

## **Stephanie N. Thompson**

Stephanie Thompson is a Springfield, Vermont native. During her youth, Stephanie was active in state prevention work. Today, Stephanie serves as Vice-Chair of the Springfield Select Board, where she is in her third term. Stephanie recently moved into the role of Public Health Analyst with the New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program, working with their multi-state Heroin Response Strategy. Previously, she served as Town Administrator in Londonderry, Vermont and as Executive Director of the Springfield Prevention Coalition, as well as serving as an Adjunct Faculty Member for the Community College of Vermont. Stephanie prior background was as the Executive Director of the Springfield Family Center, a social service agency serving, low and middle-income families and individuals as well as the homeless population. Stephanie is also President of the Springfield group, Project ACTION (Assembly Community To Improve Our Neighborhoods), bringing together an array of local stake-holders to look at community needs around opiate misuse and quality of life in the community. Stephanie has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Norwich University.

Through her work, Stephanie has become increasingly attuned to the impact that the opiate epidemic has had on her hometown, and the State of Vermont, and has been committed to working to building relationships and collaborations to address the issue. "Having lived in the same community my whole life, it truly breaks my heart to see what has happened, and to have seen so many classmates that are struggling, or have lost the battle with substance misuse disorder, in specific, misuse of opiates." Through her role in social service, prevention and municipal government, Stephanie recognizes the need to address this issue with a holistic approach. "We need an all hands-on deck approach to combat what we are dealing with. We need more education, more prevention, and more support for those wishing to receive treatment and recovery services.

"This is an issue that is tremendously important to me. It is an honor to serve on the Opioid Coordination Council with so many critical individuals representing a wide variety of sectors. It is clear that this is a Council committed to action. Vermont has been a model state in a number of ways since Governor Shumlin really brought the opiate epidemic to the forefront in 2014, and I sincerely appreciate Governor Scott making this one of his top priorities. The work of this Council, I truly believe, can have a long-lasting impact on the problems in our State, and serve as a model for other states struggling in the same regard."