

**West Hartford Prevention Council**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.**  
**West Hartford Town Hall, Room 217**

**REVISED MINUTES**

1. Roll Call: Present; Nordia Napier, Gretchen Levitz, Carl Shields, Howard Dashefsky, Chris Dutton, Bob Macca. Other: Kelly Waterhouse (Social Services), Susan Walsh (Health Department), Joseph Hopkins (WHPD)
2. Approval of Minutes from June 8, 2023 were approved unanimously.
3. Old Business
  - a. Clarification of DATT ((Drug and Alcohol and Tobacco Team) and process and availability at high schools
  - b. Prevention Coordinator position deadline extended
  - c. Clarification regarding Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and Wheeler Clinic
4. New Business
  - a. Village Urgent Crisis Center is now available at 1680 Albany Avenue in Hartford. 860-297-0520 [www.thevillage.org/UCC](http://www.thevillage.org/UCC) No appointment needed.
  - b. Update on terms of office and vacancies on council
  - nc. Accomplishments for 2023 and Goals for 2024
  - d. September is Suicide Prevention Month – variety of training opportunities for schools and staff as well as parents
  - e. Discussion on how to provide more public awareness on suicide prevention via town businesses in addition to schools
5. Standing Reports
  - a. **Social Services:** Kelly Waterhouse reported: Prevention Coordinator position was posted and deadline extended. Partnered with Health District to provide QPR and Naloxone training, Discussion of annual report with trends. Thirty (30) percent increase in the number of referrals. Eighty-six (86)percent continue with case management provided by social services. There is an increase in truancy and referrals to Juvenile Review Board (JRB) and community court as well as requests for financial assistance from residents. Introduction of new student interns. The Community Renewal Team (CRT) energy assistance worker has weekly on-site office hours at social services.
  - b. **Public Health:** Susan Walsh reported: Discussion on funding for anticipated part-time prevention coordinator within the department. Public Health has offered and will continue to provide trainings, including Question, Persuade and Refer (QPR) The department has a cadre of staff trained in Mental Health First Aid as well. The Department provides outreach to schools and have conducted Naloxone training to staff and can customize training and

workshops to schools on a variety of topics. Materials are being translated in multiple languages for community distribution.

- c. **Police** Joe Hopkins reported that over the summer, the school-based officers were repositioned to various strategic locations including parking garages, the center. Community Relations officers are fully staffed in each school including all three middle schools. They continue to work with school administration to provide more training on bullying in particular social media as well as awareness of dangers of edible gummy bears.
- d. **WHPS**- no report provided
- e. **YSB (The Bridge)**: Chris Dutton provided update on his new role within the Bridge. Information regarding a variety of community projects including Jazz Concert in Blue Back Square—WeHa United in Jazz on Sunday, Oct. 8 from 2-5pm. The Bridge has immediate openings available to the community for counseling with little to no wait. Update provided on success of Summer Youth Employment Program with 75 youth applicants.
- f. **Prevention Partnership Coalition**- Kelly Waterhouse discussed grants that have been released and that some are in the process of being applied for. Discussed potential topics to include in grant applications including community-wide training, vaping and more. Skate Night at Veterans Memorial Ice Skating Rink: various community partners will have tables with informational materials. The Partnership will provide support and the CT affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) will take the lead.

6. Public Comment

7. Adjournment- Motion was made to adjourn. It was unanimously passed.

**Next meeting Thursday October 12, 2023 5:00 pm Town Hall Room 217**

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](mailto:suzanne0@westhartfordct.gov) or 860-561-7580, as soon as possible, preferably seven days beforehand.