

Vermont Alcohol & Drug Abuse Council
Minutes
October 26, 2011

Present: Barbara Cimaglio, Willa Farrell, John Searles, Joy Mitchell, Trudee Ettlinger, Mark Helijas, Charlie Biss, Mitch Barron, John Flannigan, Andy Snyder, Mark Ames, David O'Brien, Lisa Atwood

1. Chairman David O'Brien welcomed new member Mark Hilijas, Director, Second Wind Foundation.

2. The minutes were approved with the following corrections:

- * Under New Business, the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome item, Trudee Ettlinger's name was misspelled and she said that she would bring information for signs and public awareness information, not the signs themselves.
- * Joy Mitchell noted that her exhibit at the Social Worker's Conference, not the conference itself, was focused on families and gambling.

3. Deputy Commissioner Barbara Cimaglio gave her report. She discussed the budget planning process for the coming fiscal year, and gave an update on the hub/spoke model that VDH and DVHA are working on for improving the substance abuse treatment services system.

John Flannagan asked about VDH working with DPS to do education on the new bath salts rule, and Barbara suggested that they follow up on how best to do that.

4. The Governor is scheduled to attend the December 7 Council meeting. The group reviewed the items that they wished to discuss with him. They are:
- an overview of the letter to the transition team
 - highlight the perspective of members
 - concern about budget reductions
 - effects of alcohol on health – a top health problem
 - growing prescription drug abuse concerns
 - prevalence of marijuana use and pro-use attitudes
 - alcohol tax
 - erosion of substance abuse education in schools/DOE

David asked the following people to talk about each issue:

- Barbara to review proposed system improvements
- DLC and Mark Helijas talk about impact of alcohol use; Marcia review data
- Mitch & John F will talk about prescription drug abuse & impact
- Lisa will talk about cultural norms and marijuana
- Patty will talk about alcohol tax
- David and Andy will talk about education in schools

To prepare, David will resend the Governor the copy of the letter to the transition team; and people will prepare data handouts on their particular area. (Let Barbara know if you need data for your piece.)

5. Council Vacancies were discussed. There are two and they are in the “at large” category. Please let David know if you have recommendations. David said that he would be retiring shortly and wants to plan for transition. This will need to be discussed with Secretary Racine, as he is technically the lead for the Council.
6. Drugged Driving update was provided by John Flannigan. There are now 18 DREs. Training is coming up; there is still a lot of work to do regarding teaching recognition of drivers impaired by drugs. John also discussed the VCIC mandated surveys on marijuana dispensaries; 450 patients received surveys and 209 were returned. DPS is in the process of rule making on dispensaries; they are looking at other state rules. DPS is also looking at a DUI Court Model as part of their DUI system study.

Old Business:

Strategic Prevention Enhancement Grant

John Searles reviewed the work to be done, an extended epi study, with mental health added in, and the development of a 5-year strategic plan for substance abuse prevention in Vermont. Joy asked about consideration of gambling and its connection with substance abuse. Charlie Biss suggested that the suicide prevention focus be broad-based. Barbara said that VDH would send out key questions for the Council to consider. David suggested that the January meeting focus on the SPE questions. David asked for VDH to send the Council the Epi Workgroup meeting schedule.

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

Trudee will be asked to bring more detailed information to a future meeting.

Court Diversion

Will will send a link to new “information for parents”.

Note: John noted that the new Governor's Highway Safety Director is Ted Minall.

Next meeting is December 7, 10-noon at DLC in Montpelier.