ATTENDEES:
Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu
Councilwoman Mary Fortier
Councilman Scott Rosado
Marco Palmeri
Ulric Berube (in place of Chief Gould)
Linda Hall
Sandra Camens
Richard Colbert
Courtney Pope
Jennifer Cannon
Theresa Rozyn
Cynthia Vasquez
Frank Caputo
Jeff Quamme
Katherine Ducharme
Laura Lewis
Courtney Dollar
Jake Kochin
Noelle Bates – Recording Secretary

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 APRIL 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.
A Motion was made and seconded to bring up Item 6 – Legislative Update. Motion passed.

ITEM #6  LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
TOBACCO 21 PROPOSAL

The Mayor announced that she received late breaking news prior to today’s meeting that Raised Bill No. 7200, An Act Prohibiting The Sale of Cigarettes, Tobacco Products, Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems and Vapor Products to Persons Under Age Twenty-One passed through the house on a vote of 124 yeah and 22 no. The Bill will now go before the Senate and if approved will be signed by the Governor. This bill takes the pressure off municipalities or going through the Ordinance process.

ITEM #4  ACTION ITEMS

RECOVERY COACH GRANT UPDATE FROM RECOVERY CHAMPION, MARCO PALMERI

Director of the Bristol-Burlington Health District, Marco Palmeri and Courtney Pope, Wheeler Clinic stated that Theresa Rozyn, Recovery Coach has been introducing herself throughout the Bristol Community. Courtney has set her up in the Bristol Emergency Department along with a presence at Brian’s Angels. Theresa reports that she has received some referrals and has been beneficial in referring people to detox. One of the barriers she is running into is insurance and financial constraints. One example is; in order to get into detox you have to have a birth certificate and her clients do not have the $20 to obtain a long form from the clerk. The most recent client was able to obtain money from her mother to pay for it, but it she hadn’t, they would have lost this one.

The group talked about providing financial services for this and Marco, Courtney and the Mayor will look into funding for these situations. The Mayor directed Theresa to Annemarie Sundgren at Community Services for assistance.

The Mayor discussed the police process with Officer Ulric regarding opioid use and overdose. Officer Ulric stated that the process is to assess the situation and bring them to Bristol Hospital. The officers have a flyer but there is no list of services to provide to the person in need. It would be beneficial to the officers if they had a list of resources and a descriptive “how to” list to provide the officers to hand out. It was also suggested to provide Theresa Rozyn’s business cards for the officers to hand out.

BEST 4 BRISTOL GRANT UPDATE

Eileen McNulty was absent for the meeting but Laura Lewis provided an update for the Committee. Laura stated that Best 4 Bristol discussed the new recovery grant from the Main Street Foundation, updating student packages for the next school year and conducting a volunteer recognition event. They would also like to make October and awareness month.
The Mayor encouraged everyone to like the Best 4 Bristol Facebook page and to share their information on social media.

BY MEMBERS

None.

ITEM #5 - NEW BUSINESS

STAR GRANT APPLICATION

Lisa Coates updated the group in Eileen McNulty’s absence. She stated that they received a second grant. The deliverables are: additional Narcan training and handing out Narcan kits in addition to training people in the Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) program which is a suicide prevention program. Lisa will facilitate the events. She needs to hold 2 events prior to the end of August and questioned who are target audience would be. The events would involve training in QPR, including events in Spanish, additional hidden in plain site displays for parents and additional advertising through AMP radio. The Committee suggested conducting the events at sports banquets.

OPIOID PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT SERIES (13 EPISODES)

The Mayor announced that they have signed up with Maz Media for the public service announcements. The money would come out of the Community Services’ Promotions Fund. This will be a professionally produced video, much like the committee saw that the City of Danbury created on their website. Bristol will do many smaller videos and will be posted on social media. Pre-production will stated next week and Cathy Savino in her office will be in charge of this as she has production experience. She encouraged members of the committee to get involved. She hopes to have 13 different PSAs prior to the start of the school year.

BY MEMBERS

Frank Colbert state that he has production experience through Nutmeg TV and is willing to do a roundtable discussion and put it on YouTube. He felt key members of the group in the discussion should be Marco Palmeri, Chief Gould, Councilman Rosado, healthcare providers and some parents.

ITEM #7 - LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

TOBACCO 21 PROGRAM

The Mayor addressed the committee on this agenda item in the beginning of the meeting. She encouraged the members to send a thank you to the Bristol representatives for voting for this bill. We will continue to monitor its progress through the Senate.

Mayor’s Opioid Task Force
Minutes: May 16, 2019
ITEM # 8 – ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 20th at 6:30 in the First Floor Meeting Room.

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