



## TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

### Agenda

#### West Hartford Prevention Council

Thursday, January 9, 2020 5:00pm – 6:00pm

Room 217

#### 1. Roll Call

##### a. Voting:

i. **Present:** Brenda McKeown, Carl Shields, Howard Dashefsky, Heather Alix, Jean Schensul, Nordia Napier

ii. **Absent:** Ben Grippio, Kadzo Kangwana, Jon Merritt

##### b. Ex-Officio:

i. **Present:** Amanda Martin, James Mahoney, Astrid Calderon, Helen Rubino-Turco, Ari Steinberg

ii. **Absent:** Helen Drohan, Tor Fiske

c. **Guest:** Chris Dutton, Dan Moffo, Ken Plourd, Elizabeth Jadovich, Jacqueline Zea-Edgar (West Hartford Social Services)

#### 2. Approval of Minutes

a. Minutes of Meeting of December 12, 2019

b. Amendments: *none*

c. Motion: Howard Dashefsky; Second: Carl Shields

d. Vote: 5-0, pass

#### 3. Old Business

a. Needs Assessment discussion/summary

i. Helen and Carl to meet with town manager tomorrow to discuss needs assessment. Looking to understand expectations. Focus initially on Hillcrest, but town manager may want to expand.

ii. Trinity/St. Francis report - not enough detail to plan

iii. If anyone on the council has important data for the needs assessment, please share with the group.

- School age
- Suicidality
- Older citizens
- Other mental health emphasis
- Prevalence in West Hartford vs. other communities
- Demographics, such as income, neighborhoods, cultural

iv. This group should help set priorities

#### 4. New Business

a. **Social Services Director Report** (20 minutes)

i. **Hoarding task force – not able to attend, panhandling was anticipated for February, so presentations were switched.**

- Presentation of Panhandling – Lieut. Dan Moffo, WHPD
- Definitions of panhandling
  - House to house, business, etc
  - Standing at corners – statistics: 286 calls 14 infractions 75 verbal warnings 21 arrests

- Police offers West Hartford resource card
- Typically a root cause or multiple problems exist
- State statutes address aspects of the behavior – creating a disturbance, trespass, reckless use of the highway (danger to self or traffic), use of sidewalk, crosswalks
- Some panhandlers have previous warrants/infractions: no show for court, addiction issues, petty crimes; this often leads to arrests.
- Some towns have tried to enact ordinances about panhandling (aggressive panhandling) – runs into issue with free speech (ACLU)
- Definitely see frequent flyers, mostly it is location based
- Discussion of social service response vs police response
- SW try to close the circle. Social workers meet with them when requested, but the volume are often too high.
- Social worker is at Community Court every Wednesday to meet those arrested in WH that are recommended to the town. Jail diversion is determined at community court in Hartford – prosecutor is compassionate; will consult, often makes referrals to SW.
- Numbers of panhandling cases increased in the last 1.5 years – likely related to a change in Hartford law
- Town SW staff participated in webinar to increase awareness and learning
- What’s the proper/most appropriate response from the general public? Police answer: Complicated issue – discussion on morality conflict/ money vs Food
- For profit vs. mental health and addiction
- Opioid crisis is impacting the state and increased this issue

b. **WHBHD Report** (5 minutes)

- Helen Drohan is Absent.**

c. **WH Public Schools/BOE Report** (5 minutes)

- High schools – end of semester one. Community is “bustling” with midterms. Increased student stress levels. Working to be proactive around study plans, test anxiety, planning, etc. Students helped with who to access for support.

d. **Youth Service Bureau Report** (5 minutes)

- Chris Dutton reported
- How prepared are we as a community to deal with trauma in the community? Who are the therapists/providers that are trained in treating trauma? Who can be “activated” in the event of a community tragedy?
- What are the components for a trauma informed provider list
  - Suggestion that Ari, Chris, Astrid, Kadzo, Gretchen Nelson – come together to do the above

e. **WHPP Report** (5 minutes)

- Formally introduce Elizabeth Jadovich – youth, peer advocate. Main project working on blog post every week or two about substance use issues in the news – mostly vaping and e-cigarette use. Currently senior at Trinity – thesis on vaping and e cigarette use on campus.
- Planning vaping discussion/activity – attendance at vaping panels across the state – not a lot of new information – juul pods, marketing. Looking to take a different direction – focus on the future of vaping. CBD, THC, not just nicotine- need to differentiate. Stay tuned for date for that

- iii. Underage drinking video at the teen center
  - Last year worked with the leadership group to look at stats and picked meaningful data, created video and presented at YSB day at state legislature
  - Looking to do the same thing this year with the current data (eta 2 months)
- iv. Training on Wednesday from 9-12 at Red Lion hotel in Cromwell – TTASC – on marijuana and vaping
- v. WHPrevention.org website – lots of information, good resource for the community
- vi. Monthly coalition meeting Tuesday 3:30 – 5 PM Room 217

**f. Upcoming Events / Activities of Interest**

- i. Prevention week and prevention month activities (May)
  - Looking to partner with other organizations (library, school)
  - Begin to structure the plan for prevention week
  - Possible meeting of all entities that may be interested in participating in prevention week
- ii. Hillcrest neighborhood activity during spring or summer (cookout, big day out) (Astrid talk with Assistant Chief Dan Coppinger)
- iii. Hoarding task force will present to council next month
- iv. Last year national website had ideas for themes – isn't posted yet

**5. Public Comment**

**6. Adjournment**

- a. Motion: Brenda**
- b. Second: Carl**
- c. Passed**

Next meeting: Thursday, February 13, 2020, 5 PM- 6 PM; **Room 400**

**ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING SHOULD CONTACT SUZANNE OSLANDER, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES AT 860-561-7570, FIVE DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.**