

**WEST HARTFORD PREVENTION COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
ROOM 217**

- 1. Roll Call Taken. Bob Macca, Nordia Napier, Christopher Dutton, Howard Dashefsky, Heather Alex, Carl Shields all present.**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - a. Minutes of meeting of September 9, 2022 were reviewed. Correction to minutes of spelling of Heather Alix's name in minutes to ix, not ex. With that correction, Bob Macca motioned to accept and unanimously accepted.**
- 3. Old Business-the was none.**
- 4. New Business**
 - a. November/December compilation of Council achievements for Town Council, goals for 2023-Carl discussed from his perspective the need to gather 2021 Council achievements and recommendations for Town Council for 2023, due in January. He reviewed 2022 minutes. Suggested inclusion of number of Narcan and QPR trainings particularly done by Kelly and Megan, distribution and review of Wellness Assessment findings, letter of support for full time Prevention Coordinator. Review of 3 pieces of Ct legislation for funding of children's Mental Health Initiatives, support of Wellness fair, Clarification of Roles of West Hartford Prevention Partnership and West Hartford Prevention Council and interface of the 2, clarification of data regarding mental health/ substance abuse and police involvement/juvenile review board, public health involvement in QPR, Narcan, Hep B, and flu clinic vaccinations, presentation on vaping, presentation by Ginger Katz. It was suggested each Council member submit information of significant activities from their perspective for potential inclusion, then review by full Council. Discussion around grants for prevention related to Opioid settlement funds. Chris mentioned skating rink event in the winter.**
 - b. Review of 2023 Calendar-Upon review of 2023 calendar, there is no conflict for 2nd Thursdays in 2023 to hold Council meetings at 5:00, no holidays conflict with this. Carl will fill in calendar, attach, and submit to Town Clerk, per their request, and unanimous approval of the Council.**
 - c. Potential Board members-Discussion about need for potential new board members. Reviewed Prevention Council ordinance: Need is for 3**

new members; 1 school counselor from either a public or private school located in the Town at the high school level or middle school level; 1 licensed professional in State of Ct who provides services to individuals on the issues of substance abuse or mental health, including guidance regarding prevention, intervention, treatment, or recovery; and 1 resident who has an interest or expertise in substance abuse or mental health issues. Council members will explore for referrals.

5. Standing Reports

- a. Social Services-Kelly reported a great deal of activity in mental health arena, much of it dementia related. New assistant director started, hope she can attend and meet this group next meeting. There is money from the opioid settlement funds for use for the town, starting to generate ideas for the development of prevention programs. Social services staff remains very involved in eviction issues for residents, housing issues, there are a lot of families coming in from other town, a difficult process needing collaboration working with Astrid. Many families coming from traumatic experiences, other cultures and languages, no insurance, need multiple case management services. Often a need to pay for medication and immunization before children can begin school. There is a Children's Holiday Program also Thanksgiving gift cards for family members, gift baskets holiday meal deliveries.**
- b. Public Health-Medan reported funds available for harm reduction education and reduction impact on adverse childhood experiences. Busy with running multiple clinics and trainings**
- c. Police-Joseph reported from P.D on 18 contacts, 17 to JRBS, mostly high school. Much education and teaching presentations, individually and in classrooms. This year no arrests at Conard. Did active shooter drills and training. Need to increase \$ for JRB**
- d. WHPS-new cameras and alert systems installed, very much a security focus in schools. There has been an improvement in the social climate. Continued concerns regarding the emotional well being of students, children continuing to struggle with interpersonal relationships and compounded, complicated by, social media.**
- e. YSB (The Bridge)-Chris reported number of hours spent with children increasing , they are increasing groups, schools biased counseling and mentoring. Need mentors and school therapists. Friday 11/18 teen night.**
- f. Prevention Partnership Coalition-Focus on reduction of vaping. Also, opined money coming to Town. Potential money for prevention due to marijuana legislation would be very helpful in support of hiring of Prevention Coordinator.**

6. Public Comment-there were no members of the public in attendance, no comments.

7. Adjournment-at 6:15p.m.

Next meeting: Thursday, December 8, 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