

Vermont Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Advisory Council

Department of Liquor Control
13 Green Mountain Drive
Montpelier, Vermont

Wednesday, June 25, 2014
10:00AM – 12:00PM

I. Welcome and introductions:

Welcome:

Welcome everyone

Introductions

Rebecca Fenn
Rita Johnson
Patrick Martin
Steve Waldo
John Gramuglia
Amanda Fulmer
Mark Weikert
Mark Depman
Willa Farrell
Lori Augustyniak

Regrets

Jennifer Wall-Howard
Marcus Hass
Mitch Barron
Mark Ames
Mike Hogan
Greg Nagurney
Matthew Birmingham
Todd Bauman
Barbara Cimaglio
Chauncey Liese

II. Approval of the Minutes: May 28, 2014. Minutes approved with the following edits:

Steve Waldo: A bill was passed that makes it illegal to possess powdered alcohol. There is a \$500 fine for possession, and a \$10,000 fine for sale distribution

Lori Augustyniak: 5 “Prevention Champions” were recognized at Prevention Day: Steve Waldo, Beth Shrader, Melanie Sheehan, Chad Simmons, and Angela Halsted.

III. **ADAP Report**

Andy Snyder has retired and will no longer be on the council. A new member will be appointed to represent AOE.

Secretary Doug Racine will be at our September meeting. It would make sense to start thinking about what we want to discuss at that meeting.

Governor’s Opiate Summit: The Summit was a community forum with the idea of bringing teams together around the state via the health department district offices. Over 200 people were in attendance. VPR streamed the forum and the opening speeches and remarks are located on their website and also available is on the Friends of Recovery Facebook page. The morning opened with Commissioner Chen reviewing health data. There was general discussion about addiction lead by Mark McGovern, the Rutland Mayor spoke, and one of the individuals from the movie the Hungry Heart spoke about her personal experience with addiction. After the morning speakers, there were breakout sessions. As a follow up, the health department is convening follow up meetings for communities around the state.

Comments about the Summit:

Mark D: One thing of note was the need expressed by St. Albans and Bennington for more opiate treatment available in those communities. There was a lot of ill feeling about buprenorphine and hub treatment. It seems that a lot of community level people are not buying that this is an appropriate treatment option and it would be helpful if we could start educating the community about why it is an appropriate treatment option.

Lori: it is going to be hard to make sure prevention stays a part of this discussion. Even people focusing on prevention are absorbed in the treatment aspect and finding it hard to come up with a long term plan focused on prevention. It also seems that people are very crisis focused; it would be nice if this council could help provide some leadership to help communities continue on towards a common goal. There didn’t seem to be a lot of higher level government representation at the summit, which was disappointing.

Rita: There was a lot of focus on treatment and we need to make sure focus remains on recovery and prevention as well.

Steve: It seemed like a lot of solutions are already in place, but people aren't aware of the work we are all doing.

Mark W: There has already been a community forum in Londonderry and that mirrored a lot of the same feelings at the summit. People really need education around treatment.

Barbara: There will be a New England wide meeting to discuss further. There will also be a debriefing in the near future to discuss the summit and next steps. It might make sense to move forward with a media campaign to help educate the public around addiction and treatment. Let me know if you have any state wide needs, suggestions, questions, or ideas on how to address this.

Willa: Everyone is focused on the opiate epidemic but it's important to focus on identifying the root cause. Also, expanding the focus to include other substances (like alcohol) would help reach more people.

Amanda: The real issue is creating human connection. Once you have connection fostered, the prevention message should present itself.

Lori: Messages have to be on a community level – communities can identify target areas to focus on, however leadership is very important.

Recommendations:

From everything we have talked about today, what recommendations should be taken back to the debriefing in July. At the next meeting, we will pick out our top 3 or 5 to discuss at our meeting in September with Secretary Racine.

- Follow up groups should connect with follow up groups from the ACE conference
- There are a number of state initiatives that are cross cutting – how do we connect all of these initiatives and make people aware of them.
- State level representatives (who are aware of resources and opportunities) should attend regional meetings to help make connections across communities.
- This is a generational problem – what youth are doing today is totally different than what we did growing up. The approach needs to be tailored to the audience, and the audience is multi-generational.
- People don't want to start something they can't manage.

- Very few people know how to organize and manage. It might be helpful to identify interested parties and train them how to organize and manage.
- Buprenorphine education and hub and spoke education – specifically education around why this is a good model. Have successful people share their success stories from personal experience. Provide evidence on why this treatment works for people, and why it doesn't work for people.
- District Directors should connect with each other as these community forums are happening
- Identify governor's point people on this issue
- How do we expand this concern from opiates only to all substances (opiates, alcohol, THC, cocaine etc.)
- Can the Field services director positions play a role here? Can there be more focused workforce development?
- A state wide resource and program directory would be useful
- Honesty is the best policy when addressing issues with the community
- Do PSAs on each of the 40 assets
- Training and fidelity is extremely important

IV. Prevention & Education

DLC: Steve Waldo was approached at Prevention Day about powdered alcohol. Later that week legislation was passed banning the sale and possession of powdered alcohol.

Friends of Recovery: There is a Peer Leadership Institute September 25-26 hosted by The Integrated Recovery Project (VAMHAR). The Insinuate will be located at Capital Plaza in Montpelier. For more information, contact Hannah Rose at Hannah@vamhar.org or call (802) 777-5032

V. Next Steps:

Future Presentations:

- Invite a subject matter expert to present to the council about medication assisted treatment. (John Brooklyn, Stacey Sigmon).
- There will be no guest speaker for July; instead focus will be on preparing for Secretary Racine's visit in September.