

**Litchfield Prevention Council
Regular Meeting
On Zoom
February 14, 2023 at 7:00 PM**

Members Present: Gary Waugh, Chair, Jill Johnson, Treasurer, Maria Ziello, Jacqueline Tiul (arrived late), Matt Dyer.

Members Absent: Jaime Makuc, Secretary, Colleen Kinkade

Alternates Absent: Priscilla Jeffery

Gary Waugh called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

School Liaison Report: Tiana Lee was absent.

Law Enforcement Liaison Report: Desiree was unavailable.

Approval of Minutes from 1/10/23: Jill Johnson made and Gary Waugh seconded a motion to adopt the minutes as mailed out with the agenda. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Treasurer Report: Jill reported that there is \$19,669.83 in our account. This includes the opioid grants and the Western CT Coalition grant. Outstanding is a \$90 bill due to Barbara Putnam.

Correspondence: Gary reported that he has been in contact with Justin Breen, Maria Skinner and Andrew Lyon, and will report on that later in the meeting.

Old Business:

- **Discuss Art Contest and getting the posters out into the community:** Gary has nine additional sets of posters to be distributed. Maria offered to take some for the hospital and the medical community. We need jpgs or jpegs to put them on the website.
- **Discuss the community webinar by Scott Driscoll** of Internet Safety Concepts rescheduled for February 21, 2023. There will be three sessions for the schools, between 9am and noon, at the LIS Auditorium, and a Zoom webinar in the evening for the parents. The Principals at LHS and LIS will advertise it. Jill will put it on various local Facebook pages. Gary will get a press release to John McKenna and the Register Citizen.
- **Update on the bench in memory of Bob Berson:** The facilities committee has approved installing the bench. The wording on the plaque is in the January minutes: A Tuesday evening dedication in late May or early June (not the first or second Tuesday of the month) would be ideal.
- **Discuss how to address the vaping issue** in the spring months. There was discussion of curricula on vaping and addiction. Emma has one appropriate for 5th and 6th graders. She would need the school to give her classroom time, in health classes. It would be best to meet with the school and with the health teachers now to plan to include it in next year's

curriculum. There is a unit on Mental Health First Aid that would be appropriate for the teachers and staff as Continuing Education.

- **Report on Website design** – Jill Johnson reported that Harmony just sent out a draft of the new website, which she has not had a chance to review yet. Jill will put it on a shared google drive for the Council members to look at and make comments. We also need to review and rewrite the Mission Statement with a more positive spin.
- **Gambling curriculum** – Jill has reviewed it and plans to run it with a small group of students. Mike Pascento has agreed to get it into the health classes this year.
- **Pop-up Prom Shop** – Gary ran into Colleen and learned that she's needed to take a break but will think about returning and being active on the Council. This project was her brainchild, and it is too late to move ahead with it this year. It will have to be planned in Nov/Dec, to happen in February for a May prom date.

Jacqueline Tiul entered the meeting.

New Business:

- **WCC Regional meeting at the LCC on Feb 8:** Emma gathered members of the behavioral health community in the region for dinner and discussion. There were 15-20 people networking and sharing information about how to get their vulnerable clients the services they need. Transportation for elders, mental health care for young people, and access to health care were some of the deficits discussed. Jill asked if our legislators are in the loop – Emma will be preparing a report that they will get. There was discussion of a follow-up legislative breakfast where the legislators could hear some of the first-person stories behind the figures. It might help get us the resources we need.
- **Mama Mia and Talent in Town:** Matt moved and Jill seconded a motion to buy a half page ad in the Mama Mia program book, and to spend up to \$50 for a basket at the Talent in Town. All voted in favor and the motion carried. Jackie has the proof for the ad.
- **Discuss co-hosting Scarlett Lewis event** with Tim Angevine's Prevention Council. Her son Jesse died at Sandy Hook. Her message is all about love, kindness, grace, and peace. Denise will contact her people and find out when she is available to come here to speak.
- **A gentleman from Morris** is opposed to the cultivation of marijuana in his town and was making inquiries into how Litchfield handled the issue. After the referendum voted down retail sales in town, our Planning and Zoning Commission adopted regulations banning both sales and cultivation in Litchfield.
- **Another movie showing and discussion:** Tim would like to show the movie Resilience. Jill supports the idea of having a movie/discussion 3 or 4 times a year. Emma can get a speaker to lead the discussion. Gary will find out when the theatre is available. Emma thinks John Simoncelli may have a copy of the movie, Resilience. She will think about what other titles would be appropriate. It was suggested that it be called the "Bob Berson Memorial Movie Series."

Adjournment: Matt moved and Jill seconded a motion to adjourn. All voted in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:14.