

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 November 8, 2023

Chairwoman Cucchiarella called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Kathy Cucchiarella, Lauren Johnson, Tom Mauro and Nick Pasalides.

Carol Cirieco, Margaret DiLorenzo, and Patty Otis were absent.

Somers Middle School Youth Prevention Coordinator Amanda Casey, Resident Andy Casimir, Associate Director of the North for WEPR, Karen Collura and Somers High School Youth Prevention Coordinator Jessica Pereira were also present.

Minutes – A motion was made by Mrs. Cucchiarella to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2023, meeting as submitted. Mr. Mauro seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Town Budget Expenditures – Purchases for supplies were as follows: \$92 for the Somers High and Middle School Open Houses; \$24 for the Medication Take Back Day; and \$63 for the Somers High and Middle School Red Ribbon Week programs. The balance in the budget line is \$393. Mrs. Schirmer was happy to report that the Town has proposed to fund \$2,500 in 2024 to the Partners in Prevention.

Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grant:

Mrs. Cucchiarella attended the last Westchester Coalition meeting and spoke about the highlights of the meeting. Youth Leadership Task Force meetings occur monthly at 4:30 via zoom. We need to have our Somers Youth Attend. Tobacco Free Initiatives, KNOW2 Prevent, Westchester Training Forum, 11/16/23, Red Ribbon Week Activities, Great American Smoke-Out/Vaping, and Coalition Initiatives.

Mrs. Cucchiarella will be attending the next CADCA Conference after the new year.

A webinar entitled "Substance Free Athletes" was offered on September 27th from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Mrs. Cucchiarella reached out to Marc Hattam, SCSD, Athletic Director about having the coaches watch the webinar. Both Amanda Casey and Jessica Pereria, SAS Counselors attended the webinar with Mrs. Cucchiarella. She has a recording of this webinar if anyone would like to watch it. Mrs. Cucchiarella was informed that the School District will be promoting the contents of this webinar.

The Vape Device Drop Boxes have been delivered and Mrs. Cucchiarella brought one to the meeting to show everyone. They will be placed in Ms. Casey and Ms. Periera's offices and will be emptied periodically with the assistance of the SRO officers. Hopefully these devices will have a positive impact on the students and its use is confidential.

Student Assistance Services Counselors

Both Ms. Casey and Ms. Pereira held daily activities during Red Ribbon Week and have plans in place for activities to be held in November, such as the Great American Smoke and Vape Out. Ms. Casey held vaping presentations for the 5th graders and they were well received. She will also research securing a speaker who talks about eating disorders. Ms. Pereira will be speaking to the athletes to reinforce the messaging as part of the "Substance Free Athletes" webinar. Parents will be invited to view the webinar in December. All agreed that there should be signage at the schools campuses indicating that they are smoke and vape free.

Somers High and Middle School Updates – Mr. Bayer was not present. Mrs. Cucchiarella will reach out again to the interim principal at the Middle School, Jennifer Mangone about attending the Partner's meetings.

Youth Programs Updates – Mrs. Cucchiarella hopes that both Ms. Casey and Ms. Pereira will be able to encourage some of their school's students to participate in the Partner's monthly meetings this school year.

Somers Police Chief Updates – Chief Linkletter was not able to attend the meeting this evening but will update everyone on the poundage of medication collected at Medication Take Back Day.

OLD BUSINESS

School Narcan Training – Mrs. Cucchiarella will follow up with Mr. Bayer about having all the seniors Narcan trained. She also emailed the Director of Transportation about training for the bus drivers and monitors and is awaiting a response.. The next phase would be training the coaches of recreation sports.

Freshman Peer Leadership – Mrs. Cucchiarella spoke with some of the Peer Leadership students at the Back to School Night and they seemed interested in getting involved with the Partners. That information was reported back to their organizer Doug

Packard and he looks forward to that happening. A junior at the High School has already expressed interest.

Partner's Accomplishments – The Notice of Award Letter was received about being awarded the 6 to 10 year grant, so Mrs. Cucchiarella will write an article about it for The Somers Record.

Medication Take Back Day – Medication Take Back Day was held on Saturday, October 21st at the Somers Police Station from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and it was well received. 120 pounds of sharps were collected. We are waiting on the Medication weight. Donations were collected for St. Luke's Food Pantry. Mrs. Cucchiarella thanked all those that assisted with the event.

Community Narcan Training – Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Cucchiarella offered a Community Narcan Training at the Somers Library on October 17th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. There was a good turnout and arrangements are being made to train the library staff.

Invite – On November 16th, KNOW2 Prevent will sponsor the 2nd Annual Westchester Training Forum for Prevention Specialists entitled "Clearing the Fog" which will take place at the Scarsdale Library. The morning session will be virtual and in person and the afternoon session is solely in person. If interested in attending, let Mrs. Cucchiarella know.

Lake Lincolndale Property Owner's Association Youth Board Support – This afternoon, Mrs. Cucchiarella, Ms. Casey and Ms. Perriera met the Lake Lincolndale Property Owner's Association Youth Board. An overview of the Partners was given. A Pokemon event was held on November 3rd and was very well attended. The attendees had a great time and pizza was provided. There were two High School and two Middle School students who volunteered to assist. The Partners will also support their Holiday Party in December with a \$300.00 contribution.

NEW BUSINESS:

Concerns – There was some discussion over the fact that there was recently an incident at the High School which resulted in a student being taken to the hospital by ambulance, which was reported to parents with a very vague message. It was substance abuse related. In Putnam County, their Coalition can obtain detailed information regarding calls that involve substance abuse. It would be nice if the same can happen in Westchester. At the very least it would allow the Partners to be able to hone in on the specific issues in an effort to educate and spread awareness. It was also suggested that the Partners reach out to the School Board.

Wellness Summit – On November 16th from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., the Middle School will be having a Wellness Summit. Mrs. Cucchiarella would like the Partners to have a table at this event.

Blackout Wednesday – As is done each year, Mrs. Cucchiarella will write up a message with a quote from Chief Linkletter about celebrating Thanksgiving safely. An email blast will be sent by the Town, and it will be included in the Principal's weekly newsletters.

Hang Up and Drive – On February 5th, the Somers High School will host a Hang Up and Drive program for the students. Town Judge McDermott will be a guest speaker. Mrs. Cucchiarella would like the Partners to have a table at this event.

Family Liaison – Mrs. Cucchiarella was happy to announce that DFC grant money and Somers Central School District money are being equally contributed to fund a part-time Family Liaison. Mrs. Cucchiarella will be meeting with her and hopes that a monthly report for informational purposes will be submitted to the Partners. This information will be useful in planning future events.

Partners in Prevention Stickers – In the past, Partners in Prevention stickers were given to Fratelli's, Il Forno, Pepino's, and Sal's to be placed on the pizza boxes. Mrs. Cucchiarella has more stickers and needs assistance with distributing them.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. and the Partners will meet next on December 13th 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