

**WEST HARTFORD PREVENTION COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.
WEST HARTFORD TOWN HALL, ROOM 217**

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

a. **Voting:**

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

b. **Ex-Officio:**

- i. **Present:** Megan Westcott, Nicholas Sanford
- ii. **Absent:** Tor Fiske, Clare Nesoralla, Melissa Hickey, Joseph Hopkins, Helen Rubino-Turco, Natalie Gavalis, Derek Williams

c. **Guest:** *none*

d. **Staff Liaison:** Kelly Waterhouse

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes of Meeting of November 18, 2021
- b. Amend Minutes to show that Kadzo Kangwana was present for meeting via phone – erroneously marked absent
- c. Howard Dashefsky moved to accept amended minutes with no objections; motion passed.

3. Old Business

- a. WH Prevention Council 2021 Accomplishments and 2022 Goals
 - i. Reapplied for the Amplify grant, application was accepted.
 - ii. Kelly Waterhouse discussed the grant and substance use issues in the community.
 - iii. Grant will include suicide prevention and administration of Narcan.

4. New Business

- a. Council Appointments and Reappointments
 - i. Jonathan Merritt will not be seeking reappointment – Secretary role will need to be filled
 - ii. Taking nominations for the role of Secretary – Howard Dashefsky can take the role for January
 - iii. Brenda McKeown will not be seeking reappointment
 - iv. Carl Shields will be seeking reappointment
- b. Meeting Schedule for 2022
 - i. Discussed the schedule of meetings for the 2022 year to be adopted
- c. Amplify Grant

- i. \$12,191.55 has been awarded for this grant
- ii. Reduce teen vaping by a percentage
- iii. Decrease perception of harm of alcohol, marijuana, THC
- iv. Will provide some funding for Community of Concern, Chris Herren project, QPR materials, Training: Courageous Parenting 101 – one mental health professional will be trained to become a trainer of this, & Conard/Hall Safe Grad
- d. Question: Should we move to virtual format given the rising rates of Covid-19?

5. Standing Reports

- a. Social Services
 - i. Hired a police liaison social worker, Samantha Innis
 - Attended CIT training
 - Attended National Police Social Work Conference
 - ii. Panhandling issues in West Hartford was discussed
 - iii. Relocation of flood victims in August was discussed; some families are still in hotels; hoping to have everyone relocated by the end of the year
 - iv. Holiday help: Adopt a Family, Food Baskets for Thanksgiving, Children's Holiday Program (families can register for gift cards) – 2 dates have been added:
 - Tuesday, December 14, 330pm-530pm
 - Friday, December 17, 10am-12pm
 - v. JRB issues were discussed – FWSN referrals were discussed; families can self-refer (children who are beyond control or dealing with other non-arrest issues)
- b. Public Health (WHBHD)
 - i. Covid case rates were discussed: back in the red zone; mask mandates may be coming again; all individuals 18+ are recommended to get booster shots
 - ii. Fentanyl test strips may be purchased with grant money
- c. Police
 - i. SRO officers gave substance abuse prevention presentations to students
- d. WHPS
 - i. Neuro-psych exams have been rising; lots of mental health issues
 - ii. Heather Alix discussed the Peer mentor Program – connect with Jonathan Merritt from the Bridge
- e. YSB (The Bridge)
 - i. All school based mentoring and counseling are full or very close to full; beginning waitlist for student referrals
 - ii. Special Teen Center events coming up for holiday break due to limited space at Elmwood:
 - Monday, December 27, 8am-4pm – Teen Center snowboarding and ski trip to Ski Sundown
 - Wednesday, Dec. 29, 10-4pm – Teen Center trip to Spare time for Bowling, Laser Tag, Games, and Pizza

f. Prevention Partnership Coalition

6. Public Comment

7. Adjournment – Howard Dashefsky moved to adjourn with no objections, motion passed.

Next meeting: Thursday, January 13, 2022, 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 860-561-7580, at least three days prior to the meeting.