

Litchfield Prevention Council
Meeting Minutes
St. Anthony's, Litchfield
March 12, 2019 at 7:00 PM
DRAFT

Call to Order: K. Garden called the meeting to order at 7:05

Present: K. Garden, B. Berson, J. Tiul, M. Pettinicchi, G. Waugh, J. Makuc

Also present:

Excused: J. Johnson

Absent: C. Gillett

Appointment of Alternates: M. Pettinicchi was appointed to Regular Member status.

Public Comment: None

School Liaison Report: None

Law Enforcement Report: None

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from February 19, 2019 were reviewed. G. Waugh moved to approve with no changes, seconded by B. Berson. All ayes, motion passed.

Treasurer Report: K. Garden reported a balance of \$4,147.95. Recent expenses paid included \$100 to the LHS players for an ad, \$5.04 for web hosting, and \$3,150.00 to Internet Safety Concepts. A check from HVCASA in the amount of \$3,020.21 was received.

Correspondence: K. Garden had reached out to Gayle Carr about installing vape detectors in the bathrooms at the middle and high schools and Gayle replied that this is something that should be considered. Gayle shared K. Garden's email with Dave Pavlick who chairs the Policy subcommittee. The Prevention Council could help fund this.

K. Garden received an email from Leo Paul regarding HRSA funding opportunities for people living with HIV and Opioid Use Disorder to see if these are grants the Prevention Council could apply for. B. Berson suggested that these funding opportunities may be for larger organizations.

Old Business:

Project Purple – J. Tiul reported that she has been coordinating a Friday Fun Day for March 22 at the Litchfield Community Center for the Project Purple kids, but LCC is changing the date to March 15. K. Garden reported that she and other soccer moms are putting a Friday Fun Day together for March 29 which will benefit the Relay for Life event in April. There was discussion regarding the closeness of these dates and J. Tiul said the Community Center typically likes to have two of these per month.

Greenwoods – B. Berson reported that there is a new format for the workshops which are called Parenting and Pizza and they will be held once a month through the summer at the Litchfield Community Center. B. Berson advised that at times, depending on the event, the Community Center will charge \$75 per hour for use of their facility because a staff person has to be there. There would be a charge of \$150 for the Parenting and Pizza workshops. B. Berson suggested that the Prevention Council pay this fee for these workshops. K. Garden suggested that we see how the first workshop on March 20 goes before we commit to this. K. Garden said we should see how attendance is first and if the Community Center would offer a reduced fee for this.

B. Berson also provided information on the Suicide Prevention Grant that Greenwoods, the schools, and the Prevention Council all have a part in. He advised that the grant is being implemented and they are talking about mental health in the schools and how to improve it. J. Haggard is organizing an initiative similar to “Gizmo’s Pawsome Guide to Mental Health” that will be age appropriate for older students.

Internet Safety Concepts – Discussion about the great feedback from students and parents about these presentations which took place at LIS on March 11. There was also discussion that the event received a good amount of publicity between the school emails, WZBG, the Litchfield BZ, and the Republican-American.

Family Game Night – J. Tiul reported that the next family game night will be held on April 12.

HVCASA LPC Trainings – B. Berson advised that the next training will be Tuesday, March 19 at 5 pm at the Maxx in New Milford and he is planning to attend.

Tobacco “Raise-the-age” bill – Discussion about this initiative appearing to have some momentum and that Prevention Council members should write to state legislators in support of this. B. Berson reported that he is looking into ordinances from other towns for sample language. G. Waugh spoke with Jeff Zullo who said three selectmen would be needed to move this to a town meeting.

Vaping Presentation – This is scheduled for April 29 at 6:30 at the Litchfield Community Center. McCall’s will be doing the presentation. The Prevention Council needs to promote this event. B. Berson stated that Julie Haggard wanted the community presentation to take place before the presentations for the kids at school which are scheduled for the first week of May for 5th graders and up. The Litchfield Community Center and schools will advertise this, and B. Berson will contact WZBG for a morning spot. The Litchfield BZ and the Republican American also need to be contacted once the flyer is created.

Drug Education for Parents – This event will take place in the next school year. There was discussion about having this event follow a multi-presentation model. B. Berson is in contact with Liz Jorgensen who was recommended by Allison Fulton of HVCASA. Liz Jorgensen could discuss what’s going on in a teenager’s mind and the impact of drugs on that. K. Garden stated that the State Police and the DEA have a program regarding drug education which is free. J. Tiul mentioned a parent she spoke with recently from Litchfield whose son is in a drug rehab and who has information regarding the drug problem in Litchfield. K. Garden asked J. Tiul to ask this parent what the Prevention Council could do or provide that would be helpful in this situation and to find out if this parent would be willing to tell her story. B. Berson suggested that it would be helpful to have a conversation with kids who are in college and beyond to find out what would have helped in their high school years.

Relay for Life – This event will be held on April 27 from 5 – 9 pm at the LHS campus. So far students have raised \$4000. There will be a fun day at the Community Center on March 29 to raise money. K. Garden also suggested that a soccer match between the kids and adults could be another way to raise money. There was

discussion that the Prevention Council would like to have a table at this event. G. Waugh suggested that extra Project Purple gear could be sold to raise funds. More fundraising ideas need to be considered.

New Business:

Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

Adjournment:

M. Pettinicchi moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:33, J.Tiul seconded. All ayes, meeting adjourned.

Transcribed by J. Makuc, Secretary

Kelly Garden, Chairwoman

Next meeting will be April 9, 2019