

**Litchfield Prevention Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting Held via Zoom**  
**February 9, 2021 7:00 PM**  
**DRAFT**

**Call to Order:** G. Waugh called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm

**Present:** G. Waugh, J. Makuc, B. Berson, J. Johnson

**Also present:** First Selectman Denise Raap, WCC Executive Director Allison Fulton, Officer Greg Kenney, Judy Hogan of LH&WR Inc, and Tina Bernacki of LH&WR Inc

**Excused:**

**Absent:** J. Tiul

**Appointment of Alternates:** None

**School Liaison Report:** None

**Law Enforcement Report:** Officer Greg Kenney provided a report covering the period from January 2020 through December 2020. The statistics on DWI show that 20% of residents were from the Litchfield community while 80% were not residents. On average BAC levels were a little over twice the legal limit. The data included arrests for oxycodone, marijuana, and a stolen handgun. There were 3 overdoses that were heroin-related with an average age of thirties for those who overdosed. Denise Raap asked how these matters are handled. She inquired about whether people are referred to programs for help or if arrests are made. G. Kenney stated that it depends, but most calls to police related to drugs are medical calls and most drug arrests are misdemeanors. Allison Fulton stated that some in-roads have been made now with recovery coaches at hospitals and a social worker triage situation that helps people. G. Kenney also stated that COVID-19 is affecting all of this because people are staying home more.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from January 12, 2020 were reviewed. J. Johnson moved to approve with no changes, seconded by G. Waugh. All ayes, motion passed.

**Public Comment:** Judy Hogan with Litchfield Health & Wellness Resources, Inc stated that she spent the last 8 years as President of the VNA of Litchfield. Three years ago, they decided the VNA needed to have a greater impact and broader interaction with the community in order to enhance the quality of life for residents, so they became a 501c3. Tina Bernacki with Litchfield Health & Wellness Resources, Inc stated that she retired from the VNA 4 years ago and was on the board and helped with the efforts to expand it. She stated one example of what they do is helping residents with medical payments. She also stated that they want to partner with other organizations to help the community. A. Fulton asked where LH&WR gets referrals and J. Hogan said through website contacts, phone calls, their social media presence, and the VNA.

**Treasurer Report:** J. Johnson reported that as of January 31, 2021 the balance is \$14,209.34. There was one expenditure of \$5.31 for the monthly website domain fee.

**Correspondence:**

B. Berson email fwd 1/8/21 – WCC Weekly Update

B. Berson email fwd 1/14/21 – WCC LPC Leadership Meeting 1/19/21

B. Berson email fwd 1/15/21 – WCC Parent Teen Workshop

B. Berson email fwd 1/25/21 – WCC Weekly Update

B. Berson email fwd 1/31/21 – WCC Weekly Update

B. Berson email fwd 2/4/21 – WCC Important Learning Opportunity: Suicide Prevention Training for Communities

B. Berson email fwd 2/4/21 – Marc Hoberman – How to Help Teens and Parents Overcome Adversity

B. Berson email fwd 2/4/21 – Free Webinar – Spotlight on Alcohol Use Prevention and Treatment

**Old Business:**

E-blast Volunteer Flyer Status Update – J. Makuc reported that the flyer was approved on January 27, 2021 by Chris Leone and it was placed on the LPS district website and included in the February 5, 2021 virtual backpack email. J. Makuc reported that one parent who is a resident of Torrington and has a child at Litchfield Center School was interested in joining the LPC. Members agreed he could help with LPC activities and attend meetings without having to join the board.

Clarification on Spending LPC Funds – J. Johnson asked D. Raap if she could meet with someone to go over LPC expenditures. D. Raap stated she will help set up a meeting with someone from the town's finance division.

Donation to St. Michael's Food Pantry – G. Waugh clarified with D. Raap that the LPC may give a donation to the food pantry if it supports our mission statement.

Family Game Night/ LCC Meal Sponsorship – Members agreed that the LPC should get its volunteer flyer into the meal kits and food bags at both the Community Center and St. Michael's Food Pantry. D. Raap also suggested the LPC get their flyer and anything else together for a LABA event for new residents at the Wisdom House next Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at noon.

Student Survey Status – G. Waugh reported that Jamie Terry is in the process of finalizing the survey with SERAC and paying for it. The survey should likely be given this month.

LPS staff/faculty and BOE liaison status – G. Waugh stated that there is nothing new to report. Members raised the question of a stipend for the LPS faculty/staff member again. J. Makuc reported that Matt Terzian said he would be able to attend the LPC March meeting.

By-Laws Review Status – G. Waugh stated that LPC members need to set up a time for this. Additionally, B. Berson stated there are two different sets of by-laws. J. Makuc will inquire with Lisa Losee about this to find out why and if one replaces another.

McCall Vaping Presentation – B. Berson will start working on this for a late April/ early March presentation.

Juvenile Review Board Model – J. Johnson spoke with Cathy Ohm of the NW CT YMCA and found out that the Winsted and Torrington YMCAs run the youth service bureaus in each town and the youth service bureaus co-facilitate the juvenile review boards in Winsted and Torrington. So, the foundation is already there for us to build upon. J. Johnson and G. Waugh will keep working on this.

### **New Business:**

Positive Impact Ideas/ Coordination with Other Town Organizations – Judy Hogan discussed an idea of LH&WR to install fitness stations along the Litchfield Greenways. Judy Hogan and LPC members stated that it is great to have speakers and experts present information to students and the community, but the question was raised about whether this sustains kids in their daily lives in the community. G. Waugh said Andy Parker should be contacted about using the ropes course he built, and Judy Hogan mentioned some issues with the safety of the ropes course as is but hopes it can be fixed. Judy Hogan also discussed drumming classes and yoga classes they have offered in the past. Tina Bernacki stated that LH&WR has helped install raised gardening beds at the elderly housing units in the community and has also initiated a support group for caregivers. G. Waugh stated that LPC should try to meet with LH&WR again to try a trial project together.

### **Agenda Items for Next Meeting:**

### **Adjournment:**

G. Waugh asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. B. Berson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:36, J. Johnson seconded. All ayes, meeting adjourned.

Transcribed by J. Makuc, Secretary

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Gary Waugh, Vice – Chairman

Next meeting will be March 9, 2021