

**WEST HARTFORD PREVENTION COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2022 AT 5:00 p.m.
ELMWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER
ROOM 24**

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

a. Voting:

- **Present:** Carl Shields, Heather Alix, Howard Dashefsky, Bob Macca, Patty Graham, Nordia Napier
- **Absent:** Chris Dutton, Kadzo Kangwana

b. Ex-Officio:

- **Present:** Tor Fiske, Clare Nesoralla, Nicholas Sanford, Joseph Hopkins,
- **Absent:** Derek Williams, Natalie Gavalas, Megan Westcott, Melissa Hickey

c. Guests: None

d. Staff Liaison: Kelly Waterhouse

2. Approval of Minutes

a. Minutes of Meeting of March 10

- Bob Macca moved to accept the minutes. Carl Shields seconded. Motion passed.
- Our April meeting did not have enough council members to have a quorum.
- Ginger Katz Presentation took the place of the May meeting.

2. Old Business

Carl reviewed the Summary of Wellness Assessment Findings (handout).

- WHPP is implementing many of the findings and recommendations.
- There is potential money coming from a three percent tax on marijuana sales that towns could receive.
- Kelly is proposing town hire a full time Prevention Coordinator. Carl offered to write a letter in support.

4. New Business

a. Three extensive bills targeting children's mental health win final passage. (handout)

- Reviewed the specifics. There was language regarding schools. Measures would expand access to and boost resources for children's mental health.
- How will it impact West Hartford Schools? How much money will the town get?

5. Standing Reports.

a. Social Services

- Kelly reported out. Discussion of panhandling in town and how to handle it. Assess needs and supports and look at laws.
- Samantha Innis is working in Social Services full time social worker. Three days a week she serves as a police liaison. Two days in WH social services. Looking at how her role will evolve. There are different models out there. Goal would be to work full time embedded within the police department. She's also collaborating with the schools.
- More issues with elderly with mental health challenges around crisis calls and evictions.
- Accepting applications for renter's rebates.
- Celebrate West Hartford is this weekend.
- Juvenile Review Board has gotten more referrals. Working with parents and schools is complicated.
- Discussed Care Card program. Registering those with Alzheimer's and intellectual disabilities could help police.

b. Public Health

c. Police

- Joseph and Nicholas reported out. Increase in vaping reported at schools over the last couple of months.
- Increased collaboration with school staff around mental health.
- Discussed calls for mobile crisis unit and police involvement.
- Discussed Safe Grad nights at the high schools.

d. WHPS

- Tor reported out. It's been a long and exhausting year for staff.
- Many students with mental health challenges. West Hartford is fortunate it has a lot of resources in the community.
- Chris Herren presentation was at both schools. Feedback was very positive.
- West Hartford's Sandy Hook Promise training is ongoing.
- Fall months Suicide Prevention topics will be presented at both high schools.
- Some students are sad to see school ending. Missing friends, support and structure. The Bridge will continue with summer programming.

e. YSB (The Bridge)

f. Prevention Partnership Coalition

- Kelly reported out. Work on vaping prevention continuing.
- Grants for QPR and Narcan training. Seeking groups and individuals to do the training with.

- At the health Fair 40 vendors had signed up and 25 attended. Not many participants. Partnership will look at other times and venues to increase attendance.
- One more meeting of WHPP.

6. Public Comment

None

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

Next meeting: Thursday, September 9. Enjoy the summer.

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.