Litchfield Prevention Council
Meeting Minutes
Meeting Held via Zoom
May 11, 2021 7:00 PM
DRAFT

Call to Order:  G. Waugh called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm

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

Also present:  First Selectman Denise Raap, Trooper Stephanie Cortes, Social Services Coordinator Michael Lyn Cappello, Dianne Slater, Stephen Drew

Excused:  J. Tiul

Absent:  None

Appointmen of Alternates:  None

School Liaison Report:  None

Law Enforcement Report:  None

Approval of Minutes:  Minutes from March 9, 2021 were reviewed. J. Makuc moved to approve with no changes, seconded by G. Waugh. All ayes, motion passed.

Public Comment:  Dianne Slater and Stephen Drew, who have both lost children to drug overdoses, shared information on a Grief Support Group they are starting in July at Lourdes Shrine. They group is a peer support group specifically for parents who have lost a child to addiction. They have been trying to get the word out with a flyer called “Finding Meaning” and are looking for more places to contact. B. Berson suggested they reach out to John Simoncelli at Greenwoods. Stephanie Cortes suggested that having a social work facilitate the group might help ease some tensions. J. Johnson said to reach out to school psychologists and social workers with their flyer.

Treasurer Report:  J. Johnson reported a balance of $13,296.11. Expenditures made since the last report include $38.87 for printing, $550.00 for postage, $80.78 for envelopes, and a $5.00 website hosting fee.

Correspondence:

- B. Berson email fwd 3/11/21 – WCC The Developing Brain and THC with Ken Winters, PHD
- B. Berson email fwd 3/11/21 – WCC Free Film Screening of Resilience
- B. Berson email fwd 3/17/21 – WCC Weekly Update
- B. Berson email fwd 3/19/21 – WCC Strategic Prevention Framework 101 Learning Opportunity
- B. Berson email fwd 3/23/21 – WCC Space available for this week’s QPR Training
Old Business:

- McCall’s Vaping Presentation and Mailing or Vaping/Marijuana Materials Status and Vote to Allocate Funding – G. Waugh reported that 333 packets of information on the dangers of vaping and marijuana use were mailed to families with children at LMS and LHS. G. Waugh stated that there have been 2 school presentations on these topics and there will be a community presentation on May 12, 2021 at the Litchfield Community Center, all given by the McCall Center. The community presentation will be given in-person and live-streamed via YouTube. B. Berson offered to leave the remaining packets of information and cover letters at the Community Center for anyone coming to the drive-up meal service also on May 12, 2021. ****MOTION – G. Waugh asked for a motion to allocate $2,245.80 to pay for expenses associated with the vaping/marijuana dangers mass mailing and the school/community presentations. J. Johnson moved, seconded by B. Berson. All ayes, motion passes.****

- Showing the film UpRooting Addiction – B. Berson will start to work on this for the summer. Denise Raap stated that the Park and Recreation Department recently purchased a movie screen to show movies outside and perhaps the Prevention Council could partner with Park and Rec to show UpRooting Addiction. Michael Lyn Cappello offered to talk to Park and Rec Director Colleen Kinkade about this and stated that all movies are being shown at the Annex. B. Berson will get in touch with John Simoncelli at Greenwoods about this and having a panel of local people for discussion.
• Family Game Night/ LCC Meal Sponsorship Status – G. Waugh said he will speak with J. Tiul about continuing these as they were popular in the past and should continue to be a priority.

• Student Survey Status Update/ Sharing Results with Other Community Organizations – G. Waugh is trying to find out if the survey has been given yet. B. Berson stated that in the past it has taken a lengthy amount of time to get results back.

• By-Laws Review Status Update – June Discussion – J. Makuc stated that she typed up the by-laws to create an electronic copy which so far has been missing. Additionally, she sent the document to Prevention Council members for all to review and suggest changes. J. Makuc will email the document to members again and the by-laws will be discussed at the June meeting. J. Makuc reported that Lisa Losee does not have any by-laws on file for the Prevention Council and needs to have a copy.

• New Volunteers Update – G. Waugh described efforts made to date through flyers, letters, and e-blasts. Denise Raap asked what type of person we are looking for and to perhaps advertise that way. G. Waugh stated that it would be great to have any interested parents join. Denise Raap stated that she may know of someone and will ask this person. Stephanie Cortes suggested we put out ads through our local radio station and newspaper. G. Waugh suggested it may be helpful to get something in the Litchfield.bz.

• LPC Mail Issue/ PO Box – G. Waugh inquired with the Bantam Post Office to see if they are getting any Prevention Council mail there and was told no by the Postmaster. There was some discussion that Lisa Bauer may be getting some Prevention Council mail at the town offices located at the Annex, but there still seems to be confusion around this matter. Denise Raap said it costs $144 a year to get a post office box. ****MOTION – J. Johnson moved to spend $144 for a post office box for the Prevention Council, seconded by G. Waugh. All ayes, motion passes.**** B. Berson will get the post office box.

• Matt Bellace Books for Seniors Update – B. Berson reported that the books are in the mail. J. Johnson will print the sticker inserts, and B. Berson will get the books to the school by June 11, 2021.

• Prevention Council Grant Money Status – G. Waugh discussed this with WCC Executive Director Allison Fulton and she seems satisfied that the Prevention Council has met its goals. G. Waugh also suggested that it may be a good idea to have a second signor for our checks. J. Johnson and G. Waugh will go to the bank to inquire about this. Stephanie Cortes asked about fundraising for the Council, and there was discussion on accepting donations and tax write-offs.

New Business:

• Opiate Task force Discussion – G. Waugh attended an emergency meeting of this task force which also included Senator Blumenthal because of the recent increase in overdoses. Stephanie Cortes reported that in the Troop L troop area there has been at least an overdose each month from December 2020 through the present. The overdoses have been from a litany of substances but primarily heroin with traces of fentanyl, and this is affecting teenagers through senior citizens. Stephanie Cortes said the theme of this meeting was harm reduction and promoting safe environments. Michael Lyn Cappello asked to be invited to future meetings because of the likelihood of there being more overdose issues. Stephanie Cortes raised the thought of bringing the DARE program back to Litchfield Schools and offered to speak with Resident Trooper Jim Holm. Additionally, Stephanie spoke of the importance of having the police
meeting in schools to talk to kids and build relationships and that kids talking to kids under adult supervision about these matters is also important.

• Litchfield Hills Juvenile Review Board Funding Request – G. Waugh stated that he spoke with Allison Fulton about this, and she said grant money from WCC should not go to this because the Litchfield Prevention Council is already a member of the Torrington Winsted JRB. J. Makuc stated that she is inclined to support this because we also receive funding from the Town of Litchfield. J. Johnson stated that Chris Leone has made an effort to bring together key players to create this JRB and she would support this. G. Waugh stated that any effort to collaborate with the Wamogo Prevention Council is good. ****MOTION – B. Berson moved to allot $277 for the purchase of ticket books for State Troopers to make JRB referrals, seconded by J. Makuc. All ayes, motion passes.****

**Agenda Items for Next Meeting:**

**Adjournment:**

G. Waugh moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:52, B. Berson seconded. All ayes, meeting adjourned.

Transcribed by J. Makuc, Secretary

Gary Waugh, Vice – Chairman

Next meeting will be June 8, 2021