

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

Call to Order: G. Waugh called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm

Present: G. Waugh, B. Berson, J. Tiul, J. Makuc

Also present: First Selectman Denise Raap, WCC Executive Director Allison Fulton, Litchfield Board of Education Chairman Matt Terzian, Officer Greg Kenney, Trooper Stephanie Cortes

Excused: J. Johnson

Absent:

Appointment of Alternates: None

School Liaison Report: Matt Terzian reported that both he and Chris Leone are working on getting a liaison from the school to join the Prevention Council. M. Terzian also reported that many teachers have gotten their first round of the Covid vaccine.

Law Enforcement Report: None

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from February 9, 2020 were reviewed. B. Berson moved to approve with no changes, seconded by G. Waugh. All ayes, motion passed.

Public Comment: Trooper Stephanie Cortes introduced herself stating that this will be her third year with the Connecticut State Police. She described the importance of community to her and her interest in working with and learning more about the Prevention Council. She also serves as a liaison for the Litchfield Opiate Task Force and as a Community Trust liaison.

Treasurer Report: A treasurer's report was not available at this meeting.

Correspondence:

- B. Berson email fwd 2/11/21 – WCC Weekly Update
- B. Berson email fwd 2/18/21 – WCC Weekly Update
- B. Berson email fwd 2/28/21 – WCC March Overdose Prevention & Suicide Prevention Trainings
- B. Berson email fwd 2/28/21 – WCC Weekly Update
- B. Berson email fwd 3/1/21 – WCC March is Problem Gambling Month

Old Business:

Volunteer Flyer for St. Michael's Food Pantry – G. Waugh stated that copies of the flyer were made. J. Makuc reported that Ann Hodgman, a volunteer with the food pantry, said flyers could be left in the Community House and in the church. J. Makuc will drop off flyers. B. Berson inquired about putting flyers in the food bags given out to people and J. Makuc stated that the church said no because more bags are given out to non-residents than residents of Litchfield so we would not reach our intended audience. Members also discussed leaving flyers at the Community Center. J. Makuc will inquire about this.

Family Game Night/ LCC Meal Sponsorship – J. Tiul did not have an update at the meeting but is working on this and will provide information as soon as possible.

Student Survey Status – G. Waugh reported that he, B. Berson, and J. Makuc had been in conversations with Chris Leone to move the survey forward. There had been discussion about whether a question asking if a person had ever seriously considered committing suicide should be left in the survey. B. Berson stated the reason for the concern was because if someone answered yes, no one would be able to reach out to help that individual because the survey is anonymous. In the end, a compromise was reached to leave the question in but to include a statement urging anyone feeling suicidal or contemplating suicide to reach out to a trusted adult or crisis worker by calling 211. Chris Leone stated they were aiming to get the survey out the week of March 15, 2021. Matt Terzian confirmed that it is on track and an email was sent to parents starting the process.

By-Laws Review Status – Members agreed to start working on revising the document that appears to be the most recent version based on feedback from former Chairman Kelly Garden which J. Makuc had scanned and emailed on 12/10/2020 and 3/5/2021. At the suggestion of B. Berson, J. Makuc will work on making a Google document for all to work on.

McCall Vaping Presentation – B. Berson reported that all are on board with having a presentation in May and Julie Haggard is organizing it along with Andrew Lyon at the McCall Center. B. Berson stated that LPC members will be in charge of promoting it, paying for it, and setting up a community presentation of it.

Juvenile Review Board Model – G. Waugh stated that there isn't as strong a need for this right now but we will keep it on our radar and continue the association with the groups from Torrington and Winsted as need be. Allison Fulton asked for a clarification on how JRBs are formed. She stated her understanding was that Youth Service Bureaus were charged with starting them but she'd heard that Troops L and B were forming one. Officer Kenney recommended she start by asking Litchfield Resident Trooper Jim Holm for information about this.

LPC Positive Impact Ideas/ Coordination with Other Town Organizations – B. Berson suggested the LPC buy Matt Bellace's book *A Better High* for each LHS graduating senior again this year, and members agreed this would be a thoughtful gesture. B. Berson will check with the LHS Principal to ensure we can do this again. ****MOTION – B. Berson moved to allot up to \$800 to buy a book for each of the 2021 65 graduating seniors and to cover any shipping costs associated with this, seconded by G. Waugh. All ayes, motion passes.****

New Business:

Showing the Film Uprooting Addiction – G. Waugh stated that Litchfield Health & Wellness Resources was going to co-sponsor this with LPC last year. G. Waugh will ask if they would like to co-sponsor this year. B. Berson also stated that he will coordinate with those revitalizing the Bantam Cinema to have it shown there as suggested by Denise Raap in addition to the possibility of a showing at the Community Center and working with Greenwoods on this. Members discussed the importance of giving people the option to view it anonymously.

Allison Fulton reminded members that the local Prevention Council grant money needs to be spent by the end of June 2021.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

Adjournment:

G. Waugh moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:53, B. Berson seconded. All ayes, meeting adjourned.

Transcribed by J. Makuc, Secretary

Gary Waugh, Vice – Chairman

Next meeting will be May 11, 2021