

West Hartford Prevention Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday January 11, at 5:00 p.m.
West Hartford Town Hall, Room 217
MINUTES

1. **Roll Call:** Present Carl Shields, Howard Dashefsky, Nordia Napier, Megan Polte Jessica Evans, Katie Bond, Bob Macca. Ex-officio: Megan Jo (Student Rep - Conard) Madeline Valentin(Student Rep - Hall), Tor Fiske, Kelly Waterhouse, Gretchen Levitz, Susan Walsh

2. **Approval of Minutes** from December 14, 2023 – unanimously approved.

3. **Old Business:** none

4. New Business

- a. Upcoming Meeting Dates for 2024 <https://www.westhartfordct.gov/government-services/boards-commissions/prevention-council>
- b. Addition of Prevention Coordinator Standing Report
Beginning with this meeting, Prevention Coordinator will provide a report which will include Prevention Partnership standing report.
- c. Recovery Friendly Community: Carl will meet with Prevention Coordinator and DMHAS representative to determine what is needed for this designation and will explore how this might be adapted in West Hartford. Currently towns such as Simsbury, Danbury and Portland have received this designation.
<https://www.simsbury-ct.gov/social-services/pages/recovery-friendly-community>
- d. Monthly Presenters: Presenters on specific programs or topics will be invited to future meetings to present information to the Council to increase knowledge base and awareness of local prevention efforts and resources. Topics could include: Immigrants, Library, Mayor's Youth Council, MADD, Mental Health, Legislative Update and possible impacts for 15 minute presentation at end of meeting after official business.
- e. Retreat for members: Discussion regarding half day retreat for all Prevention Council members, facilitated by DMHAS or other agency. Focus on Prevention, Resources and Team Building.

5. Standing Reports

- a. **Social Services:** Kelly Waterhouse reported: Buried in Treasures in person group began January 9, 2024 and will run on Tuesdays for 16 weeks in a combination of virtual and in person meetings. Increased need for affordable housing, energy assistance. Issues affecting youth: Juvenile Review Board: Increase in 9th grade referrals for truancy

- b. **Police Department:** Reported by Kelly Waterhouse who read report provided by the officers: claims of issues with student vaping activity in bathrooms at Conard. Alcohol issues at sporting events for both schools. All students get referred to DATT at their school. Increases in searches, truancy and mental health issues.
- c. **Youth Service Bureau (The Bridge):** Megan Polte: Bridge has applied for funding through Summer Youth Employment. This summer would look different as it would break into chunks.
- d. **West Hartford Public Schools (WHPS):** Tor Fiske reported: Higher usage of alcohol and substances during hockey and basketball seasons in winter. Schools are incorporating different strategies during midterms to lower the stress level of students. Yoga, Badminton etc. Increase in searches, increase in truancy. Looking at ways to provide more peer education and intervention in the schools.
- e. **Health District:** Susan Walsh reported: Continued work on training community members in QPR, Naloxone. Mental Health First Aid training will occur so that staff can train others. Note: Interval House has been working with Bloomfield every semester in Health education class. Wellness Screenings will take place in Room 417 on Fridays from 10:30-noon. Open to everyone.
- f. **Prevention Partnership Coalition/Prevention Coordinator:** Gretchen Levitz Looking to establish new and fortify existing partnerships. Met with many stakeholders in January, including schools, agencies, advisory boards, library, DATT, Police, Fire and CERT. Met with BUDR dispensary for tour and opportunities for support for community. Looking to collaborate with Health District and Fire Dept. to provide training menu for restaurants and businesses (Stop the Bleed, Hands only CPR, QPR, Naloxone). Requested Prevention Tent for Celebrate West Hartford. <https://www.westhartfordct.gov/government-services/boards-commissions/mayors-youth-council>

6. **Public Comment:** None

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

Next meeting Thursday February 8, 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.