

West Hartford Prevention Council

Regular Meeting

Thursday, January 9, 2025, 5:00 p.m.

West Hartford Town Hall, Room 400

Meeting Minutes

Roll Call
<u>Present:</u> Carl Shields, Chair Howard Dashefsky, Vice Chair Nordia Nappier, Board Member Megan Polte, Board Member Susan Walsh, West Hartford Bloomfield Health District Kelly Waterhouse, Social Services Gretchen Levitz, Prevention Partnership Tor Fiske, West Hartford Public Schools Nicholas Sanford, West Hartford Police Department Timothy Reardon, West Hartford Police Department Diane Smith, United Church Gabby Downey, Prevention Partnership Hall Student Representative Conard Student Representative <u>Not present:</u> Jason Gagnon, Board Member Katie Bond, Board Member Jessica Evans, Board Member Bob Macca, Board Member Win Columbano, West Hartford Public Schools
Approval of Meeting Minutes
a. Approval of December 2024 meeting minutes
Old Business
2 Vacancy Council Positions • 2 Applications are being reviewed and sworn in • The council will meet them at the next meeting
New Business
• Prevention Council to start conversation on how they can aid Prevention Partnership with recommendation on available funds to be used based on what the town needs

Standing Reports	
Prevention: Gretchen Levitz	Past Winter Events • November 2024, partnered to host Screenagers Movie at Bristow • December 2024, recent unveiling of mural at Library Teen Room • December 2024, hosted Annual Middle School Skate Night • December 2024 Holiday Stroll • December 2024, partnered in hosting resource table and Panel Discussion for the “Anxious Generation” Event Upcoming YLA Trainings at WH Library • Open to any high school student • QPR, Feb 26 ,2025 1:15-2:30 PM • You Narcan Saves Lives March 5, 2025 1:15-2:30 PM • Teen Gambling March 19, 2025 1:15-2:30 PM
Social Services: Kelly Waterhouse	New Department Social Services Newsletter has been launched • Sending out to community members • West Hartford Town Website Continues to connect with WHPS • To support students & families JRB • Referrals have remained steady • New member that will be at hearings involving substance use referrals
Bloomfield/ West Hartford Health District: Susan Walsh	• advertising for four diabetes workshops. These are ZOOM sessions that run for 2 hours/wk for 7 weeks for individuals with type 2 diabetes. They can also be appropriate for caregivers and people who are prediabetic. Two of the sessions began today; we are still accepting registrations. (see flyer) • Posted a Harm Reduction Specialist position • Not awarded the tobacco grant.

	- Continued efforts in harm reduction and prevention from opioid settlement and Overdose Data-to-Action funding. - Received notification from SAMHSA will be conducting the National Survey of Drug Use and Health in CT in 2025 -- scientific, national survey of US civilian non-institutionalized population aged 12+ to provides up-to-date information on alcohol, tobacco, and other substances as well as mental health and other health topics. In use since 1971. monthly newsletter and help us share it with the community. - Continue to do occasional, impromptu, unadvertised “give aways” of overdose kits at places EMS identifies as “hot spots.” Kits include two dose of naloxone, fentanyl test strips, condoms, and a list of behavioral health resources. Providing Naloxone to participants of our community naloxone presentations regardless of residency. We have free naloxone and fentanyl test strips available at our offices for West Hartford and Bloomfield residents. (see flyers) - Continue to be available to do community presentations (e.g., suicide intervention/QPR, naloxone, lead poisoning, emergency preparedness, customized presentations) - Continue to offer free wellness screenings - Continue to offer flu vaccines by appointment for people 4+; COVID vaccines for 5+; pneumonia, shingles, and Tdap vaccines for adults; school-required childhood vaccines for 4-18yrs; and HPV vaccine for 9-18y/o
West Hartford Police: Sanford/Reardon	- Fall 2024, traffic officers from WHPD came to speak to Jr’s/Sr’s who are driving for a DUI Presentation - Substance Abuse presentation to Sophomore through Health & Wellness Classes

	• Since start of school year the Restorative Circles have proven to reduce the need for police involvement in school • Steady vaping usage • Goal to make students feel safe again with bathrooms in school • Uptick in students skipping classes and school, SMART Pass Application provides data in order to help admin teams to address this
WHPS: Tor Fiske	• Uptick in reports of vaping usage • Working to continue to address pre-sport engagement in drugs and alcohol • Admin continues to address social media related issues (swatting, threats, etc.)
The Bridge: Megan Polte	Finishing up 1st SMART group at Conard • 5 students • Next target is for Hall High School New Clinic in Farmington, CT • all locations including Rockville and West Hartford have openings Teen Nights will be up and running again
Student Representatives Hall & Conard	• Echoes the comments that bathrooms remain an area for poor behavior and substance abuse • Students are preparing for mid-terms at this point in the semester
Public Comment Rebekkah Seaton: Community of Concern Diane Smith: Westminster Church	Tuesday February 11, 2025, 5 PM Screenagers Movie at Sedgwick Middle School • Growing Up in the Digital Age • Child Care provided to families • Resource tables, movie viewing and Panel Discussion Info on Transportation for eligible community members
Adjournment at 5:53 PM	

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 13 ,2025, at 5:00 PM in Room 312