

**Vermont Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Advisory Council**

Department of Liquor Control
13 Green Mountain Drive
Montpelier, Vermont

Wednesday, January 25, 2012
10:00AM – 12:00PM

I. Welcome and Introductions:

Welcome

Welcome everyone

Introductions

Mark Ames
Mitch Barron
Barbara Cimaglio
Trudee Ettlinger
Willa Farrell
Lt. John Flannigan
Colleen Gorun
Marcia LaPlante
Patty McCarthy Metcalf
Joy Mitchell
David O'Brien
Andy Snider
Steve Waldo

Regrets

Lisa Anne Atwood
Mark Heiljas
Sarah Scrodin

II. Approval of Minutes: December 7, 2011

December 7th, Minutes – Minutes approved with the following changes.

- No changes needed

III. Deputy Commissioner Report: Barbara Cimaglio and Marcia LaPlante

Program Updates

See Handout 1 (*Vermont Prescription Drug Abuse Workgroup – Final Report Workgroup Recommendations*)

The Vermont Prescription Drug Abuse Workgroup Recommendations are now public information. The report is posted on the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) website www.healthvermont.gov and click on Substance Abuse link for the ADAP website.

The frame of this report is the same frame that the Office of National Drug Control policy has used for the National Recommendations with four categories: Education in Prevention/Treatment, Monitoring, Disposal, and Law Enforcement.

Under the Education in Prevention/Treatment includes education for prescribers as well as for the general public. There has been a lot of discussion with the UVM Medical School, Vermont Medical Society, and there are a number of positions involved in developing the recommendations. In terms of Community Education there is a focus on working with the VDH District Offices, Northern New England Poison Control Center, School Based Resources in wider communities, and ADAP's Regional Prevention Consultants.

The Substance Abuse Prevention/Treatment Block Grant nationally was not reduced, but increased.

The Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws program has been reduced nationally between \$2,000,000.00 to \$5,000,000.00. ADAP has received word from Department of Justice that DOJ has decided to focus the remaining funding on training technical assistance and discretionary grant, which maybe competitive. This means that they will be discontinuing the State Block Grants as of Federal FY12. The people that are working on FY13 Community Grants should still continue to work because ADAP feels confident that we will be able to still fund that program. As more information becomes available, ADAP will keep everyone informed.

Budget Planning Update

There is one major addition to the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Budget, ADAP will receive approximately \$630,000.00 for enhancing Methadone Treatment Services. One of the concerns that many people have is with the proliferation of people in treatment on buprenorphine and many of these people are most likely appropriate candidates for Methadone Treatment, which would be a more structured approach. Due to the intensity of their addiction, their challenges within their life, and needing more support, the Legislature realized that Vermont would not have the capacity. Therefore, the increase would help support the people in need of Methadone Treatment.

More information will be coming regarding the Hub and Spoke when ADAP meets with the Appropriations Committees to discuss the Budget Proposal. ADAP will be preparing a State Plan Amendment with Medicaid. If the Council would like to know more information about the State Plan Amendment, Barbara Cimaglio recommends that we invite to Vicki Loner from DIVA and Beth Tanzman with to discuss this in further detail.

Legislative Concerns

There is an initiative in the Senate Judiciary to create an alternative diversion for people who drive with their license suspended. The main reason why their license becomes suspended is due to not paying their fine. An idea for driving with a suspended license would be that the outreach people would come up with a payment plan, which would include a screening process to look at the original violation. The Diversion Board could recommend to the Judicial Bureau, which would have to be approved by the hearing officer, for a reduction in the amount owed by either, community service, an educational program, etc. When the payment plan was current then their license could be reinstated.

IV. New Business

Special Guests for the Governor: Susan Bartlett, Comm. Keith Flynn, and Comm. Harry Chen

Preparing for VADAAC's guests

- Discuss Prescription Drug Action Plan with Comm. Harry Chen
- Susan Bartlett and Comm. Keith Flynn will not be attending the VADAAC meeting due to needing to be at the Legislature

See Handout 2 (*BRIEF: Prescription Drug Abuse Action Plan*)

In the past year it has become obvious to Comm. Harry Chen that Vermont needed a more comprehensive approach to the Prescription Drug Abuse world. The treatment world understands what the issues are in the communities in Vermont, with Vermont being the 2nd highest state for treatment with Prescription Drug Abuse.

ADAP has been moving forward on the Treatment front in terms of details towards the Hub and Spoke. The Nationwide deaths of unintentional overdosing with prescription drug abuse have tripled in relation to opiates since 1990. As part of the initiative that the governor is putting together we would like to approach it from several different areas: Education in Prevention/Treatment, Tracking and Monitoring, Proper Medication Disposal, and Enforcement. The goal of all of these initiatives is to provide prescribers with the appropriate tools, i.e. training in medical schools, continuing education, public education, how to dispose of prescriptions properly.

Washington State has a Pain Management protocol, where they have maximum doses and a requirement for non-treatment and non-cancer patients with a strict protocol where after a certain dosage of equivalent narcotics there needs to be a consultation with the patient. Our hope is to meet with a group of Prescribers to look at the issue and come up with a more standardized uniform protocol which we would take care of people's pain and ensure that we are doing the appropriate substance abuse addiction screening.

Tracking and Monitoring of the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System started in 2005. It was very carefully crafted to be a clinical database. The problem right now is that prescribers/pharmacists/delegates are not using the database enough because it seems as though it is being used only when the prescriber "thinks they need to use it". Unfortunately the problem is that the prescriber does not know that they need to use it until the patient has

walked out the door. It is a very useful clinical tool and we need to ensure that it is being utilized. There are opportunities in the drug diversion program at the State Police to use the VPMS database, in pursuant of an investigation where they will receive access to the necessary information.

Vermont is in favor that when someone picks up a controlled substance you need to present identification and you attest to your relation to the patient that the prescription is prescribed for. Vermont's plan is to increase the use of screening, in terms of substance abuse and addiction. ADAP would like to expand the inner and outward ability of the VPMS database to our neighboring states. The number one drug cost for the Medicaid program is buprenorphine and currently, the number one drug prescribed nationwide is Hydrocodone. This alone shows the importance of the use of the VPMS database.

V. Old Business

Council Membership Vacancies: Patty McCarthy Metcalf for Deb Haskins, One Vacancy Remains, Sarah Scrodin's Request

Patty McCarthy Metcalf has been appointed by the Governor's Office.

Sarah Scrodin would like to request to have Mekayla Wyzel come in her place. Sarah will be submitting her resignation and suggesting Mekayla to the Governor's Office.

Ryan Mitcofsky will be attending the meeting and will be representing for YAAT.

VCAN is still in the process of finding someone to attend the VADAAC meetings.

Strategic Prevention Enhancement Grant – Continue the Discussion and Planning

Nothing Mentioned

Concerns about Marijuana: Update on Distribution Centers, Re-classification

Nothing Mentioned

Secretary Racine's Invitation to Council: Recommendations/Ideas

Nothing Mentioned

Getting a Physician on the Council

Nothing Mentioned

VI. Future Guests

- Director Craig Jones, Blueprint for Health Director
- Brian Remer, U Matter
- Tom Salmon, Drinking and Driving Laws
- Physician to Talk About Requirements

VII. Member Reports/Announcements

Joy Mitchell

See Handout 3 (*Save the Date – Vermont Council of Problem Gambling*)

Save the Date: April 23rd – 24th, 2012 The Vermont Council on Problem Gambling has a two day conference at the Double Tree Hotel.

Patty McCarthy Metcalf

Recovery Day at the State House is March 16, 2012

The Vermont Association for Mental Health and Addiction Recovery is deciding on a topic for a national conference on March 29, 2012 at the Capitol Plaza.