

Litchfield Prevention Council Draft Meeting Minutes

Bantam Town Hall Annex, 80 Doyle Road, Bantam and on Zoom
August 8, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Members Present: Gary Waugh, Jaime Makuc, Maria Ziello (on Zoom), Jacqueline Tiul, Matt Dyer (on Zoom)

Others Present: Emma Johnson-Hollis of WCC, Janet Dember of AFSP, Andre Luis Grigorio of WCC (on Zoom)

Members Absent: Jill Johnson, Colleen Kinkade, Priscilla Jeffery

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

School Liaison Report: None

Law Enforcement Liaison Report: None

Approval of Minutes from 6/13/23: Will be done at September 12, 2023 meeting

Treasurer Report: A report was not available for this meeting.

Correspondence: Will be addressed with the relevant agenda items.

Old Business:

- **Update on Website Development** – Item tabled until next meeting, information was unavailable at this meeting.
- **Update on Scarlett Lewis Presentation for October 6** – G. Waugh reported that the contract has been signed, and \$5,000 is due at the end of the month to pay for this event. The presentation is set for October 6, and we are waiting on an announcement from the Choose Love media group to promote the event. There was discussion about how the event will be paid which breaks down as follows: \$2,500 from the school, \$1,250 from LH&WR, and \$1,250 from the Prevention Council. Tim Angevine with the Wamogo Prevention Council has also offered to help pay for and publicize this event. Members discussed various ways to advertise this event such as radio spots and a segment where Scarlett Lewis calls in, asking Litchfield.bz to do a write-up, and using social media.
- **Schedule Matt Bellace Presentation** – This may occur on October 4th. Mike Pascento is scheduling it. Members discussed that it may be preferable not to have it so close to the Scarlett Lewis presentation but if it can't easily be changed this is fine.

- **Reschedule Bob Berson Bench Event** – G. Waugh is waiting to discuss this with Mike Pascento. Members discussed trying to schedule this mid-week in September vs the weekend. **Motion – M. Dyer moved that the Prevention Council spend up to \$500 for refreshments for this event, J. Tiul seconded, all ayes, the motion passed.** There was more discussion about sending out written invitations for this event and asking Barbara Putnam for help with a list. Emma Hollis offered to help create the invitation. **Motion – J. Tiul moved to spend up to \$250 for invitations to the dedication of Bob's bench event, J. Makuc seconded, all ayes, the motion passed.**
- **Problem Gambling Potential Presentation** – Andre Luis Grigorio of WCC stated that we could offer an evening presentation to the adult community. He suggested some options such as having Stephen Matos of MCCA as a guest speaker and who is in long term recovery, and approaching the topic from a psychological perspective and addressing why it happens and treatment potential. Members discussed bringing awareness to harmful college practices in this area and holding a presentation at the community center or a church.
- **Jill to discuss Stacked Deck Gambling Curriculum:** Item tabled until next meeting, information was unavailable at this meeting.

New Business:

- **Update on Membership** – G. Waugh reported that Ann Combs accidentally made Maria Ziello and Priscilla Jeffery alternate members, but they need to be made regular members. However, this can only happen with Colleen Kinkade's resignation. Ann Combs said she will work on getting that.
- **Plan for a Historical Society Scarecrow in October** – G. Waugh suggested we type the write-up that goes with the scarecrow so it will be easier to read. Members discussed changing Dr. Bob's mask to something less scary, and this year's message could showcase the topics we've covered and/or are working on such as Choose Love and Problem Gambling.
- **Discuss Suicide Awareness Prevention Walk on October 28th at White Memorial** – Janet Dember is on the Board of Directors for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention CT Chapter. She lost her daughter 6 years ago to suicide. Members discussed forming a Prevention Council Team to walk on October 28th. The walk is 2 miles and registration begins at 10 am and the walk starts at 11 am. **Motion - M. Dyer moved that the Prevention Council spend \$500 to support this walk and the work of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, J. Tiul seconded, all ayes, motion passed.** Janet Dember gave information about the 988 suicide and crisis lifeline, and members stated this should go on the Prevention Council website.

- **Progress toward Student Run Group** – Members discussed that this would include both a student club and kids who can come to Prevention Council meetings and also report to the Board of Education.
- **Jill to discuss End of Year Report to WCC** - Item tabled until next meeting, information was unavailable at this meeting. G. Waugh offered praise for the work Jill did on this.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting – Anti-vaping Strategies and Programs

Adjournment: J. Makuc moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m., M. Dyer seconded, all ayes, motion passed.