

West Hartford Prevention Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 13 2025, 5:00 p.m.
West Hartford Town Hall, Room 312

AGENDA

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes from January 2025
3. Old Business
 - Wellness Assessment Findings
4. New Business
 - Introduction of New Members (Danielle & Heather)
 - Top 10 clarification or priorities
5. Standing Reports
 - a. Prevention
 - b. Social Services
 - c. Public Health
 - d. Police
 - e. WHPS
 - f. YSB(The Bridge)
6. Public Comment
7. Adjournment

Next meeting Thursday March 13, 2025 at 5:00pm , Room 217 . Anyone requiring auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or modification of policies or procedures to participate in a meeting, services, program or activity of the Town of West Hartford, should contact Suzanne Oslander, ADA Coordinator, at suzanneO@westhartfordct.gov or 860-561-7580 as soon as possible, preferably seven days beforehand.

West Hartford Prevention Council

Regular Meeting

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

West Hartford Town Hall, Room 400

Meeting Minutes

Roll Call

Present:

Carl Shields, Chair

Howard Dashefsky, Vice Chair

Nordia Nappier, Board Member

Megan Polte, Board Member

Danielle Guttman-Lapin, Board Member

Heather Bohn Board Member

Bob Macca, Board Member

Jason Gagnon, West Hartford Public Schools Board of Education

Susan Walsh, West Hartford Bloomfield Health District

Kelly Waterhouse, Social Services

Gretchen Levitz, Prevention Coordinator, West Hartford

Win Columbano, West Hartford Public Schools Hall High School

Tor Fisk, West Hartford Public Schools – Conard High School

Nicholas Sanford, West Hartford Police Department

Timothy Reardon, West Hartford Police Department

Gabby Downey, Prevention Partnership

Hall Student Representative

Conard Student Representative

Not present:

Katie Bond, Board Member

Jessica Evans, Board Member

Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. Approval of January 2025 meeting minutes

Old Business

Wellness Assessment Findings

Top 10 Clarification of priorities

- Determining the unmet needs based on summary of wellness assessment findings
 - Alcohol
 - Seniors
 - Vaping
 - Marijuana

– Gambling – High risk youth – Cultural representation • Council with reach out to a UConn MPH student for assistance with updating the data (postvention, emerging youth) or possibility to sub-contract out • Determined there is a need for public information sharing resources	
New Business	
Introduction of New Members • Danielle Guttman-Lapin, Board Member • Heather Bohn Board Member	
Standing Reports	
Prevention: Gretchen Levitz	• Saturday April 5 , Teen Wellness Fair @ Town Hall • SMART Recovery Grant \$10,000 with Bridge funded by DCF and Youth Recovery CT • Drug Takeback Day April 26 WHPD, WHPP, Health District and CERT • Under One Roof: Resilience: May 8 Grand Opening, May 15 Artist/Organization Reception (submission) • PHACTT campaigns ongoing at Conard and Hall • Screenagers Event fully funded by WHPP on 2/11/25 • Upcoming Screenagers in April • West Hartford community member will fund a national speaker at both high schools regarding marijuana induced psychosis • YLA Trainings • Prevention Activities and events
Social Services: Kelly Waterhouse	• JRB Board referrals are steady, supplemental funding from the state for activities to support JRB referrals • Attended statewide JRB facilitators in hopes to move towards youth diversion model (4-day training for JRB facilitators) • Town that Cares Funds, Energy Assistance referrals continue

Bloomfield/ West Hartford Health District: Susan Walsh	• New Harm Reduction Specialist – Hector Ortiz. • Opening for Health Education Specialist position. • Monthly Feb 2025 Newsletter • Continue our efforts in harm reduction and prevention from opioid settlement and Overdose Data-to-Action funding. • Continued 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. • Naloxone provided to participants of our community naloxone presentations regardless of residency. • Free naloxone and fentanyl test strips available at our offices for West Hartford and Bloomfield residents. (see flyers) • Available to do community presentations (e.g., suicide intervention/QPR, naloxone, lead poisoning, emergency preparedness, customized presentations) • Free wellness screenings • Comprehensive list of vaccinations we offer. • Various local behavioral health resources. • Diabetes Workshops • WH Senior Centers Senior Day, 5/14/2025, 9:30-12:30pm. • DEA National Drug Take Back Day, 4/26/2025, 10-2pm. • Strength & Balance for Fall Prevention
West Hartford Police: Sanford/Reardon	• Hall High School, safe driving /DUI education through Wellness Classes (Feb 19)
WHPS: Tor Fiske, Winn Columbano & Jason Gagnon	• BOE recognizes the support and hard work being done by WHPS’s to support vulnerable groups • Massive short funding in state allocation for special needs resources • WHPS continues to rely on town resources and council to aid in professional care of students • Vaping continues to be the core issue, repeat offenders

	• Unable to implement aid with fidelity due to lack of resources for DATT
The Bridge: Megan Polte	• Exploring Bridge staff getting training by Love136 • Will continue SMART recovery programs at schools and expand with Smart Recovery grant
Student Representatives Hall & Conard	• Students noticing less congregating in bathrooms Hall • Students seeing an uptick in congregating in bathrooms at Conard • Students feel its unfair to lock the bathrooms for the remainder of the school day when an incident occurs
Public Comment	
Adjournment at 6: 03 PM	

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 13 ,2025, at 5:00 PM in Room 217