



Local Prevention Council
Meeting Minutes 06/25/2024

Call to order by Matthew Cox at 10:30 a.m. in the Blake Room at the Somers Public Library

Members in attendance: Timothy Keeney, Maureen Parsell, Katherine Mashiak, Justin Preuss, Dr. Sam Galloway, Bob Schmidt, Gail Tishler, Gerard Joyle, Kathleen Devlin, Kim Littig, Pastor Scott Spence, and Matthew Cox

Welcome and Introductions none

Meeting Minutes A motion was made by Bob to approve the April 23, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. Kathleen seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

Drug free Communities Grant Updates: Kim reported that recent tobacco compliance checks, with support from DMHAS, were conducted at 8 local tobacco vendors. Six vendors complied with current regulations and two did not. At both Geissler's and Henny Penny vendor representatives failed to properly check for ID. Citations were issued to the vendor and to the employees who were non-compliant. Alcohol compliance checks are planned.

Matthew reported that the Youth Leadership Council continues to meet semi-monthly and most recently supported walk/run events during National Mental Health Month at the schools by hosting information tables. Council members also prepared and distributed gift bags containing mindfulness gadgets and positive messaging to all students at the middle school.

Matthew and Kim announced that planning has begun for the Second Annual National Night Out event on August 6th from 5 to 8pm at Field Road Park. Arianna Flagg has been working with Kim and Justin from the police department as well as Ray Stovall from the fire department to engage vendors and other partners. Kassie reported that she has been promoting the event to other local small businesses and interest is growing.

Old Business

Coalition Member Survey – Matthew reported that 11 members completed the annual member survey and that B. Weyland Smith consulting was in the process of analyzing the data and drafting a report to be shared at a future meeting.

Branding/Naming – Matthew reported that the Board of Selectmen (BOS) approved his proposal to hire Scout Collective for a 17-month project to continue work on branding, naming, logo, website development, and public engagement campaigns, through September 2025. He and Arianna participated in an initial planning meeting to launch the naming/branding portion of the contract. Interest Coalition members are invited join an Action Team to participate in up to two meetings over the summer.

By-Laws – Matthew reported that the BOS had approved his proposal to hire consultant John Daviau to facilitate meetings of the By-Laws Action Team, which will meet up to two times over the summer to create draft by-laws for presentation to the full Coalition in October.

New Business

Tim asked about the status of hiring for the Youth Services Coordinator position, recently vacated by Aiden Matthews. Matthew reported that he will seek BOS approval to revise the job description before posting to hire a replacement. Primary changes include removing counseling from the job description and adding prevention activities.

On the mental health side, Matthew reported that little detailed information existed documenting the specific needs for mental health services in Somers and that he recommended conducting a robust community needs assessment to include a survey of adults, hosting focus groups, and conducting key informant interviews. He will submit a proposal to the BOS in July to hire an experienced consultant for this work.

Pastor Scott announced that the Somers Congregational Church is eager to partner with programs and groups needing meeting, event, or office space as the church facility has many options and rates are reasonable and with plenty of parking.

With no further business to discuss, Bob moved, and Joanne seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 a.m. With no discussion, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Cox for Brian Langan