

PARTNERS IN PREVENTION

**Town of Somers**

WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

Telephone  
(914) 277-5582

KATHY CUCCHIARELLA  
CHAIRWOMAN

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE  
335 ROUTE 202  
SOMERS, NY 10589



**MEETING MINUTES**  
**July 9, 2025**

Chairwoman Cucchiarella called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Kathy Cucchiarella, Margaret DiLorenzo, Lauren Johnson, Tom Mauro, and Nick Pasalides.

Andy Casimir, Carol Cirienco and Pat Otis were absent.

Somers Middle School Youth Prevention Coordinator Amanda Casey and Somers High School Youth Prevention Coordinator Jessica Periera were also present.

**Minutes** – A motion was made by Mr. Mauro to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2025 meeting as submitted. Mrs. DiLorenzo seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Town Budget Expenditures** – The Town budget allotted for Partners in Prevention this year is \$3,000, which represents an increase of \$500. Expenditures included a reimbursement to Mr. Mauro in the amount of \$9.75 for lollipops at the Partners table at Somers Slam, Ms. Periera in the amount of \$15.16 for the purchase of lifesavers for the senior prom bags and Ms. Casey for Shirley Temple ingredients for an activity for the students. The balance in the account is \$1,829.00. Promotional materials and give-aways have to be replenished. If anyone has ideas as to what can be purchased, please let Mrs. Cucchiarella know.

**Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grant:**

Mrs. Cucchiarella has participated in a couple of webinars, one of which was about future funding for DFC grants. She is hopeful that the funding for the 2025/26 school year will be at the same level and should hear in August.

The annual progress report is due by August 15<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Casey and Ms. Periera have turned in their reports and Mrs. Cucchiarella has asked Mrs. Hernandez for hers.

Mrs. Cucchiarella had a phone conversation with the new School Superintendent Dr. Adam Bronstein and she will meet with him soon after he starts his new job in July.

Planning for the K.N.O.W. 2 Prevent speaker series will begin soon.

The Partners hung a Congratulations Graduates banner in Bailey Park and put the same on the message Board at the Trooper's Barracks. Congratulatory ads were taken out in the Somers High and Middle School yearbooks as well as the Graduation pull out section of The Somers Record.

**Student Assistance Services Counselors** – Ms. Periera sponsored a Chalk the Walk event for Mental Health Awareness on May 12<sup>th</sup> that many students participated in and the messages were great. Bags were given out at the Sr. Breakfast for the prom that evening that included alcohol poisoning cards and lifesavers. Science Research Teacher Will Maelia printed out a life size poster, How to Have a Safe Prom, and flyers with the same information were distributed. Flyers were posted in all of the student bathrooms encouraging students to dispose of their vapes in her office, no questions asked. Her bulletin boards were updated regularly and announcements made.

Ms. Casey hosted A Slice the Stigma activity that was offered on a lunch day when pizza was available to go over the myths and misconceptions of mental health. Every Tuesday after school from 3:15 to 4:00 p.m., Ms. Casey had her office open for those students who wanted to dispose of a vape device without having to do so during the school day with a no questions, no consequences policy. She also offered a Don't Let Your Summer Be a Flop activity. Her bulletin boards were updated regularly.

Ms. Periera and the school counselors visited the 8<sup>th</sup> graders at the Middle School for a Mental Health Mingle.

**Somers High and Middle School Updates** – Mr. Rodriguez and Mrs. Mangone were not present.

**Youth Programs Updates** – Hopefully some new Somers High and Middle School students will be willing to attend the Partners meetings starting in the new school year.

**Somers Police Chief Updates** – Police Chief Linkletter was not at the meeting this evening.

**Somers Central School District Family Liaison Updates** – Mrs. Hernandez was not present this evening, but Mrs. Cucchiarella announced that she visited Mrs. Hernandez's area in the Middle School and it was quite impressive. She was also happy to learn that all students leaving her area are able to get a free book. Mrs. Hernandez will be including the Partners logo on all materials distributed moving forward. Her key audience still tends to be students in Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. People are also inquiring about in home jobs when they visit. Mr. Mauro suggested that perhaps the schools can give unclaimed lost and found items to Mrs. Hernandez for distribution. Mrs. Cucchiarella will speak to her about calling the main offices in each building.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Youth Vaping Initiative** – Mrs. Cucchiarella will continue to try to get some students to create a PSA about vaping to be played in a movie theatre, while at the same time offering SMS and SHS students a ticket to see the movie that will play the PSA, a soda and popcorn. This is still work in progress and the \$5,000 grant for this event has been set aside. The hope was to do this at the theatre in Carmel but they are closing at the end of the month. She will reach out to the movie theatres in Bedford and Mt. Kisco.

**Narcan Training** – Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Cucchiarella were supposed to Narcan train 132 Somers Middle School staff on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, but that date had to be postponed. A new date will need to be determined.

**Freshman Peer Leadership** – Mrs. Cucchiarella hopes to coordinate with students this fall with the assistance of Doug Packard to move forward with an addition to the current Freshman Peer Leadership program and are hoping to have Andy Duran, CEO of LEAD, run a one-day workshop.

**Lion's/Leo's Partnership/Opportunities** – Mrs. Cucchiarella will reach out to the new contacts for the Lion's Club and Leo's.

**AYSO Soccerfest** – The Partners registered and paid for the Silver Sponsorship in the amount of \$200 to have a table at the AYSO Soccerfest at Reis Park in June. Unfortunately, the event got cancelled due to the extreme heat. It will be rescheduled for the fall.

**Somers Slam** – Mr. Pasalides was able to secure a spot for the Partners to have a table at the Somers Slam Lacrosse Tournament. They were also generous enough to waive the fee for the Partners to do so. Thanks were extended to Mr. Mauro, his wife and Mrs. DiLorenzo for manning the table which had a nice reception. Mr. Pasalides was thanked for his efforts and said it was a great day.

**CADCA Mid-Year** – At the May meeting, Mrs. Cucchiarella indicated that she would like to attend CADCA Mid-Year in Nashville at the end of the month, but due to limited funding has decided to not to attend.

**Review of Proposed Bylaws** – There is a DFC Grant requirement to have bylaws. They did exist but were unfortunately lost when Mrs. Cucchiarella's computer crashed. They were recreated and will be circulated for review and comment so a vote can take place.

**Deterra Bags** – Mrs. Johnson received 400 deterra bags which will be distributed to the Somers Library and Pharmacy.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Somers Varsity Football Games** – There are only three home games this year, but Mrs. Cucchiarella thought it might be a good idea to buy squishy footballs and have the

Partners logo put on them for distribution at these games.

**Back to School Nights** – As has been done in the past, the Partners will have an informational table at the Somers Middle School Back to School Night on September 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and the High School on September 18<sup>th</sup> at the same time. Mrs. Schirmer will email everyone to get coverage.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. and the Partners will meet next on August 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary  
Somers Partners in Prevention

cc: Partners in Prevention  
Town Board  
Town Clerk