



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

Meeting Minutes

Substance Abuse Prevention Commission

December 13, 2018 5:00pm – 5:45pm

Room 422

1. Roll Call

- a. **Present:** Chastity Rodriguez (Co-Chair), Jean Schensul (Co-Chair), Jonathan Merritt (Coordinator), Kim Ambroise, Nordia Napier, Benjamin Grippo, Alex Benitez, Daniel Markham, Astrid Calderon, Amanda Martin, James Mahoney, Ken Plourd, David Reyes, Kim Radda, Emily Melnick
- b. **Absent:** Carl Shields, Lorna Thomas-Farquharson, Helen Drohan
- c. **Introductions**
 - i. Pablo Feliciano, AAA Insurance Company, Potential Business Community Representative
 - ii. Daniel Markham, Conard/REACH Student Representative
 - iii. Alexis Benitez, Conard/STRIVE Student Representative

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes of Meeting of: November 8, 2018: Kim Ambroise motioned, Chastity Rodriguez seconded to approve the meeting minutes, 5-0 in favor; motion passed.

3. New Business

- a. Updates
 - i. Vaping Panel: Ken Plourd
 1. Community of concern group – January 31, 2019 from 7-830pm at Conard high school; room 169
 2. PTO groups are both getting the flyer
 3. Aimed at parents/caregivers
 4. Info forthcoming from Ken Plourd, ICR
 - ii. Vape Policy Updates: Jean Schensul presented
 1. Goals for Curbing Youth Tobacco Use
 - a. FDA Youth tobacco prevention plan
 - b. Teens who vape or use hookah are more likely to use marijuana in future
 - c. Atlanta CDC revealed more than 2 million American teens have used an e-cig
 - iii. OPEN DISCUSSION:
 1. (Amanda Martin) 3 THC vaping cases in last 3 days at Conard High School; containing 91% THC, highly concentrated

2. Hall Assistant Principal Kim Ambroise: schools focused on restorative, not punitive justice for offenders; students have Wheeler Clinic as a resource.
3. Astrid Calderon – JRB, mental health/trauma piece that may be being overlooked; there are gaps in services for youth involved with JRB
4. West Hartford JRB needs more resources
5. Agenda for the next meeting: Invite Theresa Learner to next meeting to present JRB data
 - a. Is there an increase in number, or an increase in complexity in vaping cases?
- iv. The Bridge Family Center is offering two substance abuse support groups beginning on January 2, 2019. These groups are SMART Recovery Groups (Self-Management and Recovery Training) for Youth & Family and Friends
 1. Self-empowering recovery support groups
 2. The Youth group is open to all West Hartford youth ages 16-18.
 - a. Build/Maintain Motivation, cope with urges, manage thoughts, feelings and behavior
 - b. Group meets weekly on Wednesday evenings, 5pm-6:30pm, from Jan. 2 – April 2019
 - c. Meetings located at the Elmwood Community Center at 1106 New Britain Avenue
 3. The Family and Friends group is open to all who are impacted by the substance abuse or other addictions of a loved one.
 4. The support groups are facilitated by Kate Keefe, LCSW and Greg Ganci, MSW Intern at the Bridge Family Center.
 5. For more information, contact Pat Tyler, Director of Youth and Family Services at 860-313-1119 x1301.
 6. Visit www.smartrecovery.org to learn more about the program
- b. New Member Recruitment: SAPC has vacancies in the following roles
 - i. Representative for the Superintendent of Schools
 - ii. Representative for Public School Counseling
4. **Adjournment:** Chastity Rodriguez motioned, Jonathan Merritt seconded, 5-0 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.