

Vermont Opioid Coordination Council
May 8, 2017, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Waterbury State Office Complex, Sally Fox Conference Center

Minutes

Start Time: 2:00 pm

Present:

Chairs: A. Gobeille, T. Anderson, J. Leddy.

Members: D. Allaire, L. Augustyniak, B. Bick, J. Bowen, M. Bucossi, A. Bunting, S. Byers, E. Cowles, T. Donovan, L. Genge, B. Grearson, C. Houde, M. Levine, P. Mallary, R. Marcoux, D. Ricker, S. Thompson.

Designees: B. Cimaglio, M. Maksym, B. Villella.

Staff: J. LaClair, Director; R., Comm. Engag. Liaison; Angelica Selinger, VAMHAR.

Absent: Members: J. DeLena. Designees: C. Herrick

A. Introductions and Opening Remarks

1. Al Gobeille called meeting to order. (2:00pm)
2. Jolinda LaClair, Director, provided introduction, noting:
 - The need to strengthen Vermont's response to its opioid challenges.
 - The Council's immediate timeline: Recommendations by October 1, for the next 2-5 years.She then introduced Governor Phil Scott.
3. Gov. Scott provided an overview of the opioid crisis in Vermont, emphasizing that the epidemic crosses all guiding principles of this administration.
4. Jim Leddy, one of three OCC Chairs (Tri-Chair), gave a brief overview on the difficulty of opioid issues, practically and in policy, and spoke of the need to deal with the challenge of demand through prevention/treatment.
5. Tom Anderson, Commissioner of Public Safety, a Tri-Chair, spoke on the criminal justice side of the epidemic, noting that opioid addiction is a danger to children, families, the economy, and to our way of life. Enforcement needs to be aimed at dealers, and the criminal justice system must approach substance use disorder as a disease/behavioral matter. Prevention should be aimed at youth, parents, and community leaders. Policy must be aligned with medicine and neuroscience.
6. Al Gobeille, Secretary of Human Services (AHS), a Tri-Chair, spoke on the goals of the Council, indicating that AHS commits to providing more data and information to support the work of the Council.
7. All members introduced themselves.

B. The Framework for the Launch of the Council

1. Jolinda LaClair read the Council's charge statement from the Executive Order, and cited the need for inter- and intra-agency coordination to succeed in achieving the goals of the Council.

2. A draft mission statement will be prepared for the next Council meeting.
3. The charge to the Council also includes conducting a comprehensive summit on Vermont's substance abuse challenges a year from now.

C. The Scope of Vermont's Opioid Use Disorder Crisis: Presentations

1. Commissioner Anderson and Barbara Cimaglio, Deputy Commissioner of presented an overview of the scope of the crisis, improvements in Vermont, and key practices in Vermont.
2. Dr. Richard Rawson of UVM Center for Behavior & Health: Vermont's Response to the Opioid Crisis: Three Observations:
 - Opioid addiction is a chronic, relapsing, brain disease.
 - Opioid addiction continues to have impact for decades, requiring ongoing treatment; a network of primary care providers will be the principal source of care for treatment of these individuals.
 - Vermont's response to the opioid crisis includes expanded access to evidence-based treatment, Narcan distribution, syringe exchange, prescription opioid monitoring community-based initiatives and prevention.
 - At least eight states are currently making major investments to replicate Vermont's response to the opioid crisis (Hub & Spoke Model).

D. Council Panel: View from the Community/Regional Perspective. Question presented to the Panel members: ***With systems and strategies in various stages of practice and development to address VT's opioid crisis, what systemic change or best practices would you highlight to launch the Council's work over the next two years?***

- Stephanie Thompson (Prevention)
- Bob Bick (Treatment)
- Peter Mallery (Recovery)
- Roger Marcoux (Enforcement)

E. Administration/Business and Meeting Closure

1. Next meetings/plans for future:
 - a. Recurring meetings will be 1:00 – 4:00
 - b. Meeting schedule:
 - June 12, Montpelier (Center for Achievement in Public Service – CAPS), on the Vermont College of Fine Arts campus
 - July 10, location TBD (field)
 - August 17, location TBD (field)
 - September 11, AHS Waterbury State Office Complex
 - October 9, AHS Waterbury State Office Complex
2. Key ideas expressed in meeting have been captured and will be presented to the Executive Committee to prepare for next meeting and committee work. Ideas will be grouped across the four components of Vermont's response to the opioid crisis: Prevention, Treatment, Recovery and Enforcement, as well as an "other" category. Ideas for action will follow four pathways: policy, programs, investment/funding, and structure.