

# Vermont Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council Meeting Minutes

Waterbury State Office Complex  
State Dr.  
Waterbury, Vermont  
Wednesday, July 26, 2017  
10:00AM – 12:00PM

## **Present:**

**Appointed Members:** Lori Augustyniak, Mark Depman, Jolinda LaClair, Kreig Pinkham, Teresa Randall, Mark Weikert

**Associate Members:** Bob Uerz, Mitch Barron, Peter Espenshade,

**Staff:** Marcia LaPlante, Tina Royer

**Guests:** Marcy Couillard, Yashira Pepin,

## **Welcome, Introductions and Member Announcements**

- Mitch Barron provided a review regarding the ONDCP visit with Interim Director Richard Baum. The focus of the meeting was on prevention, and Director Baum was very receptive to our message. Lori Augustyniak mentioned a comment she heard that concerned her: “if we are doing a good job with prevention with the young population, why is there such a problem with 18-25-year old’s”? Factors such as lack of data and messaging were discussed. How did this population group get to the point to where they think it’s ok to use others’ prescription pain relievers? Marcia LaPlante offered the Council an overview of the VDH Young Adult Survey results and the ADAP communications plan regarding young adults on high risk drinking and prescription drug misuse.
- Jolinda LaClair raised questions about educational messages needed related to marijuana and readiness should marijuana be legalized. Krieg Pinkham suggested that the OCC/VADAC work with the Children and Family Council for Prevention. The job of the committee is to put forth a primary prevention plan. The council meets on the third Thursday of each month, 9am-2pm. A joint meeting was discussed. Tina Royer will provide the committee with a link to the Children and Family Council for Prevention.
- A motion to approve the June meeting minutes was made by Jolinda LaClair, and second by Teresa Randall. Minutes were unanimously approved as written.

## **Council Role Discussion**

- What strengths and expertise to we offer as a Council?
- Where do we see the greatest opportunity to help impact and support AHS?
- What role(s) could we play to serve most effectively in advising the Agency of Human Services?
- How could we strengthen and not duplicate the work of the Opioid Coordinating Council?

Lori Augustyniak led a discussion of the role of VADAC in preparation for a meeting with the AHS leadership this summer.

- Bob Uerz suggested activities regarding the issue of alcohol, that would complement the OCC.
- Marcy Couillard: would like to see more direct addressing the needs of the people in crisis, for example: transportation and child care.
- Marcia LaPlante reviewed the legislative charge to help guide the recommendation discussion.
- Jolinda LaClair suggested the Council look at the charge for VADAC.
  - Thoughtful set of recommendations based on information to produce report and present it.
  - Present at a December meeting with recommendations from VADAC, with representative from Health, DVHA, the governor's office, etc. Create a yearly workplan based on the report.
  - Put together a panel to include DCF, to look at what's not working.
- Keith Pinkham suggested that VADAC do a combined meeting with Children and Families Council for Prevention, in October.
- Jolinda: What is the value of VADAC – define the value of this council. This should be done first before collaboration with other groups.
- Do not use future VADAC time to discuss what VADAC should be doing, etc.

**Recommended actions:**

- Opportunity to change statutes/charges, to present the report.
- Meet with legislative bodies, and present report to AHS and governor.
- It was asked how can ADAP help Council coordinate with other advisory groups.
- Bi-annual work plan, what information do we need to inform our work.

**Next Steps:**

Peter Espenshade, Lori Augustyniak, Jolinda LaClair will meet AHS, VDH and ADAP leadership on August to discuss Council charge, planning needs, and alignment with other AHS Councils.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 11:55am