

Meeting Minutes

Roll Call
<u>Present:</u> Carl Shields, Chair Howard Dashefsky, Vice Chair Megan Polte, Board Member Danielle Guttman-Lapin, Board Member Bob Macca, Board Member Jessica Evans, Board Member Heather Bohn Board Member Gretchen Levitz, Prevention Coordinator, West Hartford Gabby Downey, Prevention Partnership Hall Student Representative Conard Student Representative Susan Walsh, West Hartford Bloomfield Health District Timothy Reardon, West Hartford Police Department Michael Eden, West Hartford Police Department Win Columbano, West Hartford Public Schools Hall High School Tor Fisk, West Hartford Public Schools – Conard High School <u>Not present:</u> Nordia Nappier, Board Member Katie Bond, Board Member Kelly Waterhouse, Social Services Jason Gagnon, West Hartford Public Schools Board of Education
Approval of Meeting Minutes
a. Approval of March 2025 meeting minutes
Old Business
New Business
Presentation: Liz Buczynski , Assistant Director Social Services - Liz reviewed areas of growth and expansion over the last year: Public Awareness, Positive Youth Development, Recovery-Friendly Community and Opioid Abatement and noted some of the key areas moving forward. She detailed funding received by the Town which supports this work in addition to all of the partnerships and leveraging of other community events. - Amplify Local Prevention Council (LPC) grant, \$7,000 to support prevention coalition efforts - Amplify State Opioid Response (SOR) grant, \$5,000 to support opioid addiction and overdose prevention efforts

- Youth Recovery CT/ Wheeler Clinic, \$10,000 to support weekly SMART Recovery & monthly Alternative Peer Group activities
- Opioid Settlement Funds: West Hartford receives funds based on a schedule of distributions by each of the different settlements which will last over a 16-year period. The settlement funds include guidelines as to eligible expenditures. Planned uses include staffing, events, trainings, supplies and equipment for West Hartford Prevention Partnership, the West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District and West Hartford Fire Department.
- Cannabis Funds: West Hartford receives 3% of sales from each cannabis dispensary in town. There are broader guidelines around use of funds, including programs supporting mental health and substance use, education and youth employment, JRB and YSB support, community development and civic engagement. No funds have been expended to date and the Council can make recommendations for usage of funds.

Standing Reports

Prevention: Gretchen Levitz	• April 26 Drug Take Back Day • Sparks Fly Event, Thursday May 1 at Town Hall • Elevate West Hartford Events (Bridge, Prevention & Rise Up for the Arts Partnership) • SMART Groups (Bridge, Prevention & Rise Up for the Arts Partnership)
Social Services: Liz Buczinski	• Renters Rebate program is open, appointment through social services • ADA, self evaluation & transition plan. Survey to community mid April • CDBP 5-year plan is on Social Services website • Quarterly Newsletter release, available on Social Services Website
Bloomfield/ West Hartford Health District: Susan Walsh	• New Health Education Specialist, Sarah Zogu • Community presentation on 4/17/25 at Elmwood Community Center titled Understanding Opioids, Respiratory Depression, and Naloxone. • Additional community presentations at request (ex. Naloxone trainings, QPR, Youth Mental Health First Aid Immunizations etc.) • May 14, West Hartford Senior Day • (2) free diabetes workshops which start on April 23 – they're 2 hours per week

	for 7 weeks. ASL Interpreters for evening sessions • Wellness Screenings Offered • Childhood & Adult Vaccinations • Free Naloxone & Fentanyl test strips for community members • April 26 Drug Take Back Day • West Hartford Bloomfield Health District is now on Facebook & Instagram
West Hartford Police: High School Officer Reardon Middle School Office Eden	• March & April have proven to be tough with vaping, JRB reviews and disciplinary action • First Responder Day at Conard (May 20) & Hall (May 22) • HANOCC Programing with WHPD finished up 6-week sessions • Looking to connect with CT district that have vape detections in schools • 5th Grade Classroom visits with education around vaping
WHPS: Jessica Evans , Winn Columbano & Tor Fiske	• Third Millenium programing for students caught with nicotine, 2 students enrolled in it at Hall with positive feedback. Will continue to pilot it through the end of the school year. • Conard/Hall- ~60 referrals to DAT last year, ~ half that in this school year • Noticeable increase in family engagement with Wheeler Clinic presence for services in schools • Conard/Hall Unified Sports recognized on national level via ESPN
The Bridge:	• SMART Groups , Elevate @ Hall & Community Center. Open to any high school students in town • April 29th , Teen trip to the Capitol to learn about advocacy • Summer Youth Employment Applications open (14-24 years old) • 4 Bridge Staff members going to Love136 training • Hoping to host a summer send of for middle/high school teens at Teen Center is funding is awarded
Student Representatives Hall & Conard	• Student reports increase in seeing youth obtaining fake identifications

Public Comment	• Postvention training for community members
Adjournment at 6:04 PM	

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 8 ,2025, at 5:00 PM in Room 314