



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

Minutes

Substance Abuse Prevention Commission

November 8, 2018 5:00pm – 5:45pm

Room 422

1. Roll Call:

- a. **PRESENT:** Jean Schensul (Co-Chair), Jonathan Merritt (Coordinator), Benjamin Grippo, Carl Shields, Helen Drohan, Amanda Martin, Mitch Irving, David Reyes, Ken Plourd, Astrid Calderon, Kim Radda
- b. **ABSENT:** Chastity Rodriguez (Co-Chair), Lorna Thomas-Farquharson, Kim Ambroise, Nordia Napier

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes of Meeting of: October 11, 2018 – Jonathan Merritt motioned, Benjamin Grippo seconded, 4-0 in favor; motion passed.

3. Unfinished Business

- a. The Substance Abuse Prevention Commission of West Hartford thanks Carl Shields for his presentation on substance use during the October meeting.
- b. Jean Schensul discussed tabling the SAPC recommendations until December or January in order to make sure new and joining members are on board and understand the recommendations and to review them to make sure they are still relevant and in the form of recommendations that TC could act upon. Benjamin Grippo motioned, Jonathan Merritt seconded, 4-0 in favor; motion passed.

4. New Business

- a. Ken Plourd discussed the presentation by the West Hartford student who has written a fictional account of stress in the life of a teenage girl in West Hartford, that was held at Hall High School; highlighted how stress is affecting students.
- b. Helen Drohan discussed the success of the West Hartford Drug Take-Back Day. During the last Saturday in October 2018, over 200 pounds of medication was dropped off for safe disposal. The new drop off site for this event is at the DPH on Brixton Rd. There will be another take-back day coming up in the spring (April, 2019).
- c. Helen Drohan discussed updates on the permanent Drop Box for prescription drugs in West Hartford. The box has been delivered, but it

has not yet been installed. Astrid Calderon mentioned that the box needs an additional lock to be compliant before the program can function.

- d. Amanda Martin, Conard High School Resource Officer, provided an update at the schools regarding vaping. There has been an increase in vaping and vaping with marijuana oil. It is very hard to detect due to the lack of marijuana smell; cannot accurately detect without a chemical test. There have been 3 cases in the last 2 weeks at Conard. An officer at Hall High School dealt with a student who was convulsing and vomiting due to using a vape that tested positive for THC oil. The commission discussed the possibility of additional substances being present in the oil that may have caused the convulsing and vomiting. The Hall officer may open the vape case that is in evidence to test the vaping oil for additional substances.
- e. Astrid Calderon put forth the following questions: Is there an updated list of resources or programs to combat drug abuse? What is available for support? What works in the way of cessation for Vaping? Since vaping is so prevalent and new, it is difficult to figure out what is helpful.
- f. For the schools, the Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Team is utilized to help intervene in mandated cases.
- g. Jean Schensul presented on vaping. A PowerPoint presentation that she showed at the SAPC meeting was in draft form, and as a first draft, will be made available to the SAPC and the SAPC community. There was a substantive discussion around vapes, and about the future of marijuana especially recreational use is legalized.

5. Adjournment – Jonathan Merritt motioned, Benjamin Grippo seconded, 4-0 in favor; motion passed.



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.