



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

Minutes

Substance Abuse Prevention Commission

January 11, 2018 5:00-6:30pm

Town Hall, Room 400

1. Roll Call

Present: Nordia Napier, Chastity Rodriguez, Jonathan Merritt, Kim Ambrose, Alysha Williams, Joseph Kalache, Lorna Thomas-Farquharson, Amanda Martin, Emily Melnick, Lillian Oliveira, Mitch Irving, Helen Drohan, Benjamin Grippo, Anastasia Khrenova

Absent: David Eppner, Amal Ali, Nicole Edlund, Jean Schensul

2. Approval of Minutes

Chair Chastity Rodriguez moved and Coordinator Jonathan Merritt seconded to approve the Substance Abuse Prevention Commission (SAPC) minutes on December 14, 2017. Approved, 7-0.

3. Nominations/Announcements

- A. Lorna Thomas-Farquharson, West Hartford Board of Education representative, was sworn in for appointment on 1/11/2018. Amanda Martin, West Hartford Police Department representative, has been appointed and sworn in on 1/11/2018.
- B. "Artists Against Overdose" charity art auction event will be held at 8pm on Saturday February 24th 2018 at Chango Rosa in Hartford; presented by Benjamin Grippo. For more info, contact AAOshow@gmail.com ; flyers will be distributed via SAPC community
- C. Resource cards were distributed by Joe Kalache.

4. Unfinished Business

Discussion for the formal process for addressing/advising town council: SAPC can summarize and create a list of points that can be given to town clerk to be put on the town council agenda for discussion.

5. New Business

- a. Discussion of Marketing and Rebranding of SAPC
 - i. SAPC will develop a mission statement
 - ii. SAPC will create a logo for organizational recognition; we will research other commissions around the state to develop our logo
 - iii. SAPC needs an online and social media presence
 - iv. SAPC will create a subcommittee for Marketing/Branding; Ben Grippo to lead the subcommittee
- b. Recruiting new SAPC Representatives
 - i. ICR Data survey indicated that LGBTQ youths were more at risk for alcohol/drug use than other groups and need adequate representation on commission; ICR will reach out to True Colors for representation
 - ii. STRIVE/REACH alternative school representation is also needed: Amanda Martin will contact REACH, Kim Ambroise will contact STRIVE
- c. Discussion of professional development for commission on vaping and other drug/alcohol trainings
- d. Celebrate West Hartford discussion: Ben Grippo and Chastity Rodriguez volunteered to organize
- e. Broke off into 2 subcommittee groups
 - i. **Youth subcommittee** (Jonathan Merritt, Alysha Williams, Lillian Oliveira, Mitch Irving, Lorna Thomas-Farquharson, Amanda Martin, Nordia Napier, Anastasia Khrenova); discussed main goals of subcommittee: decrease adolescent substance abuse, improve the teen center, have a combination SAPC/Teen Center booth at Celebrate West Hartford; Teen Center selling Tshirts to raise

money and rebrand; planning “Feb Fest” and end of year substance free parties for Teen Center in collaboration with ICR.

- ii. **Adult subcommittee** (Chastity Rodriguez, Joseph Kalache, Emily Melnick, Helen Drohan, Benjamin Grippo); discussed the following: opioid presentation at senior center on how to properly store, handle, and discard prescription drugs; drug “takeback day” coming up in April (Helen Drohan); use weha TV to get messages out to adults and older adults.

6. Adjournment

Chair Chastity Rodriguez moved and Jonathan Merritt seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:31pm. Approved (7-0).

The meeting adjourned at 6:31 PM.
Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Merritt
January 16, 2018

