. Approved, 6-0.

3. Nominations/Announcements

- a. The following members have resigned: David Eppner (effective 7/1/18)
- b. There are 3 vacancies that will need to be filled for SAPC:
 - i. Representative for West Hartford Superintendent
 - ii. Representative for Hope Works (replace with True Colors)
 - iii. Representative for School Substance Abuse Coordinator

4. New Business

- a. SAPC Teen Member Recognition: Conard seniors Alysha Williams and Lillian Oliveira, and Hall senior Anastasia Khrenova were recognized for their dedication to SAPC and the West Hartford community, and were given certificates.
- b. 2019 SAPC Chair nomination was tabled for September.

c. Membership and meeting ideas discussion was tabled for September.

d. Adoption of Town Council Recommendations:

i. **Need for improvement of data on substance use**

1. Chastity Rodriguez motioned and Benjamin Grippio seconded, **the Town Council endorse the continuation of the high school student survey, and consider allocating funds for it for the 2021 survey when external funding is no longer available.** Approved 6-0.
2. Chastity Rodriguez motioned and Benjamin Grippio seconded, **the Town Council hear data reports on a regular basis derived from these surveys prepared by SABC affiliated or endorsed organizations.** Approved 6-0.

ii. **West Hartford Response to Substance Use/Abuse**

1. Chastity Rodriguez motioned and Alysha Williams seconded, **that Town Council support and endorse recognition of the related problems of stress, mental health issues, and substance use through the media and support participation in discussions that address these issues in West Hartford.** Approved 5-1.

iii. **An independent coalition to address and help enact recommendations**

1. Chastity Rodriguez motioned and Benjamin Grippio seconded, **that such a Coalition deemed the West Hartford Prevention Partnership be endorsed as a West Hartford entity by Town Council.** Approved 6-0.

iv. **Support for West Hartford Teen Center**

1. Chastity Rodriguez motioned and Kim Ambroise seconded, **that Town Council explore the expansion of the West Hartford Teen Center and endorse adding additional hours or sites.** Approved 5-0 (Jonathan Merritt abstained from voting and cited a conflict of interest).

2. Chastity Rodriguez motioned and Alysha Williams seconded, **that Town Council explore opening the West Hartford Teen Center to fee-for-service from non-West Hartford Teens in order to address the current exclusion of many Teens in areas near the Elmwood Community Center from use of the center, and continue West Hartford's tradition of offering services for a fee to neighboring communities.** Approved 4-0 (Jonathan Merritt abstained from voting and cited a conflict of interest).

v. **Support education around prescribed medication in schools**

1. Kim Ambroise motioned and Chastity Rodriguez seconded to table the following recommendation: **that the Town Council support and endorse annual education for school personnel and parents on best practices for self-administered medications on school premises and ways of differentiating abuse from proper use of prescribed medications.** Approved 6-0.

vi. **Moving beyond speakers as an effective prevention method**

1. Chastity Rodriguez motioned and Jonathan Merritt seconded, **that Town Council include students in decisions about substance use educational speakers and other education forums in order to maximize impact.** Approved 5-0.
2. Chastity Rodriguez motioned and Jean Schensul seconded, **that Town Council divert speaker resources to create additional opportunities for group-based, drop-in wellness discussion for and with students.** Approved 5-0.
3. Chastity Rodriguez motioned and Alysha Williams seconded, **that town council explore the formation of student-led, student-run discussion groups to provide support for students who want to know more about the risks associated with specific substances, how to avoid use of specific substances, or to seek help for specific substance abuse.** Approved 5-0.

5. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Merritt

June 20, 2018