

**WEST HARTFORD PREVENTION COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2022 AT 5:00 p.m.
REMOTE**

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

a. Voting:

- **Present:** Carl Shields, Heather Alix, Howard Dashefsky, Bob Macca, Kadzo Kangwana, Nordia Napier, Patty Graham
- **Absent:** None

b. Ex-Officio:

- **Present:** Megan Wolcott, Tor Fiske, Melissa Hickey, Clare Nesoralla, Nichola Sanford, Joseph Hopkins, Natalie Gavalis, Derek Williams
- **Absent:** HelenRubino-Turco

c. Guests: none

d. Staff Liaison: Kelly Waterhouse

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes of meeting December 9, 2021
- b. Carl Shields moved to accept minutes with no objections; motion passed.

3. Old Business

- a. West Hartford Prevention Council 2021 Accomplishments and 2022 Goals
 - Will be sent to the Town Council as evidence of what the WHPC worked on and accomplished under difficult circumstances.

4. New Business

a. Council Appointments and Reappointment

- Brenda, Carl and Jonathan's terms have expired term expired. Brenda did not seek reappointment. Carl has been reappointed. Chris Dutton has been appointed to replace Jonathan for the Bridge.
- Taking nominations for Secretary. Chris Dutton nominated Howard Dashefsky. Kadzo Kangwana seconded the motion. The nomination was approved.
- Taking nominations for Chairperson. Nordia Napier nominated Carl Shields. Bob Macca seconded the motion. The nomination was approved.

b. Wellness Assessment Top 10 Findings

- The importance of collaboration with the Prevention Partnership
- Chris Dutton spoke about the monthly meetings of the Children's Wellness Network and his hope to bring other therapists and providers

together for an informal network of providers for residents of the community to have access to.

- Kelly Waterhouse discussed WHPP and efforts to organize a resource fair for mental health and substance abuse concerns of the community.
- Megan Westcott is working on potential dates to combine Drug Take Back Day and Mental Health awareness.
- May is Mental Health month

c. Amplify Grant

- Kelly Waterhouse reported out. The December meeting was canceled. Next meeting is next week.
- Future grants and initiatives discussed. QPR training for facilitators January 26 Video PSA. Virtual workshop for high school age youth to create anti-vaping PSA

5. Standing Reports.

a. Social Services

- Covid tests and masks are being distributed on a large scale and to those community members most vulnerable
- Relocation in permanent housing of those impacted by flooding continues
- More evictions are happening. Work continues to try and prevent them.
- Fuel and energy assistance is being provided.

b. Public health

- Booster clinics continue. Home test kits and masks are being distributed up to two kits per family. Residents may come into the office or they may be delivered.

c. . Police

- Helping out with clinics. Working on combating vaping in the schools.
- All tenth graders are getting substance abuse lessons in classes.

d. WHPS

- For Black History Month focusing on Black Health and Wellness. Partnering with The Bridge.
- Virtual Mental Health program in high schools February 18.
- SMART program starting at Hall. Drug and Alcohol Team. Clinicians are available.

e. YSB (The Bridge)

- There is a SMART group at Hall. Staff are trying to get one at Conard.
- Lots of kids are coming to the Teen Center.
- Leadership committee is being rebuilt. It's evolving into a peer support group.
- Expanding grant for Life Skills classes.

f. Prevention Partnership Coalition

- Kelly reported that the next meeting is Thursday, January 20 at 5:00. It will be virtual on WebEx.

6. Public Comment

7. Adjournment - Carl Shields moved to adjourn with no objectives. Motion passed.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 10, 2022, 5PM-6PM, Virtual meeting

Any individual with a disability who needs special assistance to access the meeting should contact Suzanne Olander, Department of Social Services, 860 561-7580, at least three days prior to the meeting.

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