

**WEST HARTFORD PREVENTION COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.
TOWN HALL ROOM 400**

THIS IS AN IN-PERSON MEETING

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

a. **Voting:**

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

b. **Ex-Officio:**

- i. **Present:**, Astrid Calderon, Helen Drohan, Natalie Gavalis, Derek Williams, Joseph Hopkins, Nick Sanford, Tor Fiske

c. **Guest:** Megan Westcott, Chris Dutton, Kelly Waterhouse, Cynthia Lauture

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes of Meeting of September 9, 2021
 - i. Carl Shields moved, no opposition; motion passed unanimously.

3. Old Business

- a. Coalition Update: Astrid Calderon and Kelly Waterhouse
 - i. Call for an amendment of the agenda?
 - No vote or amendment
 - ii. There is a discussion of the roles of the WHPP and the WHCN
 - Can members attend the WHPP coalition?
 - Are we two separate entities?
 - WHPP is a volunteer group
 - WHPP receives grant money through Amplify
 - iii. Discussed the first West Hartford Prevention Partnership coalition meeting
 - Thursday, October 21, 2021 @ 5pm
 - Elmwood Community Center, room 24
 - Need members from the public to drive this coalition

4. New Business

- a. Marijuana Legalization Presentation: WHPD Reps. Nick Sanford and Joseph Hopkins discussed the new marijuana law and some effects of the law
 - i. Possession of up to 5oz of marijuana will be legal
 - ii. School offences:
 - 1st offence, referral to YSB/JRB
 - Over 5oz – automatic summons
 - iii. Over 5oz is 500\$ for first offence, second offence is misdemeanor

- iv. 21+ can possess up to 5oz cannabis in a locked container in house or vehicle
- v. Paraphernalia is NO LONGER an offence for youth or adults
- vi. Places where smoking is prohibited: child care, school or school grounds,
- vii. For 16-17 year olds can be issued a 75\$ ticket if on school grounds
- viii. If someone smells like marijuana, it is no longer probable cause to search
- ix. There will be easier access to cannabis products
- b. New Member Introduction
 - i. Helen Drohan Replacement for WHBHD Representative
 - Takeback program is going to be located at Charter Oak Elementary School this year
 - Banners are up at the town center
 - Flu vaccines are being administered
 - Pfizer offering 3rd dose of vaccine to immunocompromised individuals
 - Moderna is getting booster shot as well
 - ii. Introduced Megan Westcott, MPA Epidemiologist
 - 2nd week in a row of low community transmission levels
 - iii. New Student Representatives
 - Derek Williams, grade 11 Hall student; Champions conference, panel discussion for mental health wellness
 - Natalie Gavalis, 12 grade at Conard; cofounders/coleaders of Herron Project Club – deals with mental health support for students, and substance use/abuse support
- c. FOIA Training Information
 - i. Carl discussed the recent FOIA training
- d. Terms of Office
 - i. Terms ending:
 - Carl Shields, Brenda McKeown, Jonathan Merritt
 - Carl and Brenda will be continuing in their 2nd terms
 - Jonathan Merritt will be finishing his second term, and will not seek reappointment
- e. Board Roles were discussed

5. Standing Reports

- a. WHSS discussed ongoing and upcoming programming
 - i. Social worker position has been approved to work with dispatch for the WHPD
 - ii. Panhandling regional meeting coming up
 - iii. There are 24 families in hotels due to the floods
 - iv. Suicide prevention training
 - v. Hoarding disorder support group, “Buried Treasures”
- b. WHPD
- c. WHPS discussed issues and challenges relating to school admin, staff, and students and families: families and students struggling getting used to being in the schools on a fulltime basis

- d. Public Health (WHBHD)
- e. YSB (The Bridge Family Center)
 - i. Students struggling with behavioral issues
 - ii. Discussed school based counseling, mentoring, and groups
 - iii. Clinics are still operating
 - iv. Offered a vaccine clinic, many people received their 1st doses
 - Other clinics upcoming
 - v. In talks with Conard/Hall about offering a SMART recovery group during after school- self referral, DATT referral, JRB referral
 - vi. Teen Center Update – open MWF afternoons
 - In a rebuild year; need more kids to fill our space and programs

6. Public Comment

7. Adjournment

- a. Carl Shields moved, no opposition; motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting: Thursday, November 11, 2021, 5 PM- 6 PM; Town Hall, Room 400

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.