

**Substance Misuse Prevention Oversight and Advisory Council (SMPC)
November 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Date: November 20, 2023 Time: 1-3 PM	Mtg. Facilitator: Nicole Rau Mitiguy Mtg. Recorder: Trina Crockett Where: Microsoft Teams
---	---

	Name	Organization and Role
x	Dr Mark Levine	Department of Health, Chair
x	Melanie Sheehan	Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center, Vice Chair
	Heather Bouchey	Agency of Education, Executive Committee Member
	Mourning Fox	Department of Public Safety, Executive Committee Member
x	Monica Hutt	Agency of Administration, Executive Committee Member
	Amy Brewer	Northwestern Medical Center, Member
x	Rebecca Brookes	Upstream Social Marketing, Member
x	Kimberley Diamond	Prevention Works, Member
	Alex Figueroa	United Counseling Services, Member
	Kheya Ganguly	Department of Mental Health, Member
x	Skyler Genest	Department of Liquor and Lottery, Member
x	Charles Gurney	Departments of Disability, Aging and Independent Living and Health, Member
x	Cindy Hayford	Deerfield Valley Community Partnership, Member
x	Maryann Morris	The Collaborative, Member
x	Kat Patterson	Cathedral Square, Member
x	Scott Pavek	City of Burlington, Member
x	Janet Potter	Hartford Middle and High School, Member
x	John Searles, Ph.D.	Department of Health (Retired), Member
x	Stephen Von Sitas	Vermont Judiciary, Member

**Substance Misuse Prevention Oversight and Advisory Council (SMPC)
November 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Agenda Item	Lead	Minutes
Welcome, Introductions, and Quorum Determination	Dr Levine and Melanie Sheehan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Levine: The SMPC has been in existence now for numerous years and due to the pandemic, we turned to the zoom format, which has been very successful, and we have been able to accomplish a lot, even during trying times <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thank you to Melanie for taking the lead during COVID in these meetings and for the great and passionate work she has done. • Melanie: I will be stepping down from the Vice Chair as I am in a new position at Mt Ascutney as the Director of Community Health as well as being involved with Blueprint for Health and the Health Care Reform efforts through One Care VT. I need to focus my time on the work that I am shepherding for the Windsor Health Service area in our community. • Melanie's position is an appointed position by the governor's office. All those on this committee are appointed into your respective roles because it was deliberately designed to represent key sectors of this work. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We do need to identify a new vice chair. Monica believes the executive Committee is doing some work to identify some folks from the Council itself currently who might make since to fill the vice chair seat. ○ Once the executive Committee has a couple of names, Monica will work with the appointing director for the Governor's Office to work with the Governor to decide. ○ If you have names of those who you think would be a good fit, please send to Nicole. • Rebecca Brooks was offered a contract as Master Contractor for the state of VT; this puts her in a position where she can work with all departments and all the divisions in the state and potentially puts her in a conflict-of-interest position for this Council as we discuss things like funding. This will be her last meeting on this Council. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The same process will be followed to fill Rebecca's seat as the Vice Chair seat, except the work will happen in the Executive Committee rather than moving to the Governor's Office. We would be able to review resumes of folks and then the Executive Committee would decide. ○ Nicole will follow up via an email with more information.
Review and Approve September 2023 Minutes	Nicole Rau Mitiguy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September minutes pass as written.

**Substance Misuse Prevention Oversight and Advisory Council (SMPC)
November 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Agenda Item	Lead	Minutes
Programmatic Updates	Dr. Levine, Roy Belcher, and Nicole Rau Mitiguy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot Locked Cannabis Bags where locked bags were distributed at the site of purchase for cannabis to help reduce the risk of accidental ingestion by youth and pets. See Meeting Materials for additional information. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Email Roy Belcher at roy.belcher@vermont.gov for any questions about this project • New way to distribute Narcan® – not only deals with getting a large audience involved and receive the products, but it deals with the stigma issues, expense issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For mailed Narcan®: https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7566430/Free-Mailed-Narcan-Request-Form • Narcan® vending machines: \$1M was authorized from the Opioid Settlement money to be spent on Narcan® at large. A portion of those funds will be utilized to implement vending machines for Narcan® throughout the state. VDH is using a rigorous analysis and process and trying to make it build on past experience of other states and cities that have integrated these machines are part of their overdose prevention strategy.
Opioid Settlement Meeting Reflection	Melanie Sheehan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation provided to the Opioid Settlement Committee on the prevention proposal can be found here • As a reminder to the committee, primary prevention is being a part of that full continuum. • Melanie: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We consulted with prevention works and Mentor VT and looked at what our prevention gaps were, which is mainly geographical with significant geographical gaps in SAP’s embedded in schools in VT. That was a key part of the presentation and Traci Sawyer’s was able to share the metrics around that and what our school-based funding is currently supporting. We looked at the in school supports and out of school supports and how we need to build that resilience with kids and connection. ○ When we introduce the concept of prevention as it impacts the children and their families at the family level, prevention is very key – there was passion around it too, but really informed by the work that’s been happening ○ Melanie feels they were heard, and prevention was well represented in the meeting. Monica was there to lend her support as the Chief Prevention officer. ○ This proposal was focused on younger people and the information provided was grounded in data, strategies that we know work. DSU and Prevention Works VT did a nice job linking back to the data from the YRBS to the Social Autopsy Report while at the same time looking at harm reduction, intervention and treatment. • The committee does not have an actual monetary number at this time, but not all of the money

**Substance Misuse Prevention Oversight and Advisory Council (SMPC)
November 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Agenda Item	Lead	Minutes
		<p>has been deposited this year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee will meet again next week to hear a bunch of other proposals and then prior to the new year, be able to weigh in on how they would like us to proceed
Policy Updates and Discussion	Kimberley Diamond and Monica Hutt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kimberly Diemond, Project Director for PreventionWorks! VT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PreventionWorks! Recently hired a Substance Misuse Policy Education Specialist for the next few months to work with us through this next legislative session. Her name is Alex Karambelas ○ Alex created the Prevention Works! Policy Survey: https://forms.gle/iHGMvbTPLo4fkT7C9 which is intended for our prevention partners or anyone who is adjacent to prevention policy work, to see where folks are at as well as a way for us to broaden our scope beyond traditional prevention coalitions and a way to gather a broader scope of information. For questions, email kimberley@preventionworksvermont.org ○ The work that Alex is working on is researching other states work around cannabis potency laws and alcohol advertising policies because those are some topics that have really risen to the top for folds that we've been talking with and she's putting together a nice paper about that in terms of what policies have been passed, what policies have failed, and what policies are in place, particularly around the cannabis potencies. She is also developing a 1 pager around the correlations between alcohol advertising and potential youth use. ○ At the state level, we are looking at the cannabis potency, the public consumption of cannabis and regulated advertising. ○ At a local level, she is looking at cannabis sale buffer zones, density limits and encouraging a 1% local option task to support prevention efforts in local communities. ○ Regarding tobacco, we're looking at banning of flavored products ○ Regarding alcohol, we're planning a response to federal efforts to reduce the excise tax on alcohol products that was implemented in 2019 and what the effects on that excise tax and youth consumption policies are and taking the educational outreach approach with that 1 pager on alcohol advertising effects on youth, particularly with the products that are resembling nonalcoholic beverages as those seem to be coming more and more into the market. ○ Regarding opioids, we're looking to support the advancement of next steps regarding the

**Substance Misuse Prevention Oversight and Advisory Council (SMPC)
November 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Agenda Item	Lead	Minutes
		<p>Opioid Settlement funds and keeping our eye on prevention related materials there and then generally substance use, substance misuse prevention legislation that might be adjacent. This would include policies that affect workforce development, which could also affect prevention; things that are going on with housing, food security, transportation, education and employment which could impact protective factors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moving forward into the legislative session, Alex is going to keep an eye where things are at as well as educating the community whether they be prevention, coalitions, organizations or interested in helping reach their local legislatures, or potentially talking, giving testimony, writing briefs, providing information on how to connect with your legislature, a timeline for what to do and when, a toolkit to help tie up the loose ends for folks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Monica Hutt: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reflecting on Roy’s presentation and the partnership that prevention had with the Cannabis Control Broad, there is discussion about trying to move forward some more regulation around D8 and D9 due to hemp growers marketing as hemp products that have high enough level of THC to be psychoactive. ○ Those hemp products do not fall under the cannabis rules, so the Cannabis Control Board is going to be trying to control and close that loop. ○ This is a place where we can partner and have conversations around those things and be able to pull out an immediate response or an immediate strategy, where are some unlikely partnerships that we should be building and promoting and are there any policies that we want to see kind of promoted ○ The Farm Bill specifically addresses Delta 9 TCH, Delta 8, 10 etc. are not regulated
Vermont Prevention Lead Organization Update and Discussion	Traci Sawyers and Jen Pistole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● See Meeting Materials for presentation. ● The model was informed by a 12-month planning process with significant stakeholder input. The key elements of this structure are regional assessment and strategic planning, the fiscal management and sub-granting; an overarching goal is to sustain existing substance misuse prevention coalitions, to build additional prevention capacity, and to reach gap areas to ensure statewide prevention coverage in all 12 health districts ● Started July 1 this year and is a six month start up and the VPLO will be the broader sub granting in their region starting on Jan 1. ● Benefits of the approach expands and strengthens our substance misuse prevention system with flexible increased in sustainable dollars. This is specifically the \$3 Million that has been

**Substance Misuse Prevention Oversight and Advisory Council (SMPC)
November 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Agenda Item	Lead	Minutes
		<p>embarked for this work and it allows for more access, equity innovation and reach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question: What do you mean by untapped prevention partner? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Partners such as regional planning commissions, community justice centers, third space, thinking about who the broader partners are that could help share the work in the regions around prevention. • Question: Are you planning on our newly established healthy Vermonter 2030 goals as it pertains to the objective to address substance use over time to be included? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We want to be looking at community data, regional data and have the unit state priorities as well as part of this work. So, the answer is yes, and we are continuing to build the system and the structure. It is amazing the amount of work they have been able to get done in 4 months. These are 2-year grants. ○ The tobacco program evaluator would be more than happy to be a part of setting the metrics and monitoring.
Public Comment	Nicole Rau Mitiguy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhonda Williams • Amelia

DRAFT