

PARTNERS IN PREVENTION

Town of Somers

WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

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KATHY CUCCHIARELLA
CHAIRWOMAN

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE
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SOMERS, NY 10589



MEETING MINUTES
May 10, 2023

Chairwoman Cucchiarella called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Kathy Cucchiarella, Margaret DiLorenzo, Lauren Johnson, Patty Otis and Nick Pasalides.

Carol Cirieco was absent.

Somers Middle School Youth Prevention Coordinator Amanda Casey, Resident Andy Casimir, Somers Police Chief Brian Linkletter, Student Assistance Services Coordinator of Community Based Services and Training Nicole Malgarinos, Resident Tom Mauro, and Somers High School Youth Prevention Coordinator Jessica Pereira were also present.

Mrs. Cucchiarella welcomed newly appointed Partner's member, Margaret DiLorenzo and she looks forward to working with her.

Minutes – A motion was made by Mrs. Otis to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2023 meeting as submitted. Mrs. Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Town Budget Expenditures – No additional purchases have been made with Town funds. Mrs. Cucchiarella was happy to announce that Business Sector Reps Sue and Rick DiNardo made a \$250 donation to the Partners. Mrs. Cucchiarella will send them a thank you note.

Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grant:

Ms. Malgarinos and Mrs. Cucchiarella completed and submitted the year 6 to 10 DFC Grant Application, which was due on April 11th.

The last of this year's K.N.O.W. 2 Prevent presentation was offered by Pat Aussem from the Partnership to End Addiction and was entitled "When Mental Health and

Substance Use Collide”, and took place on March 16th from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom. In April, Mrs. Johnson certified 120 Somers High School staff in Narcan Training. Mrs. Cucchiarella also attended to educate those participating about the Somers Partners in Prevention. The Somers Middle School staff will be trained in the fall. Additional kits will be filled and a request has been made for some additional red boxes that contain Narcan kits.

Thanks were extended to Sargent Burpee and Police Officers Adam Donofrio and Rick Thomas for their assistance at the Medication Take Back Day in April. Although rainy and cold, it was a very successful day. Karen Collura and Vick Durso were on hand to collect food for the St. Luke’s Pantry and their collection was a success as well. Partner’s assistants at the event were Ms. Casey and one of her students, Mr. Getman, Mrs. Otis and Ms. Pereira. There was also a representative from the NYS Poison Control. Mrs. Cucchiarella’s husband set up the tent as well as the table and also assisted along with Mrs. Cucchiarella. Sargent Burpee is interested in having some leave behind Narcan Kits. Police Chief Linkletter said about 20 would suffice. In addition, Mrs. Johnson reported that arrangements will be made for hypodermic needles to be turned in at the October Medication Take Back Day.

Mrs. Cucchiarella attended a recent Westchester Coalition meeting, and Dr. Blanch’s quarterly Pulse meeting.

On Saturday, May 6th, Mrs. Cucchiarella and Mrs. DiLorenzo attended a Hope and Healing from Substance Abuse symposium at St. Luke’s Church. The event was sponsored by the Living Hope Adventist Church. The keynote speaker was Dr. Gregory Claude who was an addict at 14 years of age. There was a panel of professionals, including Mrs. Cucchiarella. After the presentation, Mrs. Cucchiarella was able to stay for lunch, which was quite beneficial as she was able to network. Some of the people she spoke to are interested in Narcan Training. Most of the attendees were church members. The event was taped and Mrs. Cucchiarella will share the recording when she gets it.

The DFC grant funded an assembly program for the 9th grade Somers High School students, which was presented by John Tessitore of the JCK Foundation. The focus was mental health, resiliency and suicide. A session was held for the parents and student workshops were offered over the course of three days. Ms. Pereira plans to attend one of the workshops.

Mrs. Cucchiarella has been attending applicable webinars.

On June 26th, the Somers Partners in Prevention and several other Westchester Coalitions will be sponsoring a workshop focusing on positive messaging and marijuana. They will employ Andy Duran and Ty Sells. This workshop will be open to approximately 20 students. As a sponsor, the Partners in Prevention needs four to five students from Somers High School to attend.

The Westchester Youth Task Force will hold a recognition event on May 15th. It is the hope that some Somers High School students will be in attendance.

Student Assistance Services Counselor – Ms. Casey reported that thankfully there have been no incidences of vaping, just the “normal” experiences of the age group that attends the Middle School. Events will be held focusing on May being Mental Health Awareness month – “Who is your Lifesaver?” Students will drop a note at the lunch time table as to who they can count on and who their lifesaver is. Lifesaver candies will be distributed. She is also working on a flyer to distribute that offers summer resources for the students.

Ms. Pereira hosted a CODA awareness activity and explained what it was about. Field Day at the Somers High School is on May 25th. As part of that event, the students will be able to make Shirley Temples, which promotes having fun with a non-alcoholic drink. She too will work on a flyer that provides summer resources for the High School students. Unfortunately, they have seen a rise on vaping THC, and think perhaps the stresses of the end of the school year is contributing to this. Usually, in June, a crash car is placed on the lawn of the High School. Due to some sensitive issues affecting some of the students, a decision was made not to have it on display this year.

Somers High and Middle School Updates – Both Mr. Bayer and Mr. Getman were not present so there were no updates. Mrs. Cucchiarella will follow up with Mr. Bayer concerning Narcan Training for the senior students, bus drivers and bus monitors. Mrs. Johnson will provide a list of other school seniors in the area that received Narcan Training.

Youth Programs Updates – Both Ms. Casey and Ms. Pereira will continue to work on encouraging some of their school’s students to participate in the Partner’s monthly meetings during the next school year.

Somers Police Chief Updates – Chief Linkletter was unable to be at the Medication Take Back Day, but was happy to report that 202 pounds of medications were collected that day. In addition, for the first time, vape devices and cartridges were collected. They were brought to the Valhalla facility for proper disposal. He had a conversation with Parks and Recreation Department Superintendent Ralston, and his parks staff will be hanging the Narcan Kit boxes soon.

OLD BUSINESS

Partners in Prevention Town Signs – Mr. Pasalides reported that the Town Board approved the Partners in Prevention signs and they have been ordered. The Highway Department will install them.

Partners Assisting in End of Year Celebrations at SHS and SMS – Mrs. Cucchiarella has reached out to Dr. Blanch, Mr. Bayer and Mr. Getman about the

Partners assisting in any end of the year celebrations at both the High and Middle Schools. She will follow up again at the next Steering Committee meeting on May 15th.

Partner's Accomplishments – Mrs. Cucchiarella will be working on an article with pictures for The Somers Record, highlighting the accomplishments of the Partners in Prevention.

NEW BUSINESS:

New York State's Opioid Overdose Prevention Program – Resident Andy Casimir will be assisting Mrs. Johnson in registering the Partner's in Prevention in New York State's Opioid Prevention Program. There are many benefits in doing so, one of which is Mrs. Johnson having the ability of training others to teach the Narcan Training class. There is a reporting element for those who are approved, which Mrs. Cucchiarella and Mrs. Johnson will handle.

Recovery Community Awareness and Resources – Mrs. DiLorenzo is proposing that brochures about young people and AA be purchased. All thought that was a great idea. She will get prices and report back at the June meeting. In addition, she reminded everyone that in terms of recovery, one size does not fit all.

Parks Rules and Regulations Signage – Mrs. Cucchiarella will speak to the Parks and Recreation Superintendent about adding no marijuana use to the Parks Rules and Regulations existing signs. They already indicate that cigarette smoking and vaping is prohibited.

Somers Volunteer Fire Department – There is a new Chief for the Somers Volunteer Fire Department as of May 1st. His name is John Meeker and Mrs. Cucchiarella will reach out to him to see if the Partners can assist them in any way.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. and the Partners will meet next on June 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the Recreation Center in Van Tassell Park.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Somers Partners in Prevention

cc: Partners in Prevention
Town Board
Town Clerk