

**WEST HARTFORD PREVENTION COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.**

This regular meeting of the West Hartford Prevention Council will be conducted as a virtual meeting. Members of the public may view the meeting on West Hartford Community Interactive: Comcast Channel 96, Frontier TV Channel 6099, YouTube and www.whctv.org.

Members of the public may also provide comments on agenda items by calling at the scheduled date and time and using the following access code:

September 10, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Call 1-408-418-9388 Access Code: 132 747 9692

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

a. Voting:

- i. Present:** Jean Schensul, Brenda McKeown, Carl Shields, Jonathan Merritt, Kadzo Kangwana, Nordia Napier
- ii. Absent:** Howard Dashefsky, Heather Alix

b. Ex-Officio:

- i. Present:** Helen Rubino-Turco, Astrid Calderon, Natalie DeLaCruz, Ari Steinberg
- ii. Absent:** Helen Drohan, Tor Fiske, Amanda Martin, James Mahoney

c. Guest: Jacqueline Zea-Edgar, Chris Dutton

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes of Meeting of June 11, 2020**
 - i. Comments:** none
 - ii. Motion:** Jean Schensul
 - iii. Second:** Kadzo Kangwana
 - iv. Vote:** 6-0 in favor, passed

3. Old Business

- a. Needs Assessment Surveys & Reports -Carl Shields (10 minutes)**
 - i. Much data available on West Hartford**
 - ii. Training and Technical Service Assistance to help community organizations like ourselves**
 - iii. Many experts already at the table**
 - iv. No school, police department data available**
 - v. Perhaps School Students can help with data gathering in the schools**

4. New Business

a. Vacancies in the WHPC

- i. Substance Abuse Counselor**

- Recommendation from Ari Steinberg
 - ii. WHPC is out of compliance with the requirement of having a balanced commission regarding political party: we are lacking membership from the minority Republican party
 - iii. Lacking Lived Experience role
 - iv. Lacking Faith/religious role; Kadzo Kangwana is able to fulfill this role
 - v. Lacking Media role
 - vi. Lacking Business role
 - vii. 3 vacant positions coming up at end of 2020
 - Vacant – Heather Alix (school counselor)
 - Nordia Napier – (Parent); would like to reappoint
 - Jean Schensul – (Town Member at Large) longest standing voting member
- b. **Social Services Director Report** (15 minutes)
- i. Amplify Grant
 - ii. Cancelled Many Activities
 - National prevention week
 - Put information on town website
 - May-August decided cases of truancy and delinquency will be handled by JRB
 - Cases to be handled in partnership with schools, JRB, YSB
 - Received many messages about local panhandlers
 - New application for LPC Grant changed
 - \$7141.00 Grant
 - Requirements have changed
 - Major Goal of grant is reduction in vaping
 - iii. Food stamps and gift cards can be made available for families with food insecurity
 - iv. West Hartford Food Pantry operating Tuesday afternoons, and Thursday/Friday mornings – distributing 600 bags/month – major increase due to coronavirus
- c. **WHBHD Report** (5 minutes)
- i. No Report
- d. **WH Public Schools/BOE Report** (5 minutes)
- i. Free breakfast and lunch in the town of West Hartford is available for West Hartford Students
 - ii. First in person Board of Ed. meeting at town hall since quarantine
 - iii. Admin team provided a summer report
 - iv. 2 new student representatives to the board of education
- e. **Youth Service Bureau Report** (5 minutes)
- i. Summer programming update
 - In person group and individual mentoring
 - Continued to have teen center leadership meetings
 - ii. School based programming: not happening in the schools – we are not able to operate in the schools per West Hartford Board of Education
 - iii. Teen Center Programming: Elmwood Community Center, home of the Teen Center for over 20 years, is not available for the

operation of the Teen Center at present; month of September and October programming will be conducted at Beachland park; Video Game club will be happening at Bridge's new office at 100 Shield St; Basketball, Soccer, Photography, Outdoor Movies in the Park are all possible programs to offer in the park

- f. **WHPP Report** (5 minutes)
 - i. Programs that supported WHPP is now over
 - ii. David Reyes is full time in the school of social work
 - iii. 2019 School Data Analysis will be available on WHPP website
 - Mental health data
 - Will email it offline to members
- g. **Upcoming Events / Activities of Interest**
 - i. Focus on loneliness among the elder community members
 - ii. Wellness activity workbooks could be distributed

5. Public Comment

- a. None

6. Adjournment

- a. Motion: Jonathan Merritt
- b. Second: Kadzo Kangwana
- c. Vote: 6-0 in favor, approved

Next meeting: Thursday, October 8, 2020, 5 PM- 6 PM; Virtual Meeting

The Chairman will provide the procedure for participating in the virtual meeting at the start of the meeting.

Any individual with a disability who needs special assistance to access the meeting should contact Suzanne Oslander, Department of Social Services 561-7580, at least three days prior to the meeting.