

**WEST HARTFORD PREVENTION COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 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](http://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:

February 11, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Call 1-408-418-9388

Access Code: 132 947 8725

Meeting Password: xmW6MzWk43

**MINUTES**

**1. Roll Call**

**a. Voting:**

- i. Present:** Carl Shields, Kadzo Kangwana, Jonathan Merritt, Bob Macca, Brenda McKeown, Howard Dashefsky, Nordia Napier
- ii. Absent:** Patty Graham

**b. Ex-Officio:**

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

**c. Guest:** Chris Dutton, Jennifer Evans, Brianna Pintavalle, Jackie Zea-Edgar, Shayline Cruz, Jean Schensul, Suleiman Abiola

**2. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Minutes of Meeting of January 14, 2021: Bob Macca moved, Brenda McKeown
- b. Vote: 5-0 in favor, approved

**3. Old Business**

- a. Community Wellness Coalition & Community Wellness Assessment
  - i. Introduced Brianna Pintavalle, MPH Student
  - ii. Introduced Suleiman Abiola, MDPH Student, graduating medical school in 2022;
  - iii. Introduced Shayline Cruz, Eastern student
  - iv. Students have become oriented to Town of West Hartford Social Services and Town Hall
  - v. Working on developing a questionnaire/survey for stakeholders
  - vi. Will be looking at the template for community wellness report
  - vii. Subcommittee members: Jackie Zea Edgar, Jean Schensul, Natalie DeLaCruz, Brooks McConnell, Carol Waxman, Roszina Haskins

b. LPC Grant

- i. Funds are ready to be used – we have 6 months
- ii. Goal to execute the funds by end of fiscal year
- iii. Regional Behavioral Health Action Organization – work with 150 different LPCs in Connecticut
- iv. Past expenditures have been Safe Grad parties at Conard and Hall
- v. Goals of the grant now is to prevent vaping: decrease vaping by 5% of vape use for ages 12-18 and to increase public awareness
- vi. We need to satisfy the educational requirement of the grant
  - Engage with WHBOE for a presentation
  - Presentation can be presented for everyone, not just students
  - Library can make it available
  - Incorporate Vaping in Community Wellness Assessment
  - How can we integrate the grant with the assessment?
  - Proposing the possibility of having an expert coming to educate the LPC itself
  - Challenge of forming a coalition to be an action committee to execute the grant
  - Who is available to lead and work on this grant with Astrid Calderon and Jackie Zea Edgar?
    - Nordia Napier, Natalie DeLaCruz, Chris Dutton
  - There is a possibility of returning the funds of the grant if we are unable to begin this work

**4. New Business**

a. Recommendations to Town Council, Carl Shields:

- i. Given unprecedented year this has been and unusual challenges and barriers everywhere in the system, the West Hartford Prevention Council has had to rapidly make multiple adaptations and shifts, as has everyone. Continuing in this pandemic environment creates certain recommendations from the Prevention Council, amplified and supported by existing issues as well as the addition of mental health to the scope of our prevention efforts.
- ii. These are as follows:
- iii. Establish Wellness (Needs) Assessment for Town of West Hartford, to assess citizen and town wide resources, strengths, assets, unmet needs, and begin to identify possible priorities for coming year
- iv. Collaborate with UConn MPH Program for aforementioned project, in time limited fashion, January to May 2021, in collaboration with Prevention Council and Social Services
- v. Establish format and infrastructure for Assessment Report, provide tentative midpoint report in March 11 Prevention Council meeting, and final report in May meeting
- vi. Evaluate May report by Council in whole for further review, suggestions, comments prior to final submission to Town Council

- vii. Continue ongoing Prevention work, including May is Mental Health activities, Amplify grant activities, assist in organization of community support group, etc.
- b. Vaccination support team has been created by the town
  - i. Getting public important info
  - ii. Managing expectations
  - iii. Vaccination phone number at the Library; 860-561-6998
  - iv. Formed a working group with Social services, senior centers, library, health district, and fire department
  - v. Group can go to homebound individuals to give them vaccine

**5. Public Comment - NONE**

**6. Adjournment**

- a. Bob Macca moved, Howard Dashefsky seconded, 7-0 voted in favor; motion passed.

Next meeting: Thursday, March 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.*