

Vermont Governor's Opioid Coordination Council
August 14, 2017 **1:00 – 4:30 p.m.**
Waterbury State Office Complex; Cherry Conference Room
MINUTES

Members Present: Tri-Chairs: A. Gobeille, T. Anderson, J. Leddy. Members: D. Allaire, L. Augustyniak, B. Bick, M. Bucossi, A. Bunting, S. Byers, S. DiSanto, T. Donovan, L. Genge, B. Grearson, M. Levine, P. Mallery, R. Marcoux, D. Ricker, K. Sigsbury, S. Thompson

Designees: M. Maksym

Staff: J. LaClair, R. Gowdey

Presenters: (included in minutes below)

Guests: Cooper Babbitt, Chris Bell, Diane Derby, Paul Dragon, Will Eberle, Sam Francis-Fath, Devon Green, Tori Houston, Mairead O'Reilly, Beth Tanzman, Kathryn Becker-Van Haste, Kevin Veller.

- I. [1:03 p.m.] Meeting called to order by Al Gobeille.
- II. Minutes approved unanimously as provided.
- III. Monthly Update: Jolinda LaClair
 - ONDCP visit a powerful success
 - Framing the recommendations underway
 - Introduced new member Ken Sigsbury
- IV. **Prevention & Education Programs: Enhancing & Aligning to Maximize Youth Engagement**

Moderator's Opening comment: Adam Bunting, Principal, Champlain Valley Union High School

 - Quote: "... vision without systems thinking ends up painting lovely pictures of the future with no deep understanding of the forces that must be mastered to move from here to there." ([Peter M. Senge, The Fifth Discipline: The Art & Practice of The Learning Organization](#))
 - Handout – 40 developmental assets
 - How to stay engaged in the work? Example of the success of student "Faith" – and how wraparound supports works to bring a young person from high risk to success

Prevention at the Community Door: Lori Augustyniak, PreventionWorks!

 - "An ounce of prevention . . . is a lot of work!"
 - Slide deck available on prevention – what works, how it works.
 - Coalitions work (there are 23 in VT).
 - Schools can't do it alone – there are 12 sectors where prevention happens. Much of state lacks a prevention network.
 - Changing norms, culture, is long term work (smoking went from smoking lounges for students 40 years ago, to today's culture – result of taxes, education, outreach, etc.)
 - 12 recommendations (see slides)

Prevention in Schools: Agency of Education: Rebecca Holcombe, Secretary

 - "Every system is perfectly designed to get the results it gets."
 - Fighting parental substance abuse more than student substance abuse.
 - Poor academic competence and lack of self-regulation are highest risk factors for youth. Significant number of students moving through the system lacking these and executive function, requiring early intervention. Extraordinary tardiness and absence.
 - Discussed the programs, approaches, support services that pay off in improving protective factors against risk.
 - Discussed universal curriculum, and the need for governance reform that better-supports sharing of services ("bigger systems are more robust").

- Early intervention is key – “If we don’t support (the youngest and most vulnerable), they will disrupt the whole class. If we do support, it benefits the whole community.
- Family/parent support also key.

Prevention in Schools: SAPs and Programs in Schools:

- Kelly Lamonda and Justin Barton-Caplin, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs, VT Department of Health
 - Majority of ADAP programs are school based.
 - Funding: Regional Prevention Partnerships (RPP) – SAMHSA – 5 years, renewable once. Intersection with schools. Evaluation just completed. Prevalence rates going down, but greater in the funded regions. Expanded funding to the entire state. A few gaps (Orange is hard, lack of coalitions) most state covered. Partnerships formed around the needs.
 - Handout: 4 major goals, strategies being implemented. Goal: prevention services in every part of Vermont.
 - Capacity is a big challenge – schools may not have staff to administer/implement – depends on the community.
- Student Assistance Professional: Dawn Poitras, LADC, President of the Association of Student Assistance Professionals of VT, Student Assistance Program Counselor, Barre Supervisory Union
 - 2 of us in the district: ADAP grant and Medicaid reimbursement.
 - Job is to build relationships with the kids, connect them to resources.
 - Quote from 5th grader: “When life gives you heroin, you can either join, or find another path to follow.”
 - Story – How we work as a wraparound service – turned a student who went from marijuana to heroin around, with engagement of parents. Many families don’t have this – not strength-based families.
 - Prevention programs have declined. Used to have 12 step programs specific to youth in the school. Now, hard to find. Recovery House offers to adults.
 - Hard to reach out to family given confidentiality laws. No mandate for counseling if you get methadone or buprenorphine.
- Dept. of Mental Health Resources: Charlie Biss, Director of the Child, Adolescent and Family Unit, VT
 - 25 years of systems building with schools and mental health.
 - History: “Success beyond Six”. 25 years ago, AHS and AoE found a way to get Medicaid into schools. Now, over 700 FTEs in schools. 90% of supervisory unions. 500 working with special education issues – to keep them engaged, avoid alternative placements. 200 are mental health clinicians.
 - Positive behavioral supports (PBIS) – works! Making sure it works in schools. More of students are graduating. Less disciplinary action in places using PBIS well.
 - How to focus the human power on addressing trauma/building skills.
 - Seeing younger kids who are at higher risk – substance use in family, ACEs, etc.
 - How do we bring in family? Most will not turn around without intervention.

Discussion: How do we deliver effective programming to all schools in VT?

- Is a high number of behavioral interventionists the best/most effective? High one-on-one for behavioral intervention. A systems approach might get us farther.
- Re 24 regions – is there a difference in outcomes based on resources? Lori – yes, national and state show yes, better outcomes with coalitions.
- Efforts across VT seem almost random. No fixed place of leadership, funding, policy. Imperils efforts. Plan for failure. Need a coordinated strategy.
- Needs to be student driven. How do we tap them (for the Summit?) (There is a precedent for using the SAPs (can’t be another project – has to happen fast)) Dawn has a list of existing SAC groups – can provide.

- For recommendations, focus on the actions we recommend (address funding as a separate issue – don't let it get in the way).
- What are the specific outcomes we're trying to achieve? Document these.
- Consider role of family supportive housing to support improvement – how can we use the environments we already have?

V. **VT System of Corrections: Pathways for Diversion, the State of Incarceration, Community Reentry**

Moderator's Opening Comment: TJ Donovan, VT Attorney General

- Diversion, incarceration, reentry, etc. We often talk about what happens when one gets out of jail. Need to work on the front end as well (diversion). Role of prosecutor is key.

Corrections Today: Current/Best Practices, Strategies for the Future: Lisa Menard, Commissioner; Kim Bushey, Program Services Director

- Numbers: 1790 incarcerated. 418 of those detained (pretrial); 100 of them turned over day-to-day. There has been an uptick in detainees. Flow is 7,000 annually.
- 1,000 incapacitated persons per year, mostly alcohol, detained 24 hours.
- Approximately 1400 incarcerated in-state. 264 out of state. In 2009, 770 were out of state.
- Approximately 70% of the incarcerated population has substance use disorder involvement. Similar figure for detainees.
- Most police departments try to refer. Chief Seth DiSanto indicated that arrest is not first resort – strong partnerships with service providers in Newport.

Discussion with Panel Members:

Pre-Trial and Diversion: David Scherr, Assistant Attorney General; Willa Farrell, Director, Diversion and Pretrial Services

Community Restorative Justice: Laura Zeliger, Community and Restorative Justice Director, VT Dept. of Corrections; Julie Payne, Executive Director, Community Justice Network of VT; Alfred Mills, Reentry and Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) Coordinator, Montpelier Community Justice Center

- Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) – they work. When layer addiction into the picture for the person in first year of release, success is more conditional – timing for recovery needs to be right. Addiction is the biggest barrier to success after release. Housing, employment next. Stigma is a problem – justice center helps bridge with employers.
- Most victims want someone to say they are sorry.
- Discussed biology of trauma, role of criminality. "Trauma changes your genes."
- Resource: the film, "Resilience".
- Corrections recidivism = 50% on a 3 year cycle. For CoSAs (not aggregated), 23 – 27 % recidivism (or, a reduction in recidivism of 86% for those who complete CoSA). CoSA program receives those with high risk of recidivism.

Discussion:

- In every silo, we hear, "I'm not a social worker." (prosecutor, defense lawyer, corrections, police, etc.) – No fixed point of leadership. What could that system of leadership look like?
- Collaborative projects like Project Vision – success, and model for others.

VI. **Wrap-up:**

- Next meetings: September 11, October 2. Committee and Working Group chairs will present in September. Recommendations will be developed and reviewed at next committee meetings. Final draft recommendations at October meeting.

VII. 4:35 p.m. Meeting adjourned.