

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF THE  
WESTERLY PREVENTION AND WELLNESS PARTNERSHIP

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island State Legislature has recognized “the growing problem of substance use and abuse that municipalities face” in providing an appropriate response to mental/behavioral health and the mis-use of substances controlled and/or otherwise addictive through the enactment of “The Rhode Island Substance Abuse Prevention Act,” (the “Act”) at Rhode Island General Laws (“R.I. Gen. Laws”) §16-21.2-1, *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature, through the Act has further authorized and encouraged the development of partnerships among municipal governments, school systems, parents, human service providers and others in order to address the need for a comprehensive prevention program; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature through the Act has given Municipalities the authority to delegate this mission to designated agents and for those agents to operate, conduct and make provision for programs to provide comprehensive prevention initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature through the Act has further established the creation of such appropriate Municipal Authority as the means by which to seek financing through State and Federal Grants, with the assistance and oversight of the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Westerly seeks to provide for comprehensive prevention programs and efforts for our at-risk community members, as well as behavioral and mental wellness, and to obtain as much funding for this initiative as is available; and

WHEREAS, successful models to date are based on partnerships formed amongst established institutions within the State and Municipality, and

WHEREAS, in the case of the Town of Westerly it is believed that at this time in order to create the most collective impact for our current and future at-risk constituents the individuals and institutions that should be included in the newly created Westerly Prevention and Wellness Partnership (“The Partnership”) are:

1. Ashely Iadevaia, Coordinator, M. Ed, ACPS;
2. Heidi Driscoll, M.Ed, ACPS, or her designee;
3. Jess Jalbert, Hope Recovery Center of Washington County, or her designee;
5. Laurel Holmes, Director, Community Partnerships and Population Health, Lawrence & Memorial Hospital, Westerly Hospital, Yale New Haven Health, or her designee;
6. The Westerly Town Council President or his/her designee, *ex officio*;
7. The Westerly School Committee Chairman or his/her designee, *ex officio*; and
8. The Westerly Chief of Police or his/her designee, *ex officio*.

WHEREAS, the Town considers current the mission of The Partnership is to provide hands on assistance to the at-risk community; identify gaps in current services for this community; be informed by people with lived experience; provide education, advocate for community involvement and change where necessary as to prevention specifically, to

reach out to and partner with other organizations that can positively influence youth, adults and seniors; to provide whenever and wherever possible training for active assistance; to seek funding for these endeavors; and

WHEREAS, The Partnership is authorized to develop its own guidelines for internal operations and to recruit individual volunteers as it sees fit; be it hereby

RESOLVED: That the Westerly Town Council establishes the Westerly Prevention and Wellness Partnership as delineated above.

ADOPTED: October 7, 2019

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