

**WEST HARTFORD PREVENTION COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022 AT 5:00 p.m.
ROOM 217**

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

a. Voting:

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

b. Ex-Officio:

- **Present:** Megan Westcott, Tor Fiske, Melissa Hickey, Clare Nesperalla, Nichola Sanford, Joseph Hopkins,
- **Absent:** Helen Rubino-Turco, Derek Williams, Natalie Gavalas, Megan Westcott

c. Guests: None

d. Staff Liaison: Kelly Waterhouse

2. Approval of Minutes

a. Minutes of Meeting of February 10.

- Bob Macca moved to accept the minutes. Patty Graham seconded. Motion passed.

3. Old Business

None

4. New Business

a. May is Mental Health Month

- Nordia suggested that it will be important to put something together for parents so they have it for the summer. It should allow parents to access resources on their own.
- Kelly will try and get flyers available for the Resource Fair

b. Ginger Katz from Courage to Speak Foundation; Virtual presentation on Zoom May 12 from 5:30 to 7:00.

- Ginger Katz is a nationally recognized speaker on substance abuse and youth. Her workshops target parents, youth, professionals in the field, and teachers.

- The Council discussed ways to hold our meeting (or not) and how to attend the virtual presentation. There are different options. Presentation is a Zoom meeting and ours is a Webex meeting.
- Carl is going to look into seeing if we can possibly have Ginger Katz's presentation be our meeting. He will check with the town officials. He will send us a separate email once he gets clarification and we can discuss it our next meeting.

5. Standing Reports.

a. Social Services

- Kelly discussed the Renters Rebate application. Residents may call the office or email for application. Applications will be processed by mail. She shared a copy with the group.
- The Town is accepting energy assistance applications through April 1. Progress is being made in relocating people who were displaced from their homes due to the flood last August.

b. Public Health

c. Police

- There has been an uptick in cases of vaping. Officials are trying to get help from students on an anonymous tip line.
- SROs helping with transition to optional masks in schools.
- Joseph and Nicholas both discussed being a part of the Connecticut Institute of Youth and Police Relations. They are collaborating and working with a number of youths in the community and at the Homework Center. They are continuing to work with primarily students in Middle and Elementary School. There have been discussions and presentations on Animal Control and Internet Safety. They have gotten commitments from local restaurants to donate food.

d. WHPS

- Melissa discussed issues related to students who are vaping in school and what may occur if they are caught. Nordia asked for clarification regarding options for students and parents if they are involved. There are different options and consequences related to educational and disciplinary actions. They are discussed with the student and parents. Wheeler Clinic may conduct an assessment.
- SMART program at Bridge every Tuesday. Education on substance abuse.

e. YSB (The Bridge)

- Chris reported out. Many students are struggling. About 75 students in school counseling sessions.
- It's an adjustment seeing friends and staff without masks.
- Teen Center is always full.
- SMART happening at Conard and Hall.

- Diaper Drive is continuing. Donations can be brought to The Bridge or Charter Oak Preschool. Sizes Three or Four are really needed. Diapers can be very expensive for families. The Teen Center leaders did a Can and Bottle Drive and used the money they raised to buy diapers.
- f Prevention Partnership Coalition
- Kelly reported out. The focus has been on QPR, suicide prevention, and Narcan training. Amplify Grant used to train Chris. Hoping to do Narcan training for members of the fire department. Also hoping to do QPR training in Spanish at Elmwood. Kelly will be training West Hartford Social Services staff.
 - Kelly shared the flyer she has sent and is trying to get a variety of providers to participate at the at the WHPP Wellness fair to be held at Charter oak. On Saturday April 30. She discussed some of the providers who have been contacted and asked the group for any additional ones.
 - Suggestions were made about inviting other community members and businesses who provide services including animal therapy, massage, and yoga.
 - It was also suggested that West Hartford students might also want to design posters or other creative projects for the event.
 - Donations are also being sought.
 - The next scheduled meeting of the WHPP is Thursday March 17 from 5-7 PM. The Partnership is currently seeking new members to join.

6. Public Comment

None

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

Next meeting: Thursday, April 21, 2022, 5PM-6PM, In person

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.