

West Hartford Prevention Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday February 8, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
West Hartford Town Hall, Room 217
MINUTES

1. **Roll Call:** Present Carl Shields, Nordia Napier, Megan Polte, Bob Macca. Ex-officio: Megan Jo (Student Rep – Conard High School), Madeline Valentin (Student Rep – Hall High School)), Tor Fiske, Kelly Waterhouse, Gretchen Levitz, Susan Walsh, Nicholas Sanford . Absent: Howard Dashefsky, BOE rep, Katie Bond, Jessica Evans
2. **Approval of Minutes** from January 11, 2024 – unanimously approved.
3. **Old Business:** none
4. **New Business**
 - a. Update on Recovery Friendly Community and plans to move forward. Carl and Gretchen met with DMHAS representative to further understand next steps.

5. Standing Reports

- a. **Social Services:** Kelly Waterhouse reported: Evictions are ongoing and have doubled. There are a lot of housing issues and an ongoing need for affordable housing. Food pantry needs donations year-round. Community needs assessment survey will include housing, youth mental health, childcare, adult mental health. The question arose on what is required for affordable housing with new development in town.
- b. **Heath District:** Susan Walsh reported: Satellite office in 417 will be used as a full office Mondays-Friday 7:30-3pm. Includes Wellness screenings and will be full service. West Hartford will administer Bloomfield opiate reduction. Overdose kits have been created for first responders to leave behind after a related call.
- c. **Police Department:** Officer Nicholas Sanford reported: increase in shoplifting, increase in issues stemming from social media which are complex and impact school communities including photos and violence. WHPD and schools are working to address this but hard to contain once it is shared.
- 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 reported: Continuing to establish new partnerships and fortify existing ones. 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, Nalaxone). Requested Prevention Tent for Celebrate West Hartford.

6. **Public Comment:** None

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