

**WEST HARTFORD PREVENTION COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, September 8, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
ROOM 217
MINUTES**

1. **Roll Call-Bob Macca, Nordia Napier, Christopher Dutton, Howard Dashefsky, Heather Alex, and Carl Shields were all present. Carl reported that Patricia Graham had notified him she would be unable to attend, and also unable to continue as a Council member due to increased work responsibilities. As members may recall, Kadzo Kangwana announced in the June meeting her resignation and move. Discussion as to need for new Council members, perhaps one from middle school and one from High School, Sedgwick and Bristol to balance Board. Joseph Hopkins will speak to Tor, Carl will communicate with Helen regarding openings. Also spoke about need for someone to fill Secretary position, as Howard has also taken on additional duties, asking for volunteers. None offered. Chris suggested waiting for new members. In the meantime, Carl will do minutes temporarily.**
2. **Approval of Minutes: Minutes of meeting of June 9, 2022 were approved**

NEW BUSINESS

3. **Social Services reported out, as Kelly needed to leave early to help out with registration for QPR and Narcan event at 6. Kelly reported on business of Social Services: housing issues, evictions, Samantha being extraordinarily busy as liaison with police department, rental assistance busy in most sectors of Social Services. A new Assistant Director of Social Services position is in process for the Department.**
4. **West Hartford Prevention Partnership: A small amount of money not spent. T shirts purchased with clear anti vaping message emblazoned, to be distributed. Multiple trainings and workshops done and continue to be planned by Kelly, Megan, and with other agencies, particularly related to QPR and Narcan, especially topical given this is Suicide Prevention Month, and anti-vaping is focus of DMHAS grant. There will be additional publishing of West Hartford Cares cards for distribution. There will be Town Hall active shooter drill tomorrow. The town hall closed 8-11 for the drill, given recent national events. Officer Hopkins reported on similar drills/trainings for educators within the school system.
There was no news on Prevention Specialist position. Carl will follow up. Carl will also review by laws for composition of Board members. Asked about 988, which seems to not have yet had major impact Nordia discussed importance of reviewing**

available school data related to mental health, substance abuse, police involvement, juvenile review board, to focus efforts moving forward. Officer Hopkins will provide for next meeting

5. Police Department-Officer Hopkins reported on multiple activities, including drills with educators for “in the event of” an armed intruder, and multiple scenarios, factors to be considered in such a case. Spoke about issues of the law, versus conflicts within schools or issue which could be handled without reaching level of legal system or becoming an official police matter, and clarifying this early on to educators.
5. Public Health -Megan reported on multiple activities, including co presenting QPR, Narcan trainings, and assisting in assuring awareness of others available to residents to increase attendance. Running Flu and Covid booster clinics. Also has begun HIV screenings, and Hepatitis B vaccines. Flyers available for some of these events
6. West Hartford Public Schools-Beginning of multiple town wide sports programs today-keeping many students engaged in after school activities. Football, soccer, basketball. Students and teachers semi optimistic about start of new school year almost normal after last 2 years being so different. Everyone very aware of spotlight on mental health struggles for students, teachers, families.
7. Youth Services Bureau-Chris reported on the school-based clinic up and running, and also on the success and growth of the youth center and mentoring program which has grown enormously. There was clearly a need for the center over the summer, given huge increase in numbers, and reports from attendees. There is a new on line LGBTQI parents support group, weekly. There was a successful campaign for funding, and clients participated and gave back as part of their own volition and belief in the cause.
7. Public Comment-None
8. Adjournment. Heather made the motion to adjourn, Nordia seconded the motion. It was carried unanimously at 6pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, October 13, 2022.

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