

2/4/2016

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
WESTCOG DRUG TASK FORCE**

HELD AT REDDING TOWN HALL
100 HILL ROAD, REDDING, CT 06896

ATTENDING

The list of attendees is shown below.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Elizabeth Esposito of the Western CT Council of Governments (WestCOG) staff called the meeting to order. She provided background on her Council which has as its members eighteen municipal chief elected officials in the state defined Western Connecticut Region, Greenwich to Westport, then north to New Milford.

She said that the mayors and first selectmen are very concerned about the opioid addiction crisis and its tragic impacts. That this Drug Task Force was intended to share and coordinate area resources such that local governments can maximize their response.

**PRESENTATION BY SUSAN WOLFE OF THE CT DEPT
OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES**

A PowerPoint presentation was then made by Susan Wolfe of CT DMHAS entitled "Naloxone (Narcan): The Opioid Overdose Antidote." Included were the basics of opioid addiction, trends with Narcan usage, recent and anticipated CT legislation. The presentation was followed by discussion.

Ms. Wolfe's presentation is available at: <https://westcog.org/drug-task-force/>

PRESENTATION BY DR. LAURETTA GRAU OF YALE UNIVERSITY

A second PowerPoint presentation was then made, by Dr. Laretta Grau of Yale University, accompanied by a handout identifying opioid involved deaths 2009-2014 by WestCOG municipality. Her presentation was entitled "Six Years of Opioid-Involved Accidental and Undetermined Fatalities among Connecticut Residents, 2009 -2014."

She reviewed how opioid deaths have been portrayed by type and location, providing keys to structuring variable prevention strategies. Questions, answers and discussion followed.

Dr. Grau's presentation is available at: <https://westcog.org/drug-task-force/>

BREAK OUT GROUP DISCUSSION

Participants then divided into subgroups for topical discussions. Summary reports were then given by a representative of each group. Discussion followed. The summary is as follows:

--- Members welcome WestCOG involvement and see value in mayors and first selectmen promoting prevention messages and coordinating activities.

--- All coordination efforts should make use of the core administrative structure long in place; CT DMAHS, regional action councils, municipal prevention councils.

--- There is interest in having the “common message” standardized for efficiency and greater impact. A project for this group could be to accomplish this.

--- The Task Force could also prepare an “Opioid Abuse Prevention Agenda” for WestCOG to back politically.

--- A basic template for topical organization could be that utilized within emergency management planning: Prevention, Preparedness, Response, Recovery and Mitigation.

NEXT MEETING / ADJOURNMENT

Elizabeth Esposito suggested that the next meeting be held on Thursday, March 3 in Ridgefield, a Doodle Poll to follow to determine member’s availability. The meeting was then adjourned at 11:40 AM.

LIST OF 2/4/2016 MEETING ATTENDEES

Albright, Michelle, Weston Youth Services Director
Bromley, Ellen, Stamford Coordinator of Social Services
Butler, Amber, Western CT Health Network
Chew, Jonathan, Western CT Council of Governments
Cooper, Mark A. R., Westport - Weston Health District

Creeth, Margaret, Wilton Department of Social Services
Culbert, Donna, Newtown Director of Health
DeLuca, Donna, The C.A.R.E.S. Group (Community Addiction and Recovery Education and Support)
DeLuca, Matthew, The C.A.R.E.S. Group (Community Addiction and Recovery Education and Support)
Esposito, Elizabeth, Western CT Council of Governments

Fulton, Alison, Housatonic Valley Coalition Against Substance Abuse (HVRAC)
Grau, Dr. Louretta, Yale University
Heath, Sarah, Westport Department of Human Services
Holland, Jeff, Communities 4 Action (Lower Fairfield County RAC)
Kenny, Robert, DEMHS Region 1 Coordinator

Killoy, Kim, Mid-Fairfield Substance Abuse Coalition
Lawlor, Robert, New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area
Marconi, Rudy, Ridgefield First Selectman
O’Laughlin, George, Greenwich Department of Social Services
Pemberton, Julia, Redding First Selectman

Pierce, Cathy, Wilton Director of Social Services
Pisani, Gioranna, Mid-Fairfield Substance Abuse Coalition
Puglisi, John, Brookfield Police Department
Raleigh, Eileen, Darien Emergency Management Services
Scott, Harvey, Greenwich Department of Social Services

Sperazza, Jen, New Fairfield Prevention Council
Vincelli, Mike, REPT Region 1, ESF-8 Public Health
Watt, Margaret, South West Regional Mental Health Board