

West Hartford Prevention Council

Regular Meeting

Thursday, March 13, 2025, 5:00 p.m.

West Hartford Town Hall, Room 400

Meeting Minutes

Roll Call

Present:

Carl Shields, Chair
Nordia Nappier, Board Member
Bob Macca, Board Member
Katie Bond, Board Member
Jessica Evans, Board Member
Heather Bohn Board Member

Kelly Waterhouse, Social Services
Gretchen Levitz, Prevention Coordinator, West Hartford
Gabby Downey, Prevention Partnership
Hall Student Representative
Conard Student Representative

Not present:

Howard Dashefsky, Vice Chair
Megan Polte, Board Member
Danielle Guttman-Lapin, Board Member

Jason Gagnon, West Hartford Public Schools Board of Education
Susan Walsh, West Hartford Bloomfield Health District
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

Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. Approval of February 2025 meeting minutes

Old Business

New Business

Presentation: Liz Buczinski , Associate Director Social Services

- To be rescheduled for April 2025 Prevention Council Meeting

Prevention, Suicide and Private Equity

- Bring concerns of private pay/private equity to legislators (ex. Prospect, Jefferson Radiology)
- Bills are being brought to the attention of legislators
- The elimination of prevention is a concern of Prevention Council

Standing Reports

Prevention: Gretchen Levitz	• Prevention Partnership grant received for CT Youth Recovery to oversee (2) Smart Recovery Groups for teens & creation of Substance Free Community Events • Saturday April 5, 2025, 1-4 PM Teen Wellness Fair Wellness Fair at Town Hall • Saturday April 26, 2025, 10-2 PM National Drug Take Back Day at Town Hall Parking Lot • Continued YLA Trainings at WH Library • PHACTT Campaigns (Recipes for Recovery, Stress Less Live More, Drive Safe Arrive Safe) • 3rd Installment of Screenager Movie, Date/Location TBD • Johnny's Ambassadors, Laura Stack Speaker, Community Presentation (Conard High School-Monday April 29, 2025)
Social Services: Kelly Waterhouse	• Renters Rebate Application have been mailed out to those who applied in the past (Accepting starting April) • March is Social Worker's Appreciation Month • Increase in relocation referrals
Bloomfield/ West Hartford Health District: Susan Walsh	• Provides community presentations free upon request -- examples: naloxone trainings, QPR/suicide intervention trainings, Youth Mental Health First Aid, and various public health focused educational programs. • Provided 1st Youth Mental Health First Aid training at Elmwood Community Center earlier this month • Trained many teens at naloxone presentation at WHPL on 3/5/25 • April 17th presentation at Elmwood Community Center titled Understanding Opioids, Respiratory Depression, and Naloxone

	• No longer a position for Harm Reduction Specialist • Childhood lead poisoning presentations for the Family Resource Center in West Hartford and the Bloomfield Public Library Parenting Today Series: Lead Poisoning Prevention (Virtual) Bloomfield Public Library • West Hartford Senior Day May 14 – adult vaccinations and wellness screenings. • Wellness screenings at WH Town Hall, Bishops Corner Senior Center, Elmwood Senior Center, and Bloomfield Senior Center. • WHBHD Vaccines • Partnering with WHPD and WHSS for a April 26/25 Prevention Fair and Drug Take Back Day.
West Hartford Police: Sanford/Reardon	No Report
WHPS: Jessica Evans & Katie Bond	• Community as become a wonderful avenue for educational opportunities around a variety of topics • Administration sent out a Student Survey at every Wednesday during Community (<i>How are classes, how is the school environment etc.</i>) in order to determine the gaps • Administration also sent out Staff Survey • National Honors Society hosted its annual blood drive (Hall & Conard) • Spring Musical Disaster! (Conard) & Pops & Jazz (Hall) • Student Focus Groups at the Middle School, Lunch Groups & Discussion with students /counselors (do you feel support, accepted at school etc.) • Lion Kings & Wizard of Oz Musicals at the Middle Schools • Dodgeball Tournament for Students (Middle School) • Staff Student Basketball (KP Middle Schools) 6:30 PM at Hall High School • King Phillip started a Student Council Program

	• Cultural Nights/ Themed Nights have been occurring at elementary, middle and high schools
The Bridge:	Gear Up- For Youth Sports Collection & Event
Student Representatives Hall & Conard	• Students reports that bathrooms are still a concern • Students report that there is lots of fun activities, events going on (musicals, sports, dodgeball tournaments etc.) •
Public Comment	• Saturday April 5, 2025, 1-4 PM Teen Wellness Fair Wellness Fair at Town Hall
Adjournment at 5:48 PM	

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 10 ,2025, at 5:00 PM in Room 217