

**West Hartford Prevention Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday May 9, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
West Hartford Town Hall, Room 400**

MINUTES

1. **Roll Call:** Carl Shields, Howard Dashefsky, Katie Bond, Tor, PD, Bob Macca, Nordia Napier, Jason Gagnon. Absent: Megan Polte, Jessica Evans
2. **Approval of Minutes** from April 18, 2024 with edits
3. **Old Business:** Recovery Friendly Community
 - a. 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. Guest: Justin Mehl, Opioid Services Coordinator, State of CT DMHAS presented power point and video.
4. **New Business**
 - 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
 - Proclamation will be presented by Town Council on May 24th at 7pm
 - Discussion of Business Sponsorship opportunities for prevention focused events and activities
 - Retreat: dates were discussed for summer to hold retreat for members to learn more about SPF and to work on setting priorities and focus. Potential dates will be sent out to council members.
 - Council members with areas of expertise still needed, specifically a clinician with a specialty in substance misuse and treatment.
5. **Standing Reports**
 - a. Social Services: (Kelly Waterhouse): veterans resource fair on Saturday, senior fair, renter’s rebate still ongoing. Discussion continues on how to most effectively direct 3% revenue from cannabis. Juvenile Review Board continues to receive a lot of referrals. Regarding mental health, the capacity for intensive in home services is down to one provider, The Village. Wheeler Clinic will no longer be providing these services.
 - b. Prevention (Gretchen Levitz): Drug Takeback Day was a huge success and we are looking to replicate yearly. Hidden in Plain Sight and Change the Script were featured, along with Touch a Truck and tabling from Prevention Partnership, The

West Hartford/Bloomfield Health District and The West Hartford Public Library. Peer Health Awareness and Concerns Teen Taskforce (PHACTT) will have 5 campaigns ready for Celebrate West Hartford. May calendar of Mental Health and Wellness Events was compiled and distributed to community members.

- c. West Hartford/Bloomfield Health District: (Susan Walsh) The district is providing a large number of training and participating in many events, including: naloxone, Senior Day and Health Fair, Veterans Resource Fair, Suicide Prevention Training (QPR) at Westminster Church as well as Narcan training at the West Hartford Library. Free wellness screenings at Town Hall, Room 417 every Friday from 10:30-12pm, the first Thursday of every month from 9-10:30am at the Bishops Corner Senior Center and the Third Thursday of every month from 9-10:30am at the Elmwood Senior Center. There will be free Diabetes workshops this summer for newly diagnosed persons with type 2 diabetes or for those who may need an update on managing their diabetes.
- d. West Hartford PD: Participating in various school activities including Hall High School Public Safety Day, Safe Biking at the American School for the Deaf and Law Enforcement Career Day at Conard.
- e. West Hartford Public Schools: various – Tor: Conard continues to work with students and families on drug and alcohol use. Katie Bond: Community of Concern held a Screenagers event at King Phillip Middle School and nearly 100 students and parents attended. Childcare and food were provided.
- f. Youth Service Bureau (The Bridge) report provided by Megan Polte and read by Gretchen Levitz. Teen nights: 5/17 and 6/7 from 7-10pm. Partnering with the Health Collective to provide education and prevention services to teens during the 5/17 event. SYELP interviews started following week. Link to apply: <https://capitalworkforce.org/syelp/> Reminder that Bridge provides counseling services for all ages at all clinics.
- g. Board of Education: Reported by Jason Gagnon. Budget was passed. Three additional counselors were added along with home to school liaison.

6. Adjournment 6pm