

West Hartford Prevention Council
Special Meeting
Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.
West Hartford Town Hall, Council Chambers

AGENDA

1. Roll Call-Bob Macca, Nordia Napier, Chris Dutton, Carl Shields, Jessica Evans, Gretchen Levitz Campbell were present for the meeting.
2. Approval of Minutes-March minutes were unanimously approved by the Council.
3. Old Business
 - a. Updated Council member list-this was discussed, in context of new member and need for another member. Council welcomed Jessica Evans, who spoke briefly. Also welcome to Meghan Jo, student representative.
4. New Business- Concerns raised regarding alcohol use, frequency, quantity, ages of students using, upcoming warmer weather and potential increased use, how Council might partner to address. Most of the hour was an in depth discussion, involving all Council, ex-officio, standing report officiants, and all in attendance on this issue. There are several positive elements and structures already in place in our community, the schools, social services, our service network, etc. There is a seeming lack of quantity given the need, lack of sufficient resources where and when needed, lack of coordination at times, difficulty helping people negotiate through the complex system to get their needs met. Coordination is a serious issue, as fragmentation and silos of communication exist, and there are focused areas of greater strength, and those of greater need and weakness, which concerns our group. The police run accident reconstruction events at the schools were identified as being impactful and helpful. Co-occurring trained social workers and clinical staff in the schools were identified as helpful, and there are clear gaps in this in our system we could begin to address. Looking at how to use Prevention Coordinator to assist was discussed, as was thinking about focusing on West Hartford Days to reach members of the community on this issue. There will be ongoing dialogues with the Prevention Partnership to assist in their efforts, also.
5. Standing Reports
 - a. Social Services-Public Health-Operation Fuel ended earl, so many applications. Lots of referrals. Lots of trainings
 - b. Police-incidents of domestic violence, mental health and domestic violence concern in school system are noteworthy.
 - c. WHPS-a notable increase in alcohol use in 9th and 10th grade, relevant to our discussion today and plans for focus moving forward.

- d. YSB(The Bridge)-Busy, as usual
- e. Prevention Partnership Coalition-middle school presentation May 3, 6:30-8, media presentation.

6. Public Comment-none

7. Adjournment-

Next meeting Thursday, May 11, 2023

Anyone requiring auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or modification of policies or procedures to participate in a meeting, service, program or activity of the Town of West Hartford, should contact Suzanne Oslander, ADA Coordinator, at suzanne0@westhartfordct.gov or 860-561-7580, as soon as possible, preferably seven days beforehand.