

PARTNERS IN PREVENTION

Town of Somers

WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

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KATHY CUCCHIARELLA
CHAIRWOMAN

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE
335 ROUTE 202
SOMERS, NY 10589



MEETING MINUTES
January 14, 2026

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

The following members were in attendance: Andy Casimir, Carol Cirieco, Kathy Cucchiarella, Margaret DiLorenzo, Lauren Johnson, and Pat Otis.

Somers Middle School Youth Prevention Coordinator Amanda Casey, Somers Police Chief Brian Linkletter, Student Assistance Services Coordinator of Community Based Services and Training Nicole Malgarinos resident Tom Mauro, Somers High School Youth Prevention Coordinator Jessica Pereira were also present.

Appointed Members – Mrs. Cucchiarella announced that Mr. Mauro's term expired at the end of the year and he decided not to be reappointed to the Partners but will help out as he can. Mr. Pasalides has resigned due to the hecticness of his personal schedule.

Minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Casimir to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2025 meeting as submitted. Mrs. Otis seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Town Budget Expenditures – \$3,000 was approved for the 2026 budget. Funds spent to date include \$300 for a Platinum Sponsorship for the Eric D'Agnesse Wrestling Tournament, \$300 for a ½ page ad in the Somers High School Yearbook and \$125 for a ½ page ad in the Somers Middle School Yearbook, leaving a balance of \$2,275.

Mrs. Cuccharella will purchase 500 post it notes with the Partner's logo on them and will see if she can add a QR code. She will also purchase 500 pens with the logo as well. Mrs. Johnson said it would be great if the give-a-ways could include a QR code whenever possible. Purchasing items that cite a statistic, have an intention or a clear objective would be beneficial. Mrs. Cucchiarella said it would be good to create a card with a QR code and other important information to put in the luggage tags that we have on hand.

Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grant:

On December 8th, the K.N.O.W. 2 Prevent speaker was ADA Laura Forbes who presented Behind the Screen: Protecting Kids in Today's Digital World. On January 29th, Dr. Alok Kanojia will present Understanding Video Game Addiction: Dopamine, Motivation and Supporting Kids at Home. If anyone has any ideas for speakers, please let Mrs. Cucchiarella know. Mrs. Cucchiarella was happy to announce that K.N.O.W. 2 Prevent will be presenting at CADCA in February.

K.N.O.W 2 Prevent and graphic designer, Laura Amsterdam, are working on a media campaign about the positive effects for students of not using cell phones during the school day.

The Steering Committee met on October 29th and approved to pay the CADCA membership and Somers' \$5,000 contribution toward the K.N.O.W. 2 Prevent speaker series. Ms. Casey, Mrs. Cucchiarella and Ms. Pereira were asked to review the code of conduct for the schools.

Mrs. Cucchiarella has been attending the monthly meetings of Power Against Tobacco and Westchester Coalition for Drug and Alcohol-Free Youth.

Prevention Educator Kathy Cody is available to speak at no charge at the High School with the ROADDs Program. Ms. Pereira would like for her to speak to the students in the fall.

The Youth Leadership Conference will be held on March 10th and Mrs. Cucchiarella is hoping that arrangements can be made to have five students from the High School attend. Ms. Pereira will make the necessary bus arrangements.

The Youth Task Force has created stickers for pizza boxes for the Super Bowl. Mrs. Cucchiarella is hoping that students can be available with the assistance of an adult to distribute them to restaurants in Somers that offer pizza take out.

In the spring, the Westchester County DWI simulator will be brought to the High School for student use.

Mrs. Cucchiarella would like the Power to the Parents messages used on the Partners Instagram.

Student Assistance Services Counselors – Ms. Casey offered activities to the students in the Middle School for the Great American Smokeout, When Holidays Aren't So Happy, Don't Let Your Winter Stress Snowball Out of Control and internet safety.

Ms. Pereira offered activities for the students at the High School for the Great American Smokeout, When Holidays Aren't So Happy and Driving While Impaired Awareness. She continues to prepare and send out a newsletter for the parents and have flyers available for all activities offered. Students are encouraged to drop vapes off to Ms. Pereira's office. She and the school social worker Kristen Rigaglia talked about self-care with the 9th graders. In December students were able to experiment with alcohol

and marijuana goggles. The month of January will be spent working on goals with the students.

Ms. Pereira announced that toward the end of the school year, Peer Leadership will be hosting a Life Skills event and one of the stations will be about substance abuse. She will speak to the High School Principal about have Narcan training and kits available at this event.

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

Youth Programs Updates – Hopefully some Somers High and Middle School students will be willing to attend the Partners meetings, especially since they are Zoom meetings. It would also be beneficial for High School students to Zoom into the one-hour monthly Youth Task Force meetings.

Somers Police Chief Updates – Police Chief Linkletter reported that thankfully there have not been any substance incidences, but a few Narcan kits have been given out when officers responded to calls. In October 150 pounds of medication were brought to the incinerator in Valhalla, and 121 pounds in November and December. A total of 640 pounds of medication was disposed of in 2025.

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. This project is on hold as there is no update.

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. Mrs. Cucchiarella will speak to Mrs. Mangone about a new date.

Freshman Peer Leadership – Mrs. Cucchiarella hopes to coordinate with students this year 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. This project is on hold pending a budget.

Lion's/Leo's Partnership/Opportunities – Mrs. Cirienco will reach out to the new contacts for the Lion's Club and Leo's in hopes that a partnership with these two groups can be formed. Ms. Periera can assist as well as some of her students are in the Leo's.

Review of Proposed Bylaws – A copy of the proposed bylaws was shared by all. A motion was made by Mrs. Cirienco and seconded by Mrs. Otis to approve the bylaws as submitted. All were in favor.

Eric D’Agnese Wrestling Tournament – The Partners will have an informational table at the Eric D’Agnese Wrestling Tournament on January 17th in the Somers High School gym from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Mr. Mauro will pick everything up from Mrs. Cucchiarella and set up as well as break down the table. Mrs. Otis, her grandson John Fontana, Mrs. Johnson, her daughter Meeka and Mr. Casimir and his son Roman will man the table throughout the day.

Somers High School Coffee House – Mr. Casimir and his son Roman will represent the Partners and attend the Somers High School Coffee House on January 30th at 7:00 p.m.

Substance Free Athletics – Previously, Mrs. Cucchiarella was hoping that the Somers High School coaches would partake in an hour long Zoom entitled Substance Free Athletics. Unfortunately, the prior Athletic Director did not support this. Mrs. Cucchiarella will schedule a meeting with the new Athletic Director to discuss this further. Ms. Malgarinos would like to be at that meeting as well.

Hang Up and Drive – All agreed to have an informational table at the PTA sponsored Hang Up and Drive at the Somers High School on March 3rd at 7:00 p.m. Mrs. Schirmer will send an email out to get volunteers to man the table.

NEW BUSINESS

Somers Medication Take Back – The Medication Take Back Day will be held on Saturday, April 25th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Somers Police Station.

Meeting Attendance – Mrs. Cucchiarella reminded all appointed members to calendar the 2026 meeting dates as indicated on the bottom of the meeting agenda. It is the hope that unless there is an emergency, all appointed members will be available to attend each meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. and the Partners will meet next on February 11th at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Somers Partners in Prevention

cc: Partners in Prevention
Town Board
Town Clerk