

West Hartford Prevention Council
Regular Meeting
February 12, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.
West Hartford Town Hall, Room 400

1. Roll Call: Present; Bob Macca, Carl Shields, Megan Polte, Danielle Guttman-Lapin, Chris Tanski, Heather Bohn, Jessica Evans, Katie Bond Students: Conard and Hall representatives
2. Minutes taken by Danielle Guttman-Lapin
3. Absent: Nordia Napier
4. Approval of Minutes from January 2025
 - a. Approved unanimously
5. Standing Reports
 - a. **Prevention** (Gretchen Levitz): feature in publication, newsletter went out, multiple trainings, Narcan training, upcoming trainings, mini grant updates: will be starting, Screenagers events coming up, Laura Stack coming back in May for middle school presentations and Parent/Community event. Naloxone cabinets in community, “women could include: test strips, self-care items, and information on resources, on how to get help. , Gretchen met with emergency services to discuss opportunities for community trainings. Sponsored Skate Night in February run by Bridge Teen Center. Elevate WeHA and RiseUp collaborations are ongoing and will be completed in each middle and high school in addition to a community mural that will be created at various community events. Visit website for updates <https://www.westhartfordct.gov/town-departments/social-services/prevention>
 - b. **Social Services** (Gretchen Levitz): Mondays 11-12:15 in March/April, if Adults are 60+, meaningful connection, “circle of friends;” weekly themes
 - c. **Health District** (Gretchen Levitz): in January Radon tabling, trainings, updates.
 - FIT-fest 2026: JCC
 - d. **Police**: not present
 - e. **WHPS** Jessica Evans: Class meetings throughout HS; rise in mental health concerns; transition for seniors; course selection for next year.
 - 8th grader transition, consideration for involvement with Prevention Partnership to address providing information for parents
 - Revisiting discussion about 50% engagement with Wheeler upon referral from school, trying to identify barriers to engagement
 - f. **Student Reps** (Hall and Conard students)
 - Pep rally
 - Multicultural night (in Hall) well attended
 - Lunar new year parade

- No concerns identified.
- Youth leadership attendance by all participants
- Ana: WeHa Teens Talk podcast: talking to other teens and adults about different programs, presented video at meeting interviewing Gretchen about importance of PHACTT

g. **YSB** (Megan Polte):

- Skate night sponsored by bridge funded by Partnership, School of Rock provided entertainment
- hosted postvention through Amplify: key stakeholders training, all ages. School personnel, Emergency services, 211 services, BOE, etc. Full day training, and next step is to work with a few members to create a town plan ready with resources.
- School engagement group at Hall: multiple activities like rock climbing, new groups to come will continue with Smart Recovery
- Teen Leadership committee: making animal blankets for shelter in East Hartford, drop off valentines at senior center and for WeHa rehab center
- Bake sale to raise money for Bingo, March 30th at ECC (Teen leadership)
- Participating in Youth wellness events
- Application will open soon for youth employment opportunities

6. Old Business: none

7. New Business

- Co-chair: to lead April meeting; Carl spoke with council members to mentor, creating agenda, and making sure minutes get to town clerk, and get posted on the town meeting
- April meeting as Carl will be out of town:
- www.ctdata.org: data available, can access specialized data across CT. All agencies put data in there. More data coming this year. Works with local organizations.
- Council and partnership collaboration and communication:
 - Bob Macca had sent in report about Gambling Addiction, provided resources to Carl and Gretchen to share on website.
 - Website trying to be as user friendly to navigate
 - CT Clearinghouse in Plainville provides a lot of training
 - For our website, need to have links to .gov resources
 - Concern for not having enough resources for private insurance, brainstormed potential work-around
 - 211 may provide resources that can be included

Adjournment –motion made to adjourn at 6:00pm

Next meeting Thursday March 12, 2025, 5:00 pm Town Hall Room 217