

**WEST HARTFORD PREVENTION COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.
TOWN HALL ROOM 217**

THIS IS AN IN-PERSON MEETING

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

a. Voting:

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

b. Ex-Officio:

- i. Present:**, Astrid Calderon, Natalie Gavalis, Derek Williams, Joseph Hopkins, Tor Fiske, Melissa Hickey, Clare Nesoralla, Megan Westcott

c. Guest: Chris Dutton, Kelly Waterhouse

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes of Meeting of October 14, 2021:** Carl Shield moved for adoption of minutes without objection; unanimously adopted, no objections or additions.

3. Old Business

- a. Prevention Partnership Coalition meeting schedule:** scheduled to meet the 3rd Thursday of each month. WHPP meeting held directly after this meeting. Typical meetings will take place at ECC from 5-7pm. Tonight's meeting will focus on bylaws and the direction and roles. There is open membership, and recruitment will continue.

4. New Business

- a.** Circulate the bylaws and language among the group to get up to speed on the recommendations we need to present to town council this year
- b.** Include the last years recommendations for review

5. Standing Reports

a. Social Services:

- i.** Holiday programs were discussed: adopt a family baskets; holiday food and gift card distributions
- ii.** Big displacement of families in an apartment unit with 27 units; these people don't have permanent housing yet
- iii.** Support group for hoarders (Buried in Treasures) was discussed
- iv.** Evictions have been taking place due to the moratorium expiration; interventions and resources were discussed
- v.** Referrals have been coming in for services
- vi.** Social Services is looking to continue collaborating with local

universities to provide internship opportunities

b. Public Health (WHBHD)

- i. Continuing booster clinics – vaccinated over 300 people at Conard last night
- ii. Flu clinics are still being offered
- iii. Rising cases of Covid-19 in CT was discussed

c. Police

- i. Discussed police in schools as an issue with JG and students
- ii. Police will be putting on some toy and food drives
- iii. Will be piloting a program at HANOC to educate youth

d. WHPS

- i. Clare Nesoralla sworn in as liaison to the Board of Education
- ii. Chris Herron project was discussed
- iii. DATT program was discussed; partnership with Wheeler is coming to an end; partnering with the Bridge for a SMART recovery program; schools are not catching students as much as they are using substances
- iv. Funding any families in need during the holidays through program
- v. Youth with Social/emotional and family issues were discussed
- vi. Social media issues and responses were discussed; contributing to drama and bullying
- vii. Policy of the schools regarding social media was discussed
- viii. Discussion of negative parent behavior on social media
- ix. Prevention interventions and resources can be sent to the WHPP for action

e. YSB (The Bridge)

- i. School based counseling and mentoring are increasing and growing; Teen center is also busy; clinical work is deeper and more intense; PYD and clinical groups are happening in the schools; Family Resource Center is offering a 6 week positive discipline group for parents; Teen Center program “Teen Leadership Committee” was presented, and flyers were distributed

f. Prevention Partnership Coalition

6. Public Comment

7. Adjournment: Carl Shield moved to adjourn the meeting without objections at 6:00pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, December 9, 2021, 5 PM-6 PM; West Hartford Town Hall, Room 217

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.