

Vermont Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Advisory Council

Department of Liquor Control
13 Green Mountain Drive
Montpelier, Vermont

Wednesday, April 22, 2015
10:00AM – 12:00PM

I. Welcome and introductions:

Welcome:

Welcome everyone

Introductions

Patrick Martin
Donna McAllister
Steve Waldo
Barbara Cimaglio
Willa Farrell
Chauncey Liese
Lori Augustyniak
Peter Espenshade
Mark Ames
Rebecca Fenn

Regrets

Mark Weikert
John Gramuglia
Todd Bauman
Marcia LaPlante
Mark Depman
Jennifer Wall-Howard
Rita Johnson
Michael Hogan
Amanda Fulmer
Marcus Hass
Greg Nagurney
Matthew Birmingham
Mitch Barron

- I. **Approval of the Minutes:** Minutes from February 25, 2015 were approved with the following edits: Section V. Marijuana Legalization – Replace “Lori is testifying on Friday January 30th to “Lori will be testifying to the Committee”

There was a question about whether or not the procedure for running the council meeting needs to change with the application of new public meeting rules.

II. **ADAP Report Out**

H20: The bill proposing to allow LADC parity with Medicaid did pass out of the House and went to the Senate Health and Welfare committee. The committee recommended adding an amendment to direct ADAP and OPR to work on a procedure for moving licensing of LADCs from ADAP to OPR. Pending Senate approval and finalization.

S42: Has passed out of the Senate and has gone to the House. There has been a read through, but no testimony scheduled yet. The original legislation proposes a change to the VADAAC council. This passed out of the House, but the Senate reinstated the VADAAC council as it is now. There are still discussions about representation going forward including making sure community organizations are represented with less emphasis on state agency representation.

The Government Operations Committee is reviewing marijuana testimony. Mike Hogan will be invited to the next meeting to discuss changes at DLC.

ADAP has hired a Division Director. Barbara is the Deputy Commissioner and ADAP is one of 6 divisions. The DD was never replaced when Barbara moved up to Deputy Commissioner, but now it is clear that the division needs a director. Cindy Thomas will be starting on May 4th. She is currently the quality improvement director at DVHA and prior to that was with DMH.

Grants: ADAP is working on writing an MAT grant. If grant is received, they will bring on a person who will focus on the interconnections between treatment entities and community providers.

The budget is still up in the air. We do know that the Newport Recovery Center will get some funding for this year. The Senate is proposing funding for the recovery center for next year as well. We are working with Bennington to get an enhancement for medication assisted treatment in that area.

Saliva testing bill: There are questions about accuracy however a representative of public safety needs to speak to this. The council has struggled with getting consistent representation from public safety on this council.

An interesting article about Alcoholics Anonymous can be found here: <http://www.theatlantic.com/features/archive/2015/03/the-irrationality-of-alcoholics-anonymous/386255/>

III. **Member Updates/Announcements**

Prevention & Education:

Peter Espenshade: VADIC has identified two information trends so far this year. One is information requests on opioids, and the requests are not just coming from school nurses, guidance counselors etc. but from community members at large. The second is requests for information around elder drug misuse. ADAP is also getting more inquiries around help for elders. It seems that traditional treatment venues are not as welcoming for that population. ADAP is working with DAIL around how to address this. There will be a conference on November 4th at the Capital Plaza Hotel.

Lori Augustyniak: Senate Government Ops Committee was talking about “marijuana the Vermont Way”. The testimony was limited and not around pro or con legalization but focused more on what legalization could look like in VT. The majority of people testifying were proponents of legalization which skewed the discussion. Lori testified around how regulation worked for tobacco and alcohol and what needs to be improved and how this should be considered in light of legalization of marijuana. One consideration is how to regulate corporate buyers and to keep local growing businesses local. The overall feel is that legalization of marijuana is inevitable.

Prevention Works is working on developing educational materials to disseminate to community providers around marijuana use including fact sheets, resources lists, and abridged webinars.

Prevention Works is working on creating Prevention Day event in October to focus on celebrating prevention while incorporating some youth development opportunities, as well as incorporating keynote speakers and other activities. This day will probably focus on marijuana prevention. There will be no Prevention Champion Awards for 2015. Please send recommendations for January 2016 awards.

Prevention Works has received funding for 2016. There will be a substantial mission change to help move PW from a coalition of coalitions to a statewide coalition organization. PW will also focus on picking up training and education opportunities, if this gets cut from DLC budget.

To be noted - marijuana potency has changed over the years. THC content has increased from around 4% to 20-30%, or as high as 90% in Colorado.

Steve Waldo: there was an event in Brattleboro that included prevention, DLC, and community partners last week. The event was focused on how stores and restaurants can operate a thriving business selling alcohol to people that are not underage and are not intoxicated. This includes following outlined business practices. In Brattleboro in order to get a liquor license, establishments have to show they are compliant with those outlined business practices. Steve is presenting on these business practices in Oklahoma next week. Vermont has become a role model for other states in this regard.

Recovery and Resiliency:

Mark Ames: Work has been going on in recovery centers to make sure that Recovery Center Services are delivered so there is consistency across programs. This work is making a difference. In addition, there is a new Recovery Center forming in Newport. The prevention consultant and district office were involved in pulling the Newport center together. Recovery centers are also working on making younger populations feel more comfortable, as well as older populations. There is a Prevention Works Coalition in Newport. It might make sense to integrate the coalition with the recovery center.

Peter Espenshade: Recovery Day was successful. People were able to testify across committees because people seem to understand that substance abuse effects transportation, corrections, etc.

Donna McAllister: a tobacco prevention person has been hired, Bob Uerz. That person may start coming to the council meetings.

Enforcement and Justice:

Steve Waldo: discussions about true costs of legalization of marijuana. VT is looking into using the liquor control model for enforcement. Oregon has been leading the way on this and their most recent budget proposal was over \$10 million. An entire infrastructure needs to be put together in order to monitor legalization.

Willa Farrell: In terms of license reinstatements, there is a DLS diversion program that allows payment plans so people can be reinstated while paying fines which would prevent getting more fines while driving under suspension. Is there some mechanism to create payment plans for Project CRASH due to the cost? ADAP / Willa can meet to discuss the feasibility.

Future Presentations/presenters:

- (6/25) Invite a subject matter expert to present to the council about medication assisted treatment. (John Brooklyn, Stacey Sigmon).
- (7/23) Presentation on restorative justice as it relates to substance abuse.
- (7/23) Bobby Sand, Karen Genette, Monica Hutt - to discuss S295
- Hanna Rose
- (10/22) Debbie Haskins – Smart VT coalition