

**WEST HARTFORD PREVENTION COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021 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:

January 14, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Call 1-408-418-9388

Access Code: 132 914 7873

Meeting Password: 043XIS33BEG

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

a. Voting:

- i. Present:** Carl Shields, Kadzo Kangwana, Jonathan Merritt, Bob Macca, Brenda McKeown, Howard Dashefsky, Patty Graham, Nordia Napier
- ii. Absent:** none

b. Ex-Officio:

- i. Present:** Astrid Calderon, Tor Fiske, Helen Rubino-Turco, Brooks McConnell, Natalie DeLaCruz, Nick Sanford, Melissa Hickey, Ari Steinberg
- ii. Absent:** Helen Drohan

c. Guest: Chris Dutton, Jackie Zea Edgar, Jennifer Evans

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes of Meeting of November 12, 2020**
 - i. Motion:** Brenda McKeown
 - ii. Second:** Howard Dashefsky
 - iii. Vote:** 6-0 in favor, 2 abstain, motion passed.

3. Old Business

- a. Community Wellness Coalition & Community Wellness Assessment**
 - i. Completed Application and submitted to WH/Bloomfield health district**
 - ii. Community needs assessment history**
 - iii. Graduate student from UCONN (MPH) will be helping coalition gather data regarding community wellness**
- b. LPC Grant**
 - i. Astrid Calderon reiterates grant requirements**
 - ii. Focus on vaping**
 - iii. 5 months to complete action and use the money**
 - iv. WHPC might have to return the money if we are not meeting the**

- requirements
- v. WHPC may purchase a workshop for West Hartford students regarding vaping
- vi. Amplify would like to send 1 coalition member for specific training for coalition work

4. New Business

- a. Vacancies in the WHPC and New Members (5 minutes)
 - i. One vacancy: school counselor
- b. Approval of WHPC Meeting Dates & Times in 2021 & 1st meeting in 2022
 - i. Jan 14, Feb 11, March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10, Sept 9, Oct 14, Nov 18*(rescheduled from Nov 11), Dec 9, January 13, 2022
 - 1. Motion: Carl Shields
 - 2. Second: no second
 - 3. Vote: 8-0 in favor, motion approved
- c. Approval of new WHPC meeting format 2021 (eliminating reports)
 - i. Discussion of different format to meetings
 - ii. After receiving the assessment might be a better time to change the format
 - iii. Specific topics could be discussed
- d. Recommendations to Town Council
 - i. Last year's recommendations were comprehensive
 - ii. Overhauled membership and included mental health
 - iii. Wellness Assessment to identify gaps in service
 - iv. Supporting Prevention week activities
 - v. Proclamation can be made from the town
- e. Social Services Director Report (5 minutes)
 - i. Discussion of possibility of having evictions due to end of moratorium
 - ii. Supporting other efforts with Department of Health
 - 1. Options for vaccinations for 75+ residents will be publicized
- f. WHBHD Report (5 minutes)
 - i. Health district is overwhelmed
 - ii. Working with social services and other organizations
- g. WH Public Schools/BOE Report (5 minutes)
 - i. Proud of staff, students, and families in the efforts
 - ii. SEL/Anti-racism education has been an incredible addition – this is on a cultural competence continuum
 - iii. Covid fatigue is setting in – concerns with how to pinpoint issues when students are not being seen as much
 - iv. Herron Project Club is putting together some curriculum and educational opportunities focusing on mental health – students talking to students
- h. Youth Service Bureau Report (5 minutes)
 - i. Level and depth of work with teens and adolescents is intense; much more safety assessments, providing families with different supports
 - ii. Teen Center is up and running – granted ability to be backl in

person at Elmwood community center – teen center is full every session – students

- iii. Mentoring program is full as well – the depth of work is increasing
- iv. Smart group – Thursdays @ 330 can be virtual or in person
- v. Clinic is recruiting a body acceptance group for girls aged 13-17 – virtual group meets Wednesdays at 6pm
- vi. Teen Leadership Group doing neighborhood based food drive during the month of January

i. Upcoming Events / Activities of Interest

5. Public Comment

6. Adjournment

- a. **Motion:** Howard Dashefsky
- b. **Second:** Carl Shields
- c. **Vote:** 8-0 in favor, motion approved.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 11, 2021, 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.