

**WEST HARTFORD PREVENTION COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 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:

June 10, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Call 1-408-418-9388

Access Code: 132 241 7727

Meeting Password: sJnEK2Crm72

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

a. **Voting:**

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

b. **Ex-Officio:**

- i. **Present:** Helen Rubino-Turco, Astrid Calderon, Helen Drohan, Jackie Zea-Edgar, Ari Steinberg

c. **Guest:** Megan Westcott, Chris Dutton, Kelly Waterhouse, Melissa Hickey

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes of Meeting of June 10, 2021
- b. Vote 5-0 in favor of approval.

3. Old Business

- a. Town-Council appointed WH Prevention Council vs Amplify-required coalition (WH Prevention Partnership)
- b. Staff Liaison
 - i. Jackie Zea-Edgars will be leaving WHPC; thank you Jackie for your service on WHPC last year
 - ii. Introduce Kelly Waterhouse, from town of East Hartford
- c. Coalition Building Training, Coalition Activities
 - i. Adding Ken Plourd as a consultant for building this coalition
 - ii. West Hartford Prevention Partnership website and name could be available for use

- d. Wellness Assessment
 - i. Strategic prevention framework is foundational to coalition work
 - ii. Tried to organize a retreat this summer to connect better with council members
 - iii. Findings in the assessment regarding mental health and substance abuse were concerning
 - iv. Insufficient awareness and coordination of services

4. New Business

- a. Marijuana Legalization
 - i. CT Legislation has passed
 - ii. Invited WHPD to discuss the law pertaining to marijuana, will be able to attend at a later date
 - iii. Table this discussion until that meeting
 - iv. Nick Sanford and Joseph Hopkins can be reached for comments ahead of time

5. Standing Reports

- a. Social Services
 - i. Regional Roundtable on Panhandling – held in July 2021; over 20 attendees; follow up meeting will be taking place to discuss this regionally in October or November
 - ii. Hoarding task force created; meet monthly to discuss cases and to decide the best approach to deal with this situation. A support group has been created and has been up and running.
 - iii. Police Liaison position will be opening
 - iv. Has the legislation affecting SNAP benefits reached town residents?
 - v. Eviction moratorium is ending and we will see more of these issues
- b. Public Health (WHBHD)
 - i. Beginning to do 3rd doses of Covid vaccinations
 - ii. Now waiting for CDC and ACIP to make decisions in order to move forward
 - iii. Lining up rooms to host major clinics if needed for booster vaccines
 - iv. Flu shots will be beginning in September
 - v. Drug take back day coming up; will be held at Charter Oak International Academy; Need to reach out to we-ha.com to advertise more effectively; Date will be October 23, 10am-2pm - It will also happen in April 2022
- c. Police – not present/no comment
- d. WHPS

- i. Mental wellness workshop led by Roszina Haskins were well attended
 - ii. Questions were asked of the panel; panel discussion was recorded
 - iii. Can this link be posted to this council for viewing?
 - iv. Restorative practices being introduced instead of other disciplinary actions
 - v. More social workers have been added to high schools for support
 - vi. Board of Education meeting tonight for the first meeting at Town Hall, 7pm
- e. YSB (The Bridge)
- i. Summer Programming including mentoring, PYD programs, expanded community gardens from Elmwood Community Center to Smith elementary School and Conard High School
 - ii. Mentoring referrals have been coming in from schools
 - iii. Teens anecdotally describing uptick in alcohol usage this summer – stories of big parties happening; teens supplying alcohol to these parties
 - iv. We can coordinate different groups in the schools as needs arise
- **We will be moving to meeting in person for our next meetings as a council in October.**

6. Public Comment – none

7. Adjournment

- a. Bob Macca moved, members voted all in favor, motion passed.

Next meeting: Thursday, October 14, 2021, 5 PM- 6 PM; To Be Determined

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.