



City of Bristol

BRISTOL, CONNECTICUT 06010

**MINUTES OF THE
MEETING OF THE
MAYOR'S OPIOID TASK FORCE
FIRST FLOOR MEETING ROOM
SEPTEMBER 19, 2019
6:30 p.m.**

ATTENDEES:

Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu
Jennifer Dufresne
Jason Dufresne
Brittany Foulds
Marco Palmeri
Chief Gould
Barbara DiNoia
Frank Caputo
Jenny Cannon
Courtney Pope
Karen Kiley
Tara Scaparise
Christina Sanchez
Theresa Rozyn
Pat Stebbins
Dot Thomas
Christine Hazenski
Mark Jenkins
Courtney Dollar
Casey Brewer
Sam Brewer
Sandy Kamens
Dean Davis
Melissa Rahming
Danielle Bechard
Lauren Pristo
Christine Thebarge
Noelle Bates – Recording Secretary

ABSENT:

Councilwoman Mary Fortier
Councilman Scott Rosado

ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS OF MEMBERS

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu opened up the meeting at 6:30 p.m. She welcomed the members and the members introduced themselves.

ITEM #2 – ACCEPTANCE OF JULY 2019 MINUTES

A Motion was made and seconded. Motion passed.

ITEM #3 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu explained that Public Participation is on all City Hall agendas, but this forum is a free flowing meeting and participation will be conducted throughout the meeting.

ITEM #4 ACTION ITEMS

RECOVERY COMMUNITY DESIGNATION BENCHMARKS

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu stated that it was vote in April to become a Recovery Friendly Community. There are certain benchmarks that needed to be completed. One of the components was to reach out to the community regarding workforce and employment of individuals in recovery. She has reached out to the Chamber of Commerce to have them add this to their agenda. They have not met in the summer months but they will add it to their agenda for October,

RECOVERY COACH GRANT UPDATE

Marco Palmeri stated that he, Courtney, Theresa and the Mayor met with DSS regarding the How Can We Help Grant. DSS did an outside job comparison to other towns and Bristol is the forerunner. Bristol is a unique community with a lot of resources.

Marco gave a report on data collection and stated that the numbers of deaths are decreasing, although there is an increase in females in the Emergency Department.

Theresa Rozyn stated that she continues to make contact throughout the community. She is required to assist 50 individuals throughout the year and so far she has made 69 contact within the Brian Angels, Agape House and Salvation Army. She explained to the committee what a “contact” entailed.

Christina Sanchez stated that having Theresa as a resource has been wonderful for the community. People feel comfortable knowing that they have a person to go to who will always be there and is a staple in the community.

BEST 4 BRISTOL UPDATE

It was reported that they Best 4 Bristol is wrapping up their funding and going into their 4th year. They will be concentrating on taking advantage on what’s going on at the State and National level.

The next event will be the Red Ribbon week which will be October 23rd through October 31st.
The next Drug Take Back date will be October 26th.

BRISTOL HOSPITAL UPDATE: C.O.B.R.A. & RECOVERY COACHES

Chief Gould explained that C.O.B.R.A was an acronym for City of Bristol’s Recovery Alliance. He reported that at the last meeting they were in the final stages of implementation of the program. He explained that at a police officer’s discretion, a person in possession of an illegal substance, or who is using a substance illegally, can choose treatment instead of arrest. Community member who would like treatment for their substance misuse can also walk into the Bristol Police Department or Bristol Health’s Emergency Center and request help at any time.

The Chief plans on doing a dry run of the program next week to make sure there are no gaps and then will go live in a few weeks. Lisa Coates has agreed to volunteer to pretend to be a person in possession.

NUTMEG TV TAPING: F. CAPUTO

Frank stated that he spoke to Nutmeg TV and they will do a round table discussion taping. Nutmeg will be coming to City Hall to determine the location of the taping. They are looking for 6-7 volunteers from different backgrounds to participate in the taping. Please contact Noelle Bates in Corporation Counsel’s Office at 860-584-6150 if you would like to be included in this taping.

ITEM #5 NEW BUSINESS

PREVIEW OF OPIOID PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT SERIES

The Mayor shared some of the Public Service Announcements that they have been working on. She will disseminate the video clips to the group via email. The password is opioid. She requested that everyone review all the PSAs and give her feedback by September 27th.

ITEM #6 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Mayor thanked Britt Foulds from U.S. Senator Chris Murphy’s office for being in attendance. Britt noted that the Appropriations Committee was working to pass through funds. She reiterated that the State recently received 17 million from the Federal government.

ITEM # 7 – ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 17th at 6:30 in the First Floor Meeting Room.

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu, Chairwoman
Mayor’s Opioid Task Force