

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

April 8, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.      Call 1-408-418-9388      Access Code: 132 493 9984

Meeting Password: PCvVmV6wU33

**MINUTES**

**1. Roll Call**

a. **Voting:**

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

b. **Ex-Officio:**

- i. **Present:** Helen Rubino-Turco, Brooks McConnell, Tor Fiske, Natalie DeLaCruz, Nick Sanford, Joseph Hopkins, Ari Steinberg

c. **Guest:** Chris Dutton, Jackie Zea Edwards, Jen Evans, Melissa Roy, Suleiman Abiola, Brianna Pintavalle

**2. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Minutes of Meeting of March 11, 2021: Bob Macca moved, Patty Graham seconded, and the council voted 5-0 with 1 abstention; motion passed.

**3. Old Business**

- a. Report to Town Council (Achievements and Recommendations)
- b. Community Wellness Coalition & Community Wellness Assessment
  - i. UCONN Students Report: Suleiman Abiola & Brianna Pintavalle
    - Survey should take about 15 minutes
    - Approximately 35 questions
    - Good to get meaningful feedback for prevention efforts in the future
    - April 23 is the return date, which is approaching quickly – need a quick turnaround
    - Members of the commission are encouraged to forward the survey to key stakeholders within their own organizations
  - ii. Shared the link:
  - iii. [https://uconn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_eqGMkaSiobOliqi](https://uconn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eqGMkaSiobOliqi)

#### 4. New Business

- a. LPC Grant and Activities: \$7141.55 to spend for this grant
    - i. Vaping training in June 10<sup>th</sup> for WHPC
      1. Will take place on our regularly scheduled meeting
      2. Presentation is 50\$, and will be 35 minutes with a Q & A
    - ii. Vaping workshop and prevention campaign for youth
      1. Virtual On-demand anti-vaping program / Web pages, 1500\$ for middle, high school and parents
    - iii. Coalition considering a 500\$ contribution to the Herron Project from Conard High School
    - iv. Kenneth Plourd may be available to train our coalition next year
    - v. West Hartford Community TV to possibly run vaping awareness campaign in May
  - b. Carl Shields asked for a motion to fund these programs; Bob Macca moved, Nordia Napier seconded, the council voted 5-0 in favor with 1 abstention; motion passed.
2. Future Proclamation from Town Council/Mayor was discussed to recognize this coalition's work and activities
- a. West Hartford Public Library doing activities
    - i. Presentation on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: "Should I Teach My Child to See Color", Kenya Rutland - Principal of KJR Consulting
  - b. West Hartford Senior Centers are doing activities
    - i. Physically closed, but have been reaching out virtually
      1. Exercise classes, health awareness, museums, travel logs, virtual paint parties
      2. Email blast 2 times per week to 1600 people; 500 members do not have emails – those members are receiving snail mail
      3. Introducing socially distant programming in the coming weeks
      4. Wellness calls from volunteer members
      5. Socially distanced walks outdoors
      6. Grab and Go & Take and Create bags for crafts
      7. Seniors are feeling isolated
      8. Mental health awareness month in may – presentation on how to cope with life after Covid; including guided meditation
  - c. The Bridge Family Center
    - i. Services focused on teens and kids who are at risk; referral based
    - ii. Making efforts to engage youths who are not traditionally "at risk" due to anxiety and Covid related issues
    - iii. Long waitlists for mentoring and counseling
  - d. West Hartford Public Schools
  - e. Drug Take-Back Day was discussed – at 17 Brixton Rd at West Hartford Public Works from 10-2pm Sat. April 24

#### 5. Public Comment

6. **Adjournment:** Carl Shields moved, Bob Macca seconded, council voted 6-0 in

favor; motion passed.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 13, 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.*