

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

1. Roll Call: Present; Nordia Napier, Gretchen Levitz, Carl Shields, Howard Dashefsky, Bob Macca, Jessica Evans. Ex-Officio Members: Kelly Waterhouse (Social Services), Susan Walsh (Health Department), Joseph Hopkins (WHPD) Meghan Jo (Student Rep)
2. Approval of Minutes from September 14, 2023 were approved with revisions
3. Old Business: None
4. New Business
 - a. Data Collaborative Handout
<https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/cerc-pdfs/2023/West-Hartford.pdf>
 - b. Update on terms of office and vacancies on council. There are currently two voting seats open: Substance Abuse Counselor and School Counselor.
 - c. Accomplishments for 2023 and Goals for 2024
 - d. DPH Suicide Advisory Board Report/Information

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DPH/Injury-and-Violence-Prevention/Suicide-and-Self-Injury/CTSAB-ONE-PAGER-FINAL-031423.PDF>

<https://www.preventsuicidect.org/about-suicide/facts-figures/>
 - e. Discussion on how to provide more public awareness on suicide prevention via town businesses in addition to schools via QR code for businesses and community agencies,
5. Standing Reports
 - a. **Social Services:** Kelly Waterhouse reported: Prevention Coordinator position interviews will be held in upcoming weeks. The department is currently in the process of establishing of a strategic plan to establish priorities. A consultant is working with department to do staff and community surveys. Discussion of community partnerships including: Food Distribution, Energy Assistance, Direct Services. Applications for subsidized housing lottery extended another week.
 - b. **Public Health:** Susan Walsh reported: Clarification on funding for an anticipated part-time prevention coordinator within the department as well as

five year OD 2A grant.. Update on flu clinics, naloxone training, QPR training (Question, Persuade, Refer), Diabetes Education. Upcoming community workshops include Domestic Violence (October 18 6-7pm at Faxon Library) and Lead (October 25 6-7pm Faxon Library). For more information: <https://www.westhartfordct.gov/town-departments/health-district>

- c. **WHPD-** Joseph Hopkins: The department collaborated on several community events, including: Jazz Fest and Faith in Blue at University of Saint Joseph. Focus has been on extra attention to synagogues and Jewish schools, especially during pick-ups and drop-offs.
 - d. **WHPS-** Tor Fiske, Conard High School: Major effort to strengthen partnership with Wheeler Clinic. New social worker G.Kelly will work to customize the DATT program at Conard. Looking at trends, partnerships and connections.
 - e. **YSB (The Bridge)-** no report was made
 - f. **Prevention Partnership Coalition-** Kelly Waterhouse provided update on skating event in conjunction with NAMI-CT (National Alliance on Mental Illness- Connecticut). Very successful event, attended by nearly 200 students of all ages. Community providers distributed information. Students contributed to a moveable art installation featuring positive messages on paper hearts and hands. Department of Social Services is partnering with Community of Concern on the Screenagers showing.
6. **Public Comment:** Rebekah Seaton of West Hartford Community of Concern presented information regarding an upcoming event called: Screenagers Under the Influence on Thursday, November 2, 6:45-8:30pm at Bristow Middle School. Link: [Tinyurl.com/mptu3myc](https://www.tinyurl.com/mptu3myc)

7. Adjournment- Motion was made to adjourn at 6:02pm. It was unanimously passed

Next meeting Thursday November 9, 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 or 860-561-7580, as soon as possible, preferably seven days beforehand.