

**Litchfield Prevention Council
Special Meeting
Bantam Annex, 80 Doyle Road, Bantam, CT
January 10, 2023 at 7:00 PM**

Members Present: Gary Waugh, Chair, Jill Johnson, Treasurer, Jaime Mackuc, Secretary, Priscilla Jeffrey.

Members Absent: Coleen Kinkade

Members Attending by Zoom: Maria Ziello Jacqueline Tiul, Matt Dyer

Others Attending by Zoom: Tiana Lee

Others Present: Michele Murelli

Gary Waugh called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Public Comment: Michele Murelli brought copies of the winning posters to show to the group. The quality is excellent. Her goal is to get her students to do market research, to identify an issue that they are dealing with locally, and make that the theme of the next contest.

School Liaison Report: Tiana Lee reported on her meeting with Dr. Pascento. The speaker is rescheduled for February 21. The Better High speaker will be scheduled for the spring. A student-led wellness group may be able to merge with a Prevention group at WAMOGO. Red Ribbon Week included activities, presentations, contests, and fun. They would like the middle school group to meet regularly. Narcan training should be offered to the PTO, staff, and other groups.

Law Enforcement Liaison Report: Desiree is unavailable. We would like her to update us on what opioid incidents are happening locally.

Approval of Minutes from 12/13/22: Jackie Tiul made, and Jill Johnson seconded a motion to adopt the minutes as submitted. All voted in favor, except Matt, who abstained, and the motion carried.

Treasurer Report: Jill reported that there have been ~\$9000 added to the account: ~\$3200 from the Western Connecticut Coalition grant, and ~\$5800 from the opioid funds.

Correspondence: Gary reported that his letters to the Selectmen and the Town Clerk asking to appoint Priscilla to a regular seat and Coleen to an alternate seat were rebuffed. Coleen and Priscilla must resign their positions in writing and be appointed to their new positions by the Selectmen. We need Coleen to work with Jill on the pop-up prom project. Jackie will write her a letter.

Gary reported that Jeff McKenna of Woodbury has anti-vaping posters he is offering to us. He has them in all the bathrooms in the Region 14 schools.

Old Business:

- **Discuss Art Contest and getting the posters out into the community:** Places to have the posters: Schools, Hospitals, Churches, the Community Center, the banks, the Town Hall, Library, Historical Society, Meraki, Toast, Ollies, the Village Restaurant, Dunkin Donuts and other merchants. We will tell Michele and Lisa that we want one large poster showing all five designs with credits, and 10 each of the five at 11"x17", laminated, for posting around town.
- **Discuss the community webinar by Scott Driscoll** of Internet Safety Concepts rescheduled for February 21, 2023. There will be three sessions, one for each school, and a webinar in the evening for the parents. The Principals at LHS and LIS will advertise it. Spots on WZBG and/or interviews with the speaker or members of the Council were mentioned.
- **Update on the bench in memory of Bob Berson:** The sketch is being sent to the facilities department. The wording of the placard was proposed: "Dr. Robert Berson, a long-serving member of the Litchfield Prevention Council, was dedicated to ensuring the well-being of all of Litchfield's children." We expect it will be ready by May. We can invite community members to a reception, with speakers and refreshments.
- **Discuss how to address the vaping issue in the spring months.** Vaping is all too common in the schools and readily available at local stores and online. In order to address state legislation, we will need to team up with other Prevention Councils to demonstrate widespread support. Locally we can do classroom presentations with follow-up offerings of vaping cessation programs such as the one currently being offered by the McCall Foundation. We will have to see if Mike Pascento and Chris Leone are open to doing this.
- **Report on Website design** – Jill and Priscilla have met and Jill has spoken with Harmony. They are rewording the Mission Statement to give it a more positive tone and would like to consider adding the word Wellness to our title. They will circulate drafts of their ideas by email. Harmony will be paid to keep the website updated and current. We can include educational material, resources and solutions
- There was mention of offering another Narcan training, possibly in conjunction with an event such as another showing of Uprooting Addiction, family game night, or a pop-up.
- Gambling curriculum – Jill has discussed getting this offered in her school with her assistant principal.

New Business: none

Adjournment: Jill moved and Jaime seconded a motion to adjourn. All voted in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.