

SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNCIL

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LOUIS CHRISTIANSEN
CHAIRMAN

Town of Somers

WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE
337 ROUTE 202
SOMERS, NY 10589



MEETING MINUTES

November 12, 2013

Chairman Christiansen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Meredith Byrne, Louis Christiansen, Carol Cirienco, Mike Driscoll, Patricia Otis, and Caroline Shenefield-Angiello.

Guests present included: Kathleen Cristiano, Westchester County Police School Resource Officer (Somers Intermediate and Middle Schools); Kathy Cucchiarella, President PTA Council; Dineen DeVito, President Somers High School PTSA; Jeff Getman, Principal Somers Middle School; Matt Hickey, Westchester County Police School Resource Officer (Primrose Elementary and Somers High Schools); and Lydia Whitney, Somers High School Student Assistance Counselor.

Councilman Cirienco was also present.

Minutes – A motion was made by Mrs. Shenefield-Angiello and seconded by Mr. Christiansen to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2013 meeting as submitted. All were in favor.

Council Sub Committees – The main focus of this evenings meeting was to establish Council Sub Committees so that all could begin working toward goals and create an action plan in moving forward.

Mrs. Shenefield-Angiello joined the Westchester Coalition for Drug and Alcohol Free Youth. She shared some upcoming conferences and literature.

Some concepts/ideas discussed included: expanding on the Prescription Take Back program as part of outreach to the community; utilizing a young recovering alcohol/drug user as a speaker; expanding on what is already being offered in the schools; finding a way to engage the parents; participate in the spring Family University; a decision has to

be made as to the function of the Council in terms of prevention, intervention or a mix of the two; use the High School Peer Leadership class as a model for other programs; offer more competitive activities versus social as that seems to be the trend with the youth; and continue to build on sustainable programs for the students.

The Sub Committees, Council Chairs and members are as follows:

Law Enforcement - Police Chief Driscoll, Mrs. Otis, Ms. Cristiano and Mr. Hickey
Legislation – Mr. Christiansen
Parent Outreach – Mrs. Byrne and Mrs. Ciriaco
Youth Outreach – Mrs. Shenefield-Angiello, Mrs. Regalia, Mrs. Whitney

Mrs. Cuchiarella and Mrs. DeVito will be involved with both the Parent and Youth Outreach Sub Committees.

All Sub Committees met and the following was reported:

Law Enforcement – drug and alcohol trends and statistics will be presented; resources for help will continue to be made available to the community; panel participation will be available as needed; any other help will be given as needed

Legislation – will continue to follow up on progress with the I-Stop program.

Parent Outreach – will contact Dr. Deborah Hardy, Somers School District Director of K – 12 School Counseling to share ideas and get input.

Youth Outreach – the focus will be on prevention; there will be representation at the upcoming Pharming Conference; arrangements will be made to have the Youth to Youth and VAASA groups distribute flyers to the local pizza shops; the Somers High School Principal will be consulted to see if a contest within the Art Department can be conducted to develop a logo for the Prescription Take Back program.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room at the Town House.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Somers Substance Abuse Council

cc: Substance Abuse Council
Town Board
Town Clerk