

Vermont Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council Meeting Minutes

Waterbury State Office Complex
State Dr.
Waterbury, Vermont
Wednesday, June 28, 2017
10:00AM – 12:00PM

Present:

Appointed Members: Lori Augustyniak, Barbara Cimaglio, Mark Depman, Jolinda LaClair

Associate Members: Mitch Barron, Peter Espenshade, Willa Farrell, Karen Shea, Robert Uerz

Staff: Rose Gowdey, Marcia LaPlante, Tina Royer

Introductions, Welcome & Member Announcements

Approval of May minutes: Robert Uerz made a motion to approve the May minutes. It was seconded by Jolinda LaClair. Motion to pass the minutes as written was approved by all, with no one opposing.

Opioid Coordination Council (OCC) Updates & Council Feedback - Jolinda LaClair & Rose Gowdey

Jolinda LaClair advised that the OCC has met twice. One of their goals is to identify areas where they can effect change in about a year. Richard Baum, Acting Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), will attend a day and a half meeting on July 10-11, 2017, here in Vermont. The focus of this visit will include the hub and spoke model, Prevention & Enforcement Workgroup, employment & recovery along with housing and transportation, and the Burlington Partnership for a Healthy Community (an ONDCP Drug Free Communities grantee). Jolinda also reported on a state and community partner meeting on prevention meeting in schools last week. The group acknowledged the resources that are available. With these resources, a matrix is needed to understand what is out there in every school across the state. "A strong recovery program, supports strong prevention".

Rose Gowdey is continuing work with licensure with the Office of Professional Regulation (OPR), as well as work with the higher education sub group.

Peter Espenshade asked Jolinda LaClair how VADAC can best serve the OCC. Jolinda LaClair stated that VADAC would play an advisory role to the council, to reflect on draft recommendations. As for immediate help by VADAC, the council can help inform a a visible statewide prevention campaign. The committee provided feedback.

Legislative Update – Deputy Commissioner Barbara Cimaglio: Waiting to see if there will be any major changes to healthcare at federal level. If so, they can be addressed at that time. There is currently a nationwide search for a new Deputy Commissioner.

Dr. Mark Levine, Commissioner of Department of Health, and Deputy Commissioner Tracy Dolan, will provide guidance in Barbara's absence. Barbara commented on the WCAX report regarding "*Lamoille County Aims to Fight Opiate Crisis*" on Tuesday. She emphasized the two points the presentation focused on, 1. that it's tough to get into recovery, and 2. it's tough to live with someone with an addiction. One of the current challenges is: how do you take the resources that are available, and make sure they are pointed in the same direction.

Council Appreciation: Members of the council expressed their gratitude and appreciation to Barbara, for all the work she has done for the State of Vermont, in the world of addiction.

Council Role and Priorities: Lori Augustyniak and Marcia LaPlante

Marcia reported out on a Department of Health meeting with David Englander, Barbara Cimaglio, Cindy Thomas regarding the Council's questions about role, reporting and authority. They discussed how the Council could be more effectively utilized as an advisory body representative of our whole continuum of care. Since the Council is responsible for advising the Secretary of Human Services, it was agreed that VDH leadership have a planning meeting this summer with Lori Augustyniak and Jolinda LaClair, and perhaps another representative of the Agency of Human Services (AHS) to identify highest priority role (and planning questions for the next year) for VADAC now that the Administration's new leadership is in place.

The recommendations from this meeting will be then lead to a full Council meeting later in the fall. Marcia LaPlante will keep the council informed on the progress. Jolinda LaClair asked that the Council meet in July to provide guidance to Lori and Jolinda on role and framework Jolinda would like to use the VADAC statute, and base the future work on this. Tina Royer will send out the statute in advance of the July meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 11:45am

Next Meeting: August 23, 2017