



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

Minutes

Substance Abuse Prevention Commission

May 10, 2018 5:00-5:45pm

Town Hall, Room 400

1. Roll Call

Present: Chastity Rodriguez (Chair), Jean Schensul (Chair), Jonathan Merritt (Coordinator), Kim Ambroise, Lorna Thomas-Farquharson, Nordia Napier, Alysha Williams, Joseph Kalache, Lillian Oliveira, Anastasia Khrenova, Helen Drohan, Emily Melnick, Helen Rubino-Turco, David Reyes

Absent: Benjamin Grippo, Mitch Irving, Amanda Martin, Nicole Edlund, David Eppner, Amal Ali

2. Approval of Minutes

Chastity Rodriguez motioned and Anastasia Khrenova seconded to approve the Substance Abuse Prevention Commission (SAPC) minutes from April 12, 2018. Approved, 6-0.

3. Nominations/Announcements

- a. The following members have resigned and will need to be replaced on the commission: Amal Ali and Nicole Edlund.

4. New Business

- a. Discussion on the formal recommendations to town council:
 - i. General: Recommendations can be categorized and organized by “General” recommendations and “Educational” recommendations; both can be sent to town council as well as the board of education.
 - ii. Improvement of Data:
 1. Town should continue to support data collection and analysis and include the cost of the survey in the BOE town budget after 2019 when DHMAS can no longer pay for it.
 - a. Will lead to solutions around drug abuse problems

iii. Stigma Reduction:

Rationale: Because there is a stigma around drug use, people are not able to seek help

1. General questions:
 - a. Narrow the points so they can be acted upon. Is there a substance abuse problem in West Hartford?
 - b. What populations are having this problem? Do they go beyond youth? And if so what data are available.
2. Drug abuse is a problem in West Hartford; police see it as a problem and support a drop box (opioids in particular); problem is highlighted by the high school survey last year. Both the Department of Social Services and Kim Ambroise indicated it was a problem.
3. The school system is trying to address the problem. The recommendations reflect the need for more discussion in case these actions are not reaching everyone.

5. Next Steps

SAPC members need to read over current recommendations and provide feedback so all are prepared to discuss at the June SAPC meeting. The recommendations should be as specific as possible. The recommendations to town council can include a list of accomplishments. SAPC needs to recruit more members who have valuable expertise.

6. Adjournment

Nordia Napier moved and Anastasia Khrenova seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:50pm. Approved (6-0).

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.
Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Merritt
May 10, 2018