

**West Hartford Prevention Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday March 14, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
West Hartford Town Hall, Room 400**

MINUTES

1. **Roll Call:** Present Carl Shields, Nordia Napier, Megan Polte, Bob Macca, Howard Dashefsky, Katie Bond. Ex-officio: Megan Jo (Student Rep – Conard High School), Madeline Valentin (Student Rep – Hall High School), Kelly Waterhouse, Gretchen Levitz, Susan Walsh, Absent: Jessica Evans
2. **Approval of Minutes** from February 8, 2024 with amendments unanimously approved
3. **Old Business:** none
4. **New Business**
 - a. National Prevention Week is May 12-18, 2024. Discussion of events including various events throughout town be shared as a calendar and on social media
 - b. Proclamation
 - c. Discussion of activities that could be sponsored throughout the year by various businesses including Skate night and Movie Night(s)
 - d. Recovery Friendly Community – Gretchen Levitz and Carl Shields have been finalizing with the Town and DMHAS Commissioner's Office on designation. In final stages of initial roll out.
 - e. QPR Train the Trainer Partnership with multiple university and college counselors
 - f. Future Prevention Leaders Conference – June 14, 2024

5. Standing Reports

- a. **Social Services:** (Kelly Waterhouse): Renter's Rebate program for Seniors and Disabled begins in April. BUDR dispensary made donation to Leisure services for camperships. Anxiety/wellness circle for teens is being held Wednesdays from 5-5:45pm for four weeks. QPR Training will be offered at the Wellness Fair sponsored by the WH Community of Concern at Hall High School on 3/22/24.
- b. **Prevention:** (Gretchen Levitz): Update on activities and events. Middle School anti-vaping and healthy living skating event was a huge success. Event exceeded projected numbers. Nearly 100 middle and high school students took the vaping survey developed by the WH/Bloomfield Health District. Other ongoing projects include: development of a community calendar, website, training menu and attendance at and coordination of various Prevention related events between now and end of school year, including Drug Take-back, Public Safety Fest at both high schools, PHACTT(Peer Health Awareness and Concerns Teen Taskforce) and Celebrate West Hartford.

- c. **Health District:** (Susan Walsh) Continued Naloxone and QPR training in the community, offered in English and Portuguese. Satellite office located in Town Hall room 417 Monday-Friday 7:30-3:00pm. Senior Day is May 15 and will include immunizations, wellness screenings, naloxone presentations, and information on various health-related topics”. Drug Takeback Day is being held at Town Hall on Saturday, April 27. Offers many routine wellness screening clinics.”
- d. **West Hartford PD:** No representative was present
- e. **West Hartford Public Schools:** We continue to have a need for a Board of Education representative on the Council. Katie Bond (KP) reported that KP and Sedgewick are working on activities for students that are disengaged and also “reasons to have fun in school”. SBDI grant ends in middle schools, high school has one more year. Update on Restorative Practice – in beginning of school year it went smoothly but more difficult to maintain as year goes on. Madeline V. from Hall reports that stress is very high due to the time of year and AP classes. Update on bathroom passes and sign out. Students are not happy with this process. Megan J. from Conard discussed high stress levels with both students and staff. Boys bathroom closed due to vandalism.
- f. **Youth Service Bureau (Megan Polte):** Teen Night – March 22 with DJ and Basketball. Summer Youth Employment applications are open, not certain on final numbers. Discussion of including middle school students regularly in Teen Center activities. Teen Center operates on Mondays/Weds/Fridays.

6. **Public Comment:** None

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