

West Hartford Prevention Council  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, January 12, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.  
West Hartford Town Hall, Room 217

AGENDA

1. Roll Call Howard Dashefsky, Carl Shields, Heather Alix, Chris Dutton , Nordia Napier present. Bob Macca excused absence. In addition to Ex-Officio members, Gayle Harris introduced self for replacing Clare Nesorella for Board of Education, Susan Walsh for replacing Megan Westcott for BHD, and Gretchen Levitz as interested potential new Council candidate.
2. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Minutes of meeting December 8, 2022-Chris motioned to accept, Heather seconded, were unanimously approved without correction
3. Old Business
  - a. Finalized Accomplishments and Recommendations report to Town Council-these have been reviewed twice, in previous meetings, and approved by Council. They are ready to go
  - b. Results of December 9 Opioid Settlements Funds/Prevention Planning Meeting-this meeting was held last week, chaired by Carl, to begin collaboration and integration of : information and recommendations from Wellness/Needs Assessment, input and advice from OOC Opioid Services, and from Amplify, and with guidance and assistance and collaboration with this Council, W.H. Prevention Partnership, and W.H. Social Services, and the Prevention Specialist, if and when hired. We, as a group, can build the infrastructure based on specific needs of West Hartford community, and be proactive in our approach. We have been the first CT. town to approach DMHAS OOC for this type of collaboration and planning, using the Eight Dimensions of Wellness and the Strategic Prevention Framework.
4. New Business
  - a. Recovery Friendly Community-Helen Rubino-Turco had mentioned to Carl some West Hartford Town Hall members are interested in becoming a Recovery Friendly Community. Carl pursued with DMHAS Office of the Commissioner contacts, discussed with them, and received rubric for determining/assessing for being a Recovery Friendly Community, and called and held a meeting, about this for last week. The guidelines were shared with Town Hall participants, who assessed what town has, what we know and don't know. We need to explore further. Discussion

centered around pursuing further once the Prevention Specialist is hired, as there is need for designation of a Recovery Champion to oversee this effort.

## 5. Standing Reports

- a. Social Services-Astrid Calderon stepped down from West Hartford position. There is lot of work everywhere, with the holiday gifts and distribution over the holidays. Heating costs have been awful, contributing to evictions. Liz B. is new Associate Director. Affordable housing is a huge issue, as always. More issues of truancy, social workers working with high schools and DCF. These referrals are tracked. There is also number of behavioral/mental health truancy issues. Nordia discussed breaking down into data for resources, funding, and services determination. Chris talked about kids staying home for very long periods of time before they reach Kelly.
- b. Public Health-Continues with trainings for Naloxone and QPR, had one last week in Elmwood, next one in West Hartford library. Next week a clinic 4-6 at schools. Currently a major project underway looking to make sure facilities are ADA compliant. They have also joined the State of CT. data, epidemiological group.
- c. Police-Officer Nick Sanford reported on number of Hall presentation. Anonymous reporting system very successful. Decrease in vaping and marijuana at Hall. Discussion of Narcan trainings at schools for the teachers. Same issues as in other schools. Issues of recreational use of marijuana, now that it is legal. Presentation on substance abuse, social media abuse, information on drugs. Officer Joseph Hopkins said that the number of vape cases are down. More students are self-reporting. He is going into classrooms doing presentations on the law, and family and domestic violence. They are revamping the Herrick program. Also trying to do a mentoring program for elementary and middle school kids.
- d. WHPS-Tor Fiske articulated concern now that marijuana is legalized, impact on students. Be in the Know CT.org is a good website for information on cannabis. School in general is increasingly challenging, still very, very much experiencing the impact of the pandemic on staff, students, and families. Language barriers are also an issue. Helpful to have on site translators. There has been an uptick in the number of kids hospitalized for depression, anxiety, etc.
- e. YSB(The Bridge)-Chris talked about counseling and mentoring overflowing, a position is posted for mentoring, need to hire more. Lots of alcohol use among kids. Bridge doing lots of groups, school-based diversion, conflict resolution. Bridge will offer programs for middle school. A joint parent and kids meeting coming up, conflict resolution. Ice skating program January 27, Prevention messaging. A parent leadership training program is available to any adult living in town. Also an open-ended LGBT support group for parents via Zoom starting January 30. New England Jewish Academy wanted help with social-emotional learning in-service, and QPR.
- f. Prevention Partnership Coalition-Kelly reported on very large anticipated event January 27 at skating rink, with vaping prevention focus, gifts and gift cards, targeted for middle and high schools.

6. Public Comment-solicited, there were none.
7. Adjournment-there being no objections from any Board member, meeting wau adjourned with unanimous consent of the Council.

Next meeting Thursday, February 9, 2023

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