

**Meeting of the  
Western Connecticut Council of Governments Drug Task Force**

**Wednesday, December 1, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.  
Trackside Teen Center**

**15 Station Road, Wilton, CT 06897**

**Agenda**

1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER and INTRODUCTIONS
2. FEATURED SPEAKER: Jennifer Byxbee of Greenwich's Youth Services Bureau
3. DISCUSSION:
  - Next Steps – How do we keep momentum going?
4. INFORMATION ITEMS:
  - Next Meeting
  - Suggestion of presenters/ topics for next meeting
5. OTHER BUSINESS

10/13/2016  
MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
**WESTCOG DRUG TASK FORCE**  
HELD AT WILTON TEEN CENTER  
15 STATION ROAD, WILTON, CT 06897

**ATTENDING**

Albright Michelle, Weston Youth Services  
Brezorsky, Ellen, Silver Hill Hospital  
Cooper, Mark, Westport - Weston Health District  
D’Louhy, Jacqueline, Town of New Canaan  
Esposito, Elizabeth, Western CT Council of Governments  
Holland, Jeff, Communities 4 Action  
Lawlor, Robert, New England HIDTA  
Marconi, Rudy, Ridgefield First Selectman  
Spalding, Chris, Selectman Weston  
Sperazza, Jen, New Fairfield Local Prevention Council  
Vincelli, Mike, Westport - Weston Health District

**CALL TO ORDER**

Elizabeth Esposito of the Western CT Council of Governments (WestCOG) staff called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM.

**DISCUSSION**

Liz Esposito updated the group on the WestCOG webpage and the goals of implementing the objectives laid out before summer break.

Charles Grady from Community Outreach at the FBI began the discussion by showing a clip from the FBI film, “Chasing the Dragon: The Life of an Opiate Addict.” The then took questions from the audience.

**NEXT MEETING / ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting will be in mid to late November. A doodle poll will be sent out to determine the date. The meeting was then adjourned at 11:30 AM.

## Opioid Crisis Update 1: Recommendations

The WestCOG Drug Task Force acknowledges that the opiate abuse crisis is a far reaching issue with many facets, affecting many areas of a single community. Also realizing that each community is unique with different challenges and resources, we have created a “menu” of recommendations to help improve the municipal reaction to this crisis. We have organized the suggestions to reflect which area of the problem they tackle.

We strongly encourage you to choose the measures best suited for your community and take decisive steps toward curbing this epidemic. Your pledge to pursue these recommendations will help, address this important issue and the allow the Task Force to better support your activities. It is our hope that through your action, our region will become a model for others.

### Response

- Require all first responders and/or all emergency personnel to be trained to use the opioid overdose reversal drug, Naloxone, and carry it with them.
- Create a municipal task force that brings together town departments and local resources to share information and data, and identify strategies to combat town specific issues. Stakeholders could include; Police, Fire, EMS, Youth Council, local hospitals and treatment centers, etc.
- Create an anonymous tip line for citizens to report ODs that did not require Naloxone or other treatment.

### Recovery

- Support and advocate for the maintenance and expansion of addiction services.
- Create a safe haven, similar to the program in Gloucester, MA, where people battling addiction can find resources without fear of prosecution.
- Create a support group for friends and family touched by addiction. If your community already has one, ensure it is effectively advertised to maintain/increase utilization.

### Prevention

- Provide at least one drug disposal drop box. If your community already has one, ensure it is effectively advertised to ensure public awareness and use.
- Host at least two Pill Drives per year.
- Create a stamp or stickers for pharmacists to put on prescriptions that lets customers know where to dispose of unwanted medications – the local drop box.
- Involve youth and local colleges in the creation of educational programming.

### Intervention

- Create a Juvenile Review Board to divert at-risk youth from the court system. If your community already has one, advertise it and continue your support for it.
- Support the expansion of a regional forum for School Resource Officers to collaborate.
- Hold a community forum and use the emergency channels to advertise it. (National Overdose Awareness day is August 31<sup>st</sup>, [www.overdoseday.com](http://www.overdoseday.com))
- Assist local groups in holding community meetings that teach people to recognize the warning signs for addiction, and that train them to use Naloxone.

### Sustainability

- Provide continued funding and legislative advocacy for addiction, prevention, and mental health services.
- Stay up to date with programing at your Local Prevention Council and Regional Action Council, and help them spread the word.