ATTENDEES:

Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu (entered at 7:35 p.m.)
Councilwoman Mary Fortier
Ana Gopian
Jeff Quamme
Laura Lewis
Eileen McNulty
Chris Cassin
Sarah Larson
Jake Kochnin
Sandra Kamens
Lisa Roth
Erica Baloga
Courtney Pope
Marco Palmeri
Frank Caputo
Noelle Bates – Recording Secretary

ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS OF MEMBERS

Councilwoman Fortier opened up the meeting at 6:30 p.m. She welcomed the members and the members introduced themselves.

ITEM #2 – ACCEPTANCE OF JANUARY 2019 MINUTES

A Motion was made and seconded. Motion passed.

ITEM #3 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councilwoman Fortier 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

- DISCUSSION OF STATE GRANT AWARD FOR RECOVERY COACHES
Marco Palmeri addressed the Committee and introduced the members from Wheeler Clinic who the City has partnered up with for the Recovery Coach Grant. The members from Wheeler Clinic include Lisa Roth, Erica Baloga and Courtney Pope. Ms. Pope stated that the goal of Wheeler Clinic is to provide services to 50 clients per year. They will have Recovery Coaches at the Emergency Department at Bristol Hospital. They will be community oriented, visiting local churches, shelters, schools, etc. Wheeler Clinic is a Federally qualified center and will serve as a one stop shop to make access to care easier. They will offer mental and dental services as well as target substance abuse and mental health issues. They will also distribute Narcan and provide a delivery service if transportation is an issue. In addition to these services, they will also provide access to a Chiropractor, Yoga and mindfulness classes. Their open access hours will be Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. After those hours the Access Line is available to which Frank Caputo spoke to.

Lisa Roth stated that they are presently interviewing for Recovery Coaches and will have one in place by next week.

- BEST 4 BRISTOL GRANT UPDATE
Eileen McNulty talked about the Best 4 Bristol Grant and some of the deliverables for the grant. She is working with Lisa Coates from Bristol Hospital to secure a site at Bristol Hospital for the Prescription Monitoring portion of the grant. A meeting is being set up at Bristol Hospital Hughes Auditorium from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Eileen is looking for volunteers to present at this meeting.

Sarah Larson gave an overview of the Opioid Response Grant, (STR – State Targeted Response) which money from this grant needs to be spent by April 30th. She discussed the deliverables for this grant and stated that most of them have been met. Other events that will be taking place to meet other deliverables include:

1) The Bristol Chamber of Commerce will be conducting a Health Fair on March 9th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Bristol Eastern High School. A second Narcan Training will be held on March 11th at the Bridge Street Community Church which will be presented by Mark Jenkins of Greater Hartford Coalition. Registration is required for this event. Free Narcan kits will be distributed to pantries and shelters to try and target that population.

2) The Mayor’s Public Service Announcements will run through the end of February regarding Vaping products. Another PSA will be conducted though AMP Radio in March and April concentrating on what questions to ask your doctor before being prescribed opioids. They are looking for a health professional to do the announcement (possible Kurt Barwis from Bristol Hospital).
3) Councilwoman Fortier advised the group that the final edits have been made to the Opioid Pamphlet and has been sent to Eileen McNulty. Eileen will looking into the printing and the cost.

4) Sarah Larson provided prevention information to the group and stated that this is one of the deliverables they are working on. They are working on getting material together to distribute to doctor’s offices and schools during health screenings.

Eileen McNulty read some of the results from the 800 adults surveyed on Survey Monkey, which were:
1) 45% do not know what available resources are out there.
2) 49% didn’t know what a drop box was and that there was one available at the Police Station.
3) ¼ did not know how to dispense of unused drugs.

- **TOBACCO 21 PROPOSAL**

Councilwoman Fortier stated that Governor Lamont is pushing the Tobacco 21 proposal statewide and we should see how that plays out before we do anything as a municipality.

- **VAPING PRODUCTS AND LETTER TO BUSINESSES**

According to Councilwoman Fortier the Mayor’s letter regarding vaping products has been sent to local businesses and gas stations as discussed in last month’s meeting.

- **RECOVERY FRIENDLY COMMUNITY PROFILE**

Ana Gopian of TriCircle, Inc. passed out information from the CT Alcohol and Drug Policy Council/Recovery Health Management Sub-Committee regarding a Recovery Friendly Community. The document is intended to provide guidance to municipalities that are interested in supporting those residents who are in recovery from a substance use condition by 1) raising awareness of the nature of such conditions, 2) promoting health and recovery by reducing stigma and discrimination and 3) building or improving the environmental factors for “recoverees” to flourish. Expected benefits of a Recovery Friendly community may be reduced substance use, reduced overdoses, reduced crime, an improved community sense of compassion, humanity and citizenship, and positive statewide visibility.

Ana also passed out information from Hamden regarding their Recovery Team which is a community-based service of The Children’s Center of Hamden. She stated that Danbury has resources on their website that we could model for a recovery friendly community and asked to have a demonstration of their website at the next meeting.

The Mayor stated that due to a scheduling conflict, we would not be able to do this at the next meeting and that we should cancel the meeting and conduct a special meeting for this. The
tentative dated scheduled for the Special Meeting will be on March 11th at 6:30 in a room to be determined.

ITEM # 7 – ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on MONDAY, MARCH 11TH at 6:30 – COUNCIL CHAMBERS. This will be a Special meeting in place of the Regular March 21st meeting.

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