

**HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM #318
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Chairwoman Addonizio, Legislators Gouldman & Sayegh

Tuesday

5:30PM

August 20, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 P.M. by Chairwoman Addonizio who requested that Legislator Sayegh lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislator Sayegh and Chairwoman Addonizio were present. Chairwoman Addonizio stated Legislator Jonke would sit on the Committee in Legislator Gouldman's absence.

Item #3 - Approval of Minutes – July 22, 2019

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Item #4 - Discussion/ Overview/ Putnam-Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center/ Executive Director Ann Ellsworth

Putnam-Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center (PNWWRC) Executive Director Ellsworth handed out bilingual informational palm cards.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional; Seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

Executive Director Ellsworth stated the PNWWRC serves all victims of violence; women, children, and men. She stated it was created during the battered women's movement of the 1970's. She stated they offer services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, child abuse, and bullying. She stated it is confidential and free. She stated victims are served from the time of the crime, until the services are no longer needed. She stated victims are assigned advocates and case managers. She stated advocates help with any civil, legal or safety issues and will help with orders of protection. She stated the advocates are with the victims through every step of the process. She stated if a victim is in a shelter, the case manager will help with entitlements, employment issues, and searching for housing. She stated it is a law that a victim can only be in a shelter for 180 days. She stated she hopes to create housing in Putnam County. She stated the PNWRC has five (5) advocates and three (3) are bilingual. She stated there are seven (7) case managers. She stated there are licensed therapists, as well as an adult and adolescent program. She handed out copies of the PNWRC's programs and services, along with contact information.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional; Seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

Executive Director Ellsworth stated the PNWWRC believes that victims know the best things for themselves. She stated there is no time limit on the therapy that is offered, so people can progress at their own pace. She stated they have a program for teenagers to help them with coping mechanisms. She stated the PNWWRC partners with the Legal Services of the Hudson Valley for their civil legal assistance. She stated they serve about 1,800 people per year. She noted that it is very hard for men to come forward to ask for services. She stated the PNWWRC is excited about potentially bringing services to Putnam Valley.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated unfortunately Legislator Gouldman could not attend the meeting tonight, but he requested that she ask if there is any update on the progress on that potential site.

Executive Director Ellsworth stated they are working to finalize the funding to renovate the space for three (3) offices. She stated the PNWWRC wants to always make sure there are services available. She stated they have started providing transportation assistance. She stated they contract with two (2) taxi companies to transit people to the PNWWRC. She stated money should not keep someone from recovering from victimization. She thanked the Legislature for allowing her to speak tonight and for their support. She stated it has been great working with the County.

Chairwoman Addonizio thanked Executive Director Ellsworth for attending and providing all this information. She stated she appreciates that it was clarified that the PNWWRC does not serve only women, but men as well. She stated it is important to get that information out to the public.

Legislator Sayegh requested more information on the child and adolescent programs. She questioned how the kids in school are aware of what is available to them.

Executive Director Ellsworth stated the PNWWRC has connections to the school guidance counselors and the school health departments. She stated the PNWWRC likes to involve the parents, unless the parents are part of the problem. She stated the PNWWRC works closely with the Child Advocacy Center. She stated she has staff trained to help victims process the trauma, but not be triggered by it in the future. She stated this allows the victims to detach themselves from the emotion of the trauma.

Legislator Sayegh questioned what the Legislature can do to help

Executive Director Ellsworth stated there is a walk event on September 27th at FDR Park. She stated services are kept free through grants and fundraising. She stated the more grants and support the PNWWRC receives, the more services are available.

Legislator Montgomery questioned how much money is needed for the potential Putnam Valley office and where the funding is coming from.

Executive Director Ellsworth stated there are a couple of leads on funds that they are hoping will work out. She stated does not have the number for the necessary funding available at this time.

Legislator Montgomery questioned what the overall budget for the PNWWRC is.

Executive Director Ellsworth stated the 2019 budget was \$2 million.

Legislator Montgomery thanked Executive Director Ellsworth for her work.

Commissioner of Social Services Michael Piazza commended Executive Director Ellsworth for her efforts in the continuum of care within the community.

Item #5 - Discussion/ Putnam Communities that Care Coalition/ The Prevention Council of Putnam Executive Director Kristin McConnell

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional; Seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

Commissioner Piazza stated there are a few reasons behind their request to be put on the agenda for tonight's meeting. He stated there are some fiscal issues that The Prevention Council of Putnam (The Prevention Council) is facing and they wanted the Legislature to be aware, but that will be addressed after the presentation.

Prevention Council Executive Director McConnell gave the attached PowerPoint presentation. She stated the Prevention Council is data driven and slide #5 shows that prevention works. She stated the fight against marijuana use by youth is the biggest struggle. She stated the Prevention Council is aging out of two (2) federal grants that will end on September 29, 2019. She stated they have applied for multiple grants to possibly replace that funding but have not heard back yet. She stated the Prevention Council has built an empire, but cannot do it alone anymore. She stated they are integral for the community. She stated she knows there are members of the audience who would like to speak about what The Prevention Council does.

Bill Wilkens, Town of Southeast resident and President of Putnam County MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving), spoke about the important initiatives that The Prevention Council and CTC (Communities That Care Coalition) have implemented.

Barbara Parmly, Town of Putnam Valley resident, stated she has been a resident and involved with the schools for almost 40 years. She commended The Prevention Council and CTC for their efforts. She stated their guidance and support has been instrumental in the community.

Erin Ray Pascaretti, Acting Supervising Public Health Educator, stated the local public health system in Putnam County is fortunate to have so many coalitions who are willing to work together. She stated the Prevention Needs Assessment Survey is the only survey that really looks at our youth. She stated other counties do not have anything like it. She stated if that data was no longer available, it would leave a huge hole in the community health assessment.

Executive Director McConnell stated she would also be submitting statements from Val Nearman of Mahopac Central School Health Coordinator, Mary Kay Nielsen, Haldane Superintendent Dr. Philip Benante, and Chief of Kent Police Kevin Owens.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional; Seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

Commissioner Piazza stated The Prevention Council has grown over the years. He stated due to the opioid epidemic, prevention efforts have been put on the backburner. He stated they have been looking for New York State to make a commitment to prevention. He stated they decided to keep the Legislature apprised of the situation. He stated he and Executive Director McConnell met regarding a grant coming through NIDA (National Institute of Drug Abuse) which is focused on the opioid crisis. He stated they believe they will be receiving some of that funding, but will update the Legislature moving forward.

Chairwoman Addonizio questioned when Commissioner Piazza expects it to move forward.

Commissioner Piazza stated he expects to have more information at the September Health Committee meeting.

Legislator Sayegh thanked The Prevention Council and CTC for all the work they do.

Item #6 - Discussion/ Cannabidiol (CBD) Oil as a Food Additive and the Federal Regulations/ Sheriff Robert Langley Jr.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional; Seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. thanked Executive Director McConnell for her efforts regarding CBD oil. He stated CBD oil is legal, but the problem lies in CBD oil being added to food products, which violates federal law. He stated in order to enforce federal law, federal agencies must be involved, but they are overworked and understaffed, like many municipal agencies. He stated the FDA (Food & Drug Administration) is trying to get a handle on this situation but it is an uphill battle. He stated New York City (NYC) took the initiative and passed a citywide law in their health code that mirrors the federal law, which allows NYC to enforce the regulation. He stated we have a problem in Putnam County with CBD oil being put into food items such as gummy worms, lollipops, and cookies. He stated reports to poison control regarding CBD oil have been steadily rising. He stated CBD oil is not regulated, similar to vitamins. He stated studies are showing that CBD oil has an impact on the liver. He stated a child ingesting a high amount of CBD could damage their liver. He stated he is asking the County to look into creating a health law that allows the County to address the food products with CBD oil.

Chairwoman Addonizio clarified that there is no THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol) in these products. She stated CBD oil can come from the hemp plant or from marijuana. She noted that there are health benefits from using CBD. She stated but there is a danger in having unknown amounts in food.

Sheriff Langley stated there have been instances where THC has been found in products claiming to only contain CBD. He stated there is a tolerance of THC that is allowed; He believes it is .03%.

Legislator Albano stated it is the logical approach to put a law on the books so that it is enforceable.

Legislator Jonke questioned if there have been other counties that have taken this approach.

Sheriff Langley stated only NYC.

Legislator Castellano questioned if all boroughs of NYC are included.

Sheriff Langley stated he believes they are.

Legislator Sayegh questioned how this is different from going to the health store and getting gummy vitamins.

Sheriff Langley stated it is unregulated because it is being sold as food. He stated the concern is that the products can be very attractive to children.

Chairwoman Addonizio agreed that the main concern is the children who would ingest the CBD.

Legislator Sullivan stated CBD use is growing quickly. He stated his opinion that it is moving too fast. He stated the Legislature should look more into it and gather more information from health experts.

Sheriff Langley stated anyone can buy CBD oil and there is nothing wrong with adding it to your own food.

Legislator Montgomery suggested working with State officials, as the Assembly has proposed a bill. She noted the County worked very hard on the T21 (Tobacco 21) law and then the State passed a similar law which preempted the County's. She stated the State is trying to get ahead of the FDA. She stated she could reach out to the Assembly for more information on moving forward.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated the County will definitely be looking into it more.

Mr. Wilkens questioned if it is American companies that are adding the CBD oil to food.

Sheriff Langley stated some are, but there is no monitoring in place.

Item #7 - Discussion/ Hope Not Handcuffs/ Chairwoman Addonizio

Chairwoman Addonizio stated Hope Not Handcuffs is coming to Putnam County and gives hope to those struggling with addiction. She stated the philosophy is based on a partnership between

the community and police. She stated she is happy to be a part of moving this initiative forward, in partnership with Drug Crisis in Our Backyard and The Prevention Council. She stated the first training is August 22nd for “Angel” volunteers. She stated anyone dealing with any type of addiction can go to the police department and ask for help. She stated they will not be prosecuted, and they will be connected with an Angel for assistance.

Executive Director McConnell gave out informational pamphlets.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional; Seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated the Putnam County Sheriff is excited to be a part of this program. She stated additionally, the Kent Police and Carmel Police Departments are also on board.

Executive Director McConnell stated there are already 80 volunteers signed up to become Angels. She stated Putnam is one (1) of nine (9) counties in New York and the first in the Hudson Valley to launch a countywide program.

Chairwoman Addonizio noted that there is no cost to the County for this.

Sheriff Langley stated he is thrilled that this program is moving forward.

Marie O’Connor of The Prevention Council stated this is a positive model for young people to create a relationship with police.

Legislator Albano stated he wonders if people struggling with drug addiction will actually go to the police for assistance.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated there has been a lot of success in other areas. She stated one (1) person being helped will make this program worth it.

Item #8 - Approval/ Social Services/ Child Advocacy Center/New York State Office of Victim Services Grant Renewal

Chairwoman Addonizio stated these funds are used to support the victim advocacy program.

Commissioner Piazza stated the grant is up for renewal every three (3) years. He stated this is just looking for approval to accept the funds.

Legislator Sayegh questioned how much the grant is.

Commissioner Piazza stated he does not know off the top of his head but will find out and let the Legislature know.

Legislator Jonke thanked Commissioner Piazza for his work.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo suggested making it clear what exactly is being moved forward. He questioned if it is approving accepting the grant funding.

Commissioner Piazza stated in the past renewals were just done through notifying the Legislature. He stated it would be better to track if there were resolutions for each renewal.

Legislator Sayegh stated she would like to know how much the grant is for or if there is any match required by the County.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated according to Commissioner Piazza's memo, there is no County match.

Legislator Sayegh suggested approving it, pending receiving the requested information on the total for the grant before the vote at the Full Legislative Meeting.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to move Approval/ Social Services/ Child Advocacy Center/New York State Office of Victim Services Grant Renewal to the Full Legislative Meeting; Seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

Item #9 - Other Business

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to waive the rules and accept the other business; seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

a. FYI/Fund Transfer 19T194/Social Services/Care At Home Vehicle Modification

Chairwoman Addonizio stated there is no fiscal impact.

Item #10 – Adjournment

There being no further business, at 6:44 P.M., Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to adjourn: Seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Ed Gordon.

Putnam Communities That Care Coalition

Presented by:
Kristin McConnell, Director
Prevention Council of Putnam



Agenda

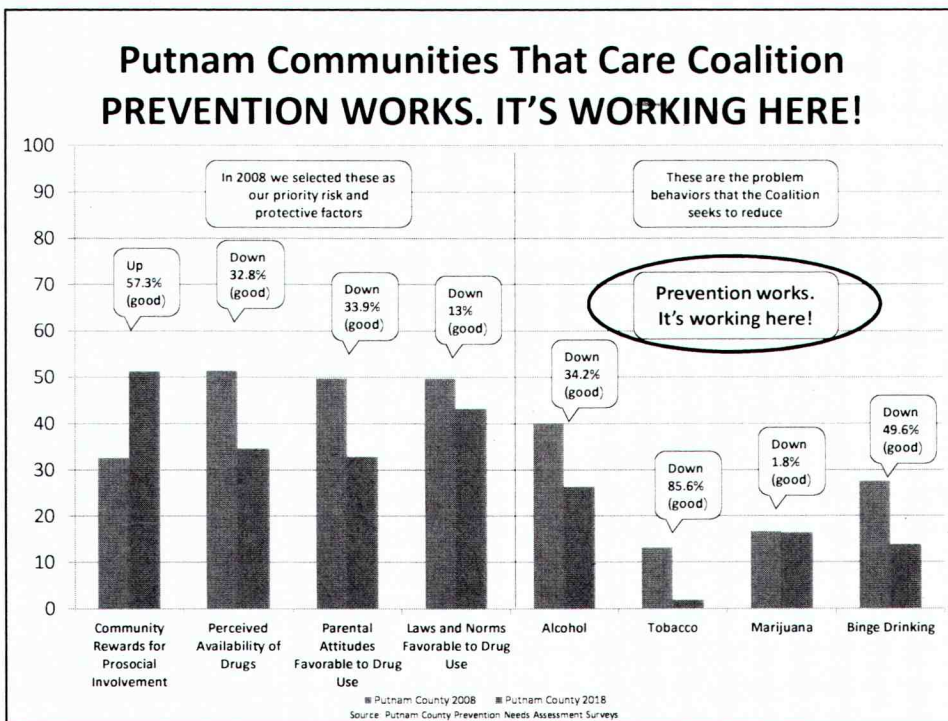
- Who we are
- Importance of data collection
- Prevention Works. It's Working Here!
- Overview of Accomplishments
- Where we go from here

Who we are...

- The mission of the Coalition is to reduce substance abuse among youth by addressing community factors that increase risk and promoting protective factors that minimize risk.
- Our goal is to create **population level change** utilizing **evidenced-based** environmental strategies, programs and practices that are **data driven**.
- The Coalition engages all sectors of the community in **assessment, capacity, planning, implementation, evaluation, sustainability** and in all of its programming.
- All sectors are represented: businesses, civic organizations, faith based organizations, healthcare professionals, law enforcement, local government, media, organizations reducing substance use, parents, schools, youth, youth serving organization.
- The Coalition is not a 501c3, therefore, The Prevention Council of Putnam acts as the grantee or fiscal agent and applies for funds on behalf of the Coalition. We oversee all aspects of funding to ensure compliance with programmatic, fiscal and reporting requirements.

Prevention Needs Assessment Survey

- The survey was designed to assess adolescent substance use, anti-social behavior, and the risk and protective factors that predict these adolescent problem behaviors.
- Risk factors are characteristics of school, community and family environments, as well as characteristics of students and their peer groups that are known to predict increased likelihood of drug use and other problem behaviors.
- Protective factors exert a positive influence or buffer against the negative influence of risk, thus reducing the likelihood that adolescents will engage in problem behaviors.
- The premise of this approach is that in order to promote positive youth development and prevent problem behaviors, it is necessary to address those factors that predict the problem.



Highlights of our Accomplishments

- **Comprehensive prescription drug and opiate campaign** that resulted in MedReturn Units in all municipalities in Putnam County; bi-annual Medication Take Back Days - We have collected over 4.35 tons since 2010; bi-monthly Naloxone Overdose Prevention Trainings; Point of Sale education materials place in all pharmacies in Putnam County; creation of an Opioid Prescribing Toolkit for Physicians.
- **Underage drinking initiatives** have resulted in passage of the Social Host Liability Law in all municipalities in Putnam County; and Second I.D. initiative and compliance checks annually in partnership with the Sheriff's Office.
- Pre Prom Policy initiative reaches approximately 1,200 **parents** each year and Simulated Impaired Driving Experience® reaches approximately 500 11th and 12th grade **students** in all of the local high schools in Putnam County annually.
- Implemented a **comprehensive multi-media campaign** through social media, billboards, the local movie theater, Comcast cable digital and television ads, radio PSA's, billboards, outdoor signs, pizza box sticker initiative, palm cards and our quarterly newsletter.
- Created a **law enforcement** committee to increase communication and collaboration between law enforcement and the Coalition. Each year the Coalition provides funding to the Sheriff's Office for **alcohol compliance checks**, collaborated on the Second I.D. Initiative, Blackout Wednesday and most recently **Hope Not Handcuffs Hudson Valley**.

Where we go from here

- **Funding** is needed to **sustain** the **infrastructure** of the **prevention services** described, which will in turn sustain our prevention efforts. If additional funding is not secured Putnam County will **lose** a **vital** service that has a **high impact** on its residents.
- This guarantees the Coalition will have ongoing **vitality** in its internal structure and process, and ensures **viability** of its strategies in the community.
- The **landscape of issues** may have changed since our inception, but the Coalition has remained a constant in the community. The Coalition has been a catalyst for change and is relied upon by schools and many community organizations.
- It is vital that **prevention** be a priority in Putnam because addiction can begin in adolescence, and can be mitigated by preventing and increasing the age of initiation among youth.
- Every dollar **invested** in **prevention** programs, strategies and activities has the potential to create **savings** in the **economy**. Evidence-based primary prevention, to stop substance use before its starts, is cost-effective, with research showing that, for each dollar invested in prevention, **between \$2 and \$20 in treatment and other health costs can be saved**.
- The Coalition is always **efficient** and brings a high degree of **value** to Putnam County.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

— Margaret Mead

Thank you

Kristin McConnell, M.S., CPP-G, Director
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