

Litchfield Prevention Council

Regular Meeting Minutes

Bantam Town Hall Annex, 80 Doyle Road, Bantam

November 14, 2023

Members Present: Gary Waugh, Chair, Maria Ziello, Co-Vice Chair, Jackie Tiul

Others Present: Emma Johnson-Hollis of WCC

Members Absent: Priscilla Jeffery, Jill Johnson. Matt Dyer

Gary Waugh called the meeting at 7:12

Approval of Minutes from 10/10: Minutes adopted by unanimous consent

Treasurer's Report: No report

Correspondence: Will be addresses with relevant agenda items

Old Business:

Matt Bellace presentations were very successful, student presentations at both Wamogo and Litchfield were well received, evening parental presentation had 30 plus in attendance. Students encouraged parents to go because they loved the daytime presentations. We talked about a potential writing contest mirroring Matt's message to the students on Achieving "Natural Highs" and Achieving the "Full Benefit" Overcoming Adversity. Gary will follow up with LHS Principal.

Scarecrows in the Meadow was a success. Dr. Bob delivered a positive mental health message and stimulated many responses from visitors. Their comments on pro-active mental health activities will be shared on our website.

Suicide Prevention Walk at White Memorial drew 155 walkers and raised \$52,000 dollars for the cause. Three members of our group attended and found it very moving and educational. Gary has communicated since with Janet Dember, the Walk's organizer, to explore possibilities of workshops on this issue for parents and their children.

Connecticut's Unspoken Crisis, Getting Young People Back on Track- focusing on how to reengage students who drop out of school and become non-contributing adults. Gary and Priscilla attended. What can our community do to improve this crisis?

Choose Love Movement: Scarlett Lewis was fantastic and had an inspiring message about pro-active mental health initiatives that schools need to embrace on all grade levels. Gary is trying to set up a meeting with Litchfield Health and Wellness and Representatives from Region 20 and Scarlett's group to plot a path forward on this issue.

Website Postings: Hire a provider to update our website monthly.

WCC Grant Filing: Grant has been approved and check should be mailed soon.

New Business:

Membership: We need to fill 2 vacant positions, as well as hire a Secretary.

Event Planning: Discussed coupling events with Family Pizza Nights at LCC. Possible topics include: Vaping, Problem Gambling, and Suicide Prevention Awareness. Jackie will work with the LCC to find dates. Emma will help line up expert speakers.

Narcan Training for Non-Profit Groups: Working with Kate Zullo from the Litchfield Historical Society to set this up for early 2024. Emma will offer the training personnel.

Set Meeting Dates for 2024: Gary will poll members and look for dates when all members can attend. Perhaps a change of day of the week is necessary to achieve better attendance.

Adjournment: 8:16 Marie Motioned and Jackie Seconded. All present voted in the affirmative.