

**West Hartford Prevention Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday, November 9, 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, Chris Dutton. Other: Tor Fiske, Nicholas Sanford, Joseph Hopkins, Kelly Waterhouse, Meghan Jo (student rep) Katie Bond, Rebekah Seaton
2. Approval of Minutes from October 14, 2023 were unanimously approved.
3. Old Business: None
4. New Business
 - a. Prevention Coordinator Update: Kelly Waterhouse announced that Gretchen Levitz was hired to be the New Prevention Coordinator.
 - b. Vacancies:
 - Ms. Levitz resigned as a voting member of the council due to her new position. Will continue to participate in her new role representing the Department of Social Services.
 - Nordia Napier and Bob Macca (terms expire on 12-31-23) have expressed interest in serving a second term to Clerk's office.
 - Katie Bond, Counselor at King Phillip has applied to the clerk's office for a position on the council. Awaiting approval.
 - c. Drafts of Accomplishments 2023 and Recommendations 2024 were distributed. Feedback has been requested to be sent to Carl Shields prior to the next meeting.
 - d. Distribution of Research Report on Recreational Cannabis, CT General Assembly
 - e. Distribution of DMHAS Opioid Settlement Fund Guidelines
5. Standing Reports
 - a. **Social Services:** Kelly Waterhouse reported: Social Services is in the process of applying for additional grant funding through Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee (OSAC). Initial application is due on November 17, 2023. Social services survey was disseminated to residents in October. Reminder to complete the online survey.

- b. **Public Health:** Gretchen Levitz updated information on Flu clinics and October/November trainings held at Faxon Library.
 - 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 day 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, Gretchen 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 October that was held 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. Looking at future events and initiatives such as a Health and Wellness expo.
6. **Public Comment:** Rebekah Seaton of West Hartford Community of Concern presented report on Screenagers even held on , November 2 at Bristow Middle School. Several community providers were present to distribute materials and approximately 50 people were in attendance.

7. Adjournment- Motion was made to adjourn at 6:02pm. 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 or 860-561-7580, as soon as possible, preferably seven days beforehand.