

**WEST HARTFORD PREVENTION COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 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:

October 8, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Call 1-408-418-9388

Access Code: 132 533 6472

MINUTES

1. Roll Call:

a. Voting:

- i. Present:** Jonathan Merritt, Carl Shields, Nordia Napier, Howard Dashefsky, Jean Schensul, Kadzo Kangwana, Brenda McKeown, Natalie DeLaCruz
- ii. Absent:** None

b. Ex-Officio:

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

- c. Guest:** Jacqueline Zea-Edgar, Chris Dutton, Nicholas Sanford, Jennifer Evans, Melissa Hickey, Jana Malanga, Brooks McConnell

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes of Meeting of September 10, 2020
- b. Amendments: none
- c. Motion: Jean Schensul
- d. Second: Howard Dashefsky
- e. Vote 6-0 in favor, approved

3. Old Business

a. Needs Assessment Surveys & Reports (15 minutes)

- i.** Contacted UCONN Center for Prevention Evaluation And Statistics – will send links specific to West Hartford
- ii.** Form a subcommittee of this group to review existing data from WHPS and a community readiness survey
- iii.** West Hartford is in a very good place comparatively
- iv.** New for DHMAS to fund and move away from vaping and toward mental health and gambling prevention and perceived mental health problems
- v.** Need for ongoing conversations between stakeholders and other community groups
- vi.** Helen Rubino-Turco discussed issues with Town Manager re: food insecurity, panhandling, opioid use, etc.

- vii. Discussion on the vision and direction of the commission
- viii. Contact Equity and Diversity Groups – Parent Groups, PTC Council
- ix. Discussion about the community mosaic of needs
 - SAMSA Mental health toolkit
- x. Wellbeing of the individual is partly determined by the wellbeing of school and community
- b. Need of Committee/Coalition
 - i. Using this group (WHPC) in a broader way – Coalition and community building
 - ii. Explaining the background of SAPC and WHPC to new student members, Brooks McConnell, Natalie DeLaCruz, and Jana Malanga
 - iii. Explaining what the grant from DMHAS has been used for in the past

4. New Business

- a. **Vacancies in the WHPC** (5 minutes)
 - i. 2 vacancies in December: will be filling these positions
 - Counselor at IOL
 - Community business member
- b. **Social Services Director Report**
 - i. LPC Grant (10 minutes)
 - 150 LPCs across CT are funded
 - 7141\$ has been granted to West Hartford LPC
 - Activities must be focused on reducing vaping use by 5% in teens (12-18 year olds)
 - Increase public awareness of substance use prevention
 - Strategic Prevention Model Framework must be followed
 - Development of coalition that can carry out grant will be necessary
 - Amplify has offered to help with coalition building
 - Project Herron Club students at Conard can join the coalition – Contact Natalie DeLaCruz
 - ii. Panhandling (5 minutes)
 - Town Social Services, Police, other community groups are discussing a plan: “West Hartford Cares Hope Project”
 - First Step: who are the people panhandling?
 - Partnering with other towns for best practices and ideas
 - Speaking with Journey Home
- c. **WHBHD Report** (5 minutes)
 - i. **October 24th Drug Take-Back Day**
- d. **WH Public Schools/BOE Report** (5 minutes)
 - i. Consider having Rosina Haskins join our group to discuss SEL and social justice issues that are being addressed in the schools
- e. **Youth Service Bureau Report** (5 minutes)
 - i. SMART recovery group on Thursdays, 330-430 open to all West

- Hartford students; in person and virtual options
- ii. Teen Center programming has been on hold for the last couple of weeks – reopening tomorrow at Beachland Park
 - iii. Beginning a social skills group / basketball clinic for high schoolers and middle schoolers
 - iv. Teen Leadership Group will be hosting a family friendly, outdoor Halloween movie night at the end of the month – more info will be shared with the group
 - v. Referrals are beginning to come in for mentoring and school based counseling

f. Upcoming Events / Activities of Interest

5. Public Comment

- a. No call-ins, no public comment

6. Adjournment

- a. Motion: Howard Dashefsky
- b. Second: Brenda McKeown
- c. Vote 7-0 in favor, approved.

Next meeting: Thursday, November 12, 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.