

West Hartford Prevention Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 8, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.
West Hartford Town Hall, Room 400

1. Roll Call:
 - a. Present; Bob Macca, Carl Shields, Megan Polte, Danielle Guttman-Lapin, Heather Bohn, Nordia Nappier
 - b. Absent; Katie Bond, Jessica Evans
 - c. Other; Sarah Zogu, Kelly Waterhouse, Barbara Thomas, Maeve D'Arcy, Ana V (student), Barak G (student) Win Columbano, Nick Sanford
2. Approval of Minutes from December 2025
 - a. Approved
3. Standing Reports
 - a. **Prevention** (Barbara Thomas and Maeve D'Arcy)
 - Reviewed the Prevention Partnership end of year newsletter
 1. Highlighting mini-grants next month
 - 1/29/26 West Hartford Youth Leadership Academy
 1. 36 registered for Youth Leadership Academy
 - a. 14 more slots open
 - b. **Social Services** (Kelly Waterhouse)
 - Winter 2025 Social Services Newsletter
 1. Buried in Treasures
 2. Circle of Friends
 3. Utility assistance open online in portal
 - Other needs- caretakers of adult children with mental health and/or substance use history
 - c. **Health District** (Sarah Zogu)
 - Radon awareness month
 1. Passing out free radon test kits
 - Healthy lifestyle workshops at senior centers
 - College students creating naloxone kits to distribute
 - Diabetes workshop virtual
 - DPH and Halt Feb 2nd hypertension virtual class
 - d. **Police** (Officer Nick Sanford)
 - PD working with Edward Andrews
 1. Adult and youth rebound program
 - a. Youth program, Rise, looking into how he can partner with West Hartford
 - i. 8-week program
 - e. **WHPS** (Win Columbano)
 - DATT at Hall
 1. No new DATT cases at Hall since last prevention meeting
 2. About half of families are choosing to accept the Wheeler clinic support

- f. **YSB** (Megan Polte)
 - Tag Sale THIS Saturday at Elmwood Community Center, 10:00a-4:00p
 - Bridge Children's Charity Ball 1/31/26, Hartford Golf Club
 - 2/6/26 Skate Night
 - 2/2 Postvention at Town Hall with Amplify
- g. **Student Reps** (Ana Veriienko, Hall)
 - Some of the bathrooms are closed during the school day
 - 1. Staff clarified this is due to plumbing issues or cleaning
 - More students getting stopped around the schools for driving
- 4. Old Business
 - a. 2 new part-time Prevention assistants
 - b. Nominations
 - Town Council to be approving in their next meeting
 - New members to be introduced in next meeting
- 5. New Business
 - a. Howard's term expired, need a new vice chair
 - To vote next meeting
 - b. Review of discussion on prevention council members list of tasks. What do we need?
What's missing?
 - Megan and Katie- Education of Educators
 - Heather- Print and Media Resource Guide
 - Nordia- Content Website
 - Bob- Gambling
 - 1. Issue- Sports betting, access via online/phones/apps, betting on games
 - 2. Plan- locate resources and spell out across life-span
 - Carl- TTASC, Citizens Academy
 - 1. Carl attended and graduated Citizens Academy
 - Danielle Guttman-Lapin- Resource Guide for outpatient therapists

Prevention Council members to vet local resources and bring them back to the group. Brainstorm as a council, look into how our interests matches with the support of the partnership. We will focus on this during the next council meeting.

- 6. Adjournment- Motion was made to adjourn at 6:00pm. It was unanimously passed.

Next meeting Thursday February 12th, 2025, 5:00 pm Town Hall Room 400