

PARTNERS IN PREVENTION

Town of Somers

WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

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KATHY CUCCHIARELLA
CHAIRWOMAN

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**MEETING MINUTES
September 10, 2025**

Chairwoman Cucchiarella called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

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

Carol Cirienco, Pat Otis and Nick Pasalides were absent.

Somers Middle School Youth Prevention Coordinator Amanda Casey, Resident Trish Casimir, WEPR Corresponding Secretary Karen Collura, Somers Police Chief Brian Linkletter, Student Assistance Services Coordinator of Community Based Services and Training Nicole Malgarinos 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 August 13, 2025 meeting as submitted. Mr. Casimir seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Town Budget Expenditures – A request has been made to increase the budget from \$3,000 to \$3,500 in 2026.

Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grant:

Mrs. Cucchiarella was happy to report that a Notice of Award (NOA) was received for year 8 of the DFC Grant.

Thanks were extended to Mr. Mauro and his son for changing the sign by the Trooper's Barracks welcoming all back to school. Their assistance is most appreciated.

Mrs. Cucchiarella gave a big shout out to the new School Superintendent Dr. Adam Bronstein about highlighting August 31st, International Overdose Awareness Day in his first newsletter, Tusker Tracks. He mentioned the Somers Partners in Prevention and a picture of one of the schools outlined in purple lights.

Now that the NOA was received, planning for the K.N.O.W. 2 Prevent speaker series

will begin soon. Ideas for speakers are welcomed.

The alcohol awareness campaign that was as a result of the K.N.O.W. 2 Prevent Training Forum last January is now available. Mrs. Cucchiarella will have flyers and media data available at the Back to School Nights and Celebrate Somers. The flyers are printed in English and Spanish. They also have QR codes which link to important websites like Power to the Parents.

Mrs. Cucchiarella and the Coalition Chairs of Hastings and Rye have been asked to present K.N.O.W 2 Prevent at CADCA in February.

Thanks to Mrs. Collura, Mrs. Cucchiarella heard from a PTA rep regarding partnering with the Driver's Safety Committee with their program offered in March.

Thanks to Mrs. DiLorenzo, a college student from North Salem is interested in volunteering and attending the Partner's meetings. Mrs. Schirmer will make sure he has the information he needs.

Mrs. Cucchiarella ordered lollipops for Red Ribbon Week and purchased candy for the tables at Back to School Nights and Celebrate Somers.

Mrs. Johnson will be putting SPP stickers on the newly acquired Detera bags that will be available at Back to School Nights and Celebrate Somers.

Mrs. DiLorenzo provided AIAAnon information that has not been posted on the Partner's page of the Town website.

Student Assistance Services Counselors – Both Ms. Casey and Ms. Periera are working on activities for Red Ribbon Week which will be held in October and deciding on purchases they want to make. Planning has started for activities for Substance Abuse Prevention Month, which is also in October. They will also attend the Back to School Nights and hope to get students to join them.

Tomorrow, Ms. Periera and her colleague Mrs. Rigaglia will have the first Youth to Youth meeting of the school year to talk about the Club Fair on September 16th.

Ms. Casey has started presenting preventive education in the Health classes and will be attending the Science classes as well.

Ms. Casey has reserved the Hidden in Plain Sight bookshelf which will be on display at the Back to School Nights.

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 reported that the summer was pretty quiet. His department did get a request for a Narcan Kit. They will attend the Heritage Hills Flu Clinic on October 8th in Lake Lodge and will collect prescription drugs. If the Partners are not able to be present, Chief Linkletter is willing to bring literature to put out. The Somers Medication Take Back Day will be held on October 25th. The Putnam Hospital will take back vapes via working with the DEA and Mrs. Johnson will bring them up there. In June, 42 pounds of medication was taken to the incinerator in Valhalla, 36 pounds in July and in August 32 pounds.

Somers Central School District Family Liaison Updates – Mrs. Hernandez was not present this evening.

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. She recently heard that the Carmel movie theatre will be re-opening under new management and will follow up.

Narcan Training – Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Cucchiarella were supposed to Narcan train 132 Somers Middle School staff on March 3rd, but that date had to be postponed. They will speak to Mrs. Mangone about a new date.

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 and hopes that Mrs. Cirienco would be willing to join her when she meets with these folks.

AYSO Soccerfest – The Partners registered and paid for the Silver Sponsorship in the amount of \$200.00 to have a table at the AYSO Soccerfest at Reis Park in June. Unfortunately, the event got cancelled due to the extreme heat and a decision has been made not to reschedule for this year. Mrs. Schirmer will follow up to be sure that the \$200.00 sponsorship will be honored at their event next year.

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.

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 17th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and the High School on September 18th at the same time.

Mrs. Schirmer has polled everyone as to their availability.

Somers Varsity Football Games – There are only three home games this year on September 26 and October 10 as well as 17, but Mrs. Cucchiarella thought it might be a good idea to have a table at these games and buy squishy footballs with the Partners logo on them for distribution at these games. A discussion about purchasing squishy footballs continued. Mr. Mauro suggested that the Somers High School Football Touchdown Club be contacted about sponsoring a sign that is posted on the nights of the game. The announcer thanks those sponsors throughout the game. Mrs. Schirmer will research this further.

Celebrate Somers – Once again, the Partners will have an informational table at Celebrate Somers on Saturday, September 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Somers Town Center. Mrs. Schirmer emailed everyone about coverage.

NEW BUSINESS

Social Media Crossover – Both Ms. Casey and Ms. Periera regularly post on Facebook and Instagram with a focus on activities being offered and month themes for the students. These postings can be crossed over on to the Partner's Facebook if someone can work directly with them. Mrs. Johnson is willing to do that. This is important as Mrs. Cucchiarella is required to report the number of postings made on these social media platforms as part of the progress report. It would be helpful to create a calendar of the monthly themes. Ms. Durso can continue co posting with the team.

Somers Medication Take Back – The Medication Take Back Day will be held on Saturday, October 25th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Somers Police Station. Mrs. Schirmer will email everyone as to their availability.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. and the Partners will meet next on October 8th at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Somers Partners in Prevention

cc: Partners in Prevention
Town Board
Town Clerk