

**West Hartford Prevention Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday April 18, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
West Hartford Town Hall, Room 400**

MINUTES

1. **Roll Call:** Present Carl Shields, Nordia Napier, Megan Polte, Howard Dashefsky, Katie Bond. Jessica Evans Ex-officio: Megan Jo (Student Rep – Conard High School), Madeline Valentin (Student Rep – Hall High School), Kelly Waterhouse, Gretchen Levitz, Susan Walsh, Jason Gagnon (BOE)
2. **Approval of Minutes** from March 14, 2024 unanimously approved
3. **Old Business:** Recovery Friendly Community
Progress has been made by Gretchen Levitz and Carl Shields who have been finalizing the Recovery Friendly Community roll out with Helen Rubino-Turco and Liz Buzcinski. Meetings with the DMHAS commissioner's office have taken place and we have been given the green light. In final stages of initial roll out.
4. **New Business**
 - a. National Prevention Week is May 12-18, 2024. Discussion of events including various events throughout town will be shared as a calendar and on social media
 - b. Proclamations for Mental Health Awareness month and Prevention Week have been submitted to the Town.
 - c. The Underground – Bob Macca and Gretchen Levitz met on site with lease holder and are in process of determining how we can best utilize the space for teen events. There will be a student led campaign through the Prevention Department to roll out.
 - d. Business sponsorships are being explored by Bob Macca and Prevention Coordinator.
5. **Standing Reports**
 - a. **Social Services:** (Kelly Waterhouse): Renter rebate open for seniors disabled. Veterans Resource Fair, May 11, for West Hartford Veterans and families. Details in flyer. Senior Day at Elmwood Community Center on May 15. Energy assistance ends mid May, West Hartford CRT worker has moved to Hartford location. Juvenile Review Board referrals are steady, including incidents of racial tensions, threats of gun violence and shoplifting.
 - b. **Prevention:** (Gretchen Levitz): Update on activities and events. National Drug Takeback Day is Saturday, April 24th from 10 am -2pm. (see flyer). Working on May Calendar of Events for Mental Health Month and Prevention Week. Peer Health Awareness and Concerns Teen Taskforce (PHACTT) campaigns are in the works – currently there are six prevention campaigns. Prevention Mural will begin at the library. There will be four sessions in which teens will design and learn mural

making process. Continued work on Recovery Friendly Community with formal roll out in Fall 2024. Creating a moveable display case with drug and vaping paraphernalia to increase awareness for adults.

- 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 and wellness. April 22, Naloxon senior training, April 28th there will be a QPR training at Westminster - open invite , May QPR, May 9 Health Collective, Healthy Relationships and sexual health (need flyer) May 15, Senior Day and May 13 at the West Hartford Library. Takeback day in West Hartford and Bloomfield, on April 27. Walk in times for Wellness Visits at Town Hall daily. Drop ins welcome for vital signs, glucose, not limited to west Hartford residents.
- d. **West Hartford PD:** Drug Takeback Day is April 27th from 10-2 (see flyer). There is also a prescription collection box in the lobby of the Police Department that is accessible 24/7.
- e. **West Hartford Public Schools:** King Philip Middle School - Screenagers. Elementary parents should be included. May 2 at KP Auditorium. (Flyer attached) Food and child care be provided. All schools are losing clinicians. At KP 16 groups were facilitated by the clinician. These positions were funded by pandemic funds and will be a huge loss to the schools. Schools are in fourth quarter, AP exams are coming. Currently in fourth academic quarter, vaping is a big issue, high anxiety, seniors are finalizing plans for next year. For mental health month, schools are holding assemblies for students. Student representatives on the council report that stress levels are high with many deadlines for juniors and seniors. Middle schools are planning and have held some fun, stress-reducing events or teachers and students that are non-academic in
- f. **Youth Service Bureau** (Megan Polte): Summer Youth Employment (SYEP) starts July 8. Michael Copeland is the new mentor for the Bridge. Looking at partnering with a bank or credit union to do presentation to help participants understand banking, budgeting and open an account. Application is on Capitol Workforce Partners website. Mentors will be split. April 26th - Teen Night at the Teen Center at ECC. Family Resource Center (FRC) located at Charter Oak School , early side of prevention has lots of new programs and groups for children and parents. The Bridge Youth Leadership group will hold a tag sale. Details to follow.
- g. **Board of Education** (Jason Gagnon): Board has been working with the budget. Loss of 5 million dollars, more than 30 positions are affected. . Lot of community input and they have added in a number of positions that were originally scheduled to

be cut. Town council has the final approval for the budget which is a 6 percent increase over a previous budget.

6. Public Comment: None

7. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn was made at 6:02 pm and was unanimously passed.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 9 at 5pm in Room 400

Please note that the Prevention Partnership Meeting will be held from 6-7 following the Prevention Council Meeting. All members are encouraged to join us!

2024 Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

3/14	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	WH Prevention Partnership	Room 400
3/14	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	WH Prevention Council	Room 400
4/18	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	WH Prevention Partnership	Room 400
4/18	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	WH Prevention Council	Room 400
5/9	5:00PM	6:00 PM	WH Prevention Council	Room 400
5/9	6:00PM	7:00PM	WH Prevention Partnership	Room 400
6/13	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	West Hartford Prevention Partnership	Room 217
6/13	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	West Hartford Prevention Council	Room 217
9/12	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	West Hartford Prevention Partnership	Room 217
9/12	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	West Hartford Prevention Council	Room 217
10/17	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	West Hartford Prevention Partnership	Room 217
10/17	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	West Hartford Prevention Council	Room 217
11/14	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	West Hartford Prevention Partnership	Room 217
11/14	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	West Hartford Prevention Council	Room 217
12/12	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	West Hartford Prevention Partnership	Room 217
12/12	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	West Hartford Prevention Council	Room 217