

**Litchfield Prevention Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**St. Anthony of Padua, Litchfield**  
**September 14, 2021 7:00 PM**  
**DRAFT**

**Call to Order:** G. Waugh called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm

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

**Also present:** Allison Fulton, Priscilla Jeffery, Emma Johnson-Hollis

**Excused:**

**Absent:**

**Appointment of Alternates:** None

**School Liaison Report:** None, however Matt Terzian offered to meet to discuss survey results and some next steps.

**Law Enforcement Report:** None. J. Makuc will contact Stephanie Cortes to ask if she can help with this. G. Waugh will reach out to Greg Kenney for statistics. J. Johnson noted that the Litchfield Schools have a new SRO.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from August 10, 2021 were reviewed. J. Johnson moved to approve with no changes, seconded by B. Berson. All ayes, motion passed.

**Public Comment:** Priscilla Jeffery stated that she was just elected President of the new Litchfield Arts Council and they are looking for ways to incorporate art everywhere in the community.

**Treasurer Report:** J. Johnson reported a balance of \$10,355.04. Expenditures have been \$5.31 times 2 for the website hosting fee and \$268.55 for the family game night on Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Correspondence:**

- B. Berson email fwd 8/24/21 – WCC Tuesday Training Opportunities
- B. Berson email fwd 8/26/21 – WCC Annual Meeting
- B. Berson email fwd 9/8/21 – How to support students that may be suffering from anxiety
- B. Berson and Emma Johnson-Hollis from WCC informed the group that the next WCC LPC Leadership Meeting will be on September 21<sup>st</sup> from 5 – 6:30 on Zoom. They would like 2 from our group to attend.

**Old Business:**

UpRooting Addiction Showing & Discussion – B. Berson met with the new Executive Director, Robert Kwalick, of the Bantam Cinema and John Simoncelli of Greenwoods and who has the connections to the

producers of UpRooting Addiction about showing this film. All agreed that after the first of 2022 is a realistic time for this to happen.

Meeting with Mike Pascento – G. Waugh met with Mike Pascento on Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Mike Pascento wants LPC involved and back in schools as soon as possible; wants to get a mentor program going; working on getting staff advisors and wants to see clubs/activities formed that pull kids together; would like to see something community wide for kids whether its Project Purple or otherwise; would like us to bring back Chris Herren; he would like the new part-time social worker to get involved with LPC; and he would like J. Tiul to help with mentoring program.

Family Game Night – J. Tiul reported that it was held outside last Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup> under the LCC tent and there were 40 people in attendance which included young families and some older folks too. J. Tiul reported that the next event will be a fall festival on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Student Survey Results – Members had a productive discussion about the results. Allison Fulton stated that it's important to remember the positive things that come from surveys. She stated that we should look at and address the concerns but also find what inspires hope. Members agreed on the importance of keeping in mind the year of crazy education kids had and how it contributed to them not feeling connected when considering the results. Discussion highlights were as follows: our kids need people they feel comfortable talking to about problems; mental health and suicidal ideation numbers were quite high among 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders; consideration should be given to bringing back the safe gathering place pledge; seniors need to see there are things to do in town; too many kids think smoking marijuana is harmless and Matt Bellace would be a great speaker to bring back to address this; the need to do more work in the elementary school in the hopes for better outcomes later on; and hopefully these issues can start to be addressed in next meetings with Dr. Pascento and school mental health staff. B. Berson stated that it's important to see trends and the survey should be given again in the winter of 22-23.

Updated By-Laws Review – Tabled until next meeting.

Youth Council/Student Groups – Tabled until next meeting.

WCC Grant Submission Planning – Members decided that topics to be addressed in the application are vaping, marijuana use, alcohol use, hosting parties, a marketing campaign, and mental health with a focus on mentoring.

**New Business:**

**Agenda Items for Next Meeting:**

**Adjournment:**

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

Transcribed by J. Makuc, Secretary

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Gary Waugh, Chairman

Next meeting will be October 12, 2021