

**Vermont Governor’s Opioid Coordination Council**

**Meeting Minutes (unofficial)**

**Date: May 17, 2019**

**Location and Time:** 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., Waterbury State Office Complex

**Present:** Chairs: A. Gobeille, T. Anderson, J. Leddy. Members: D. Allaire, L. Augustyniak (p), B. Bick, K. Black, A. Bunting, S. Byers, S. Cooney, S. DiSanto, K. Dougherty (designee), B. Gearson, M. Levine, P. Mallary, R. Marcoux, E. Peltier, D. Ricker (p), J. Tieman. Staff: J. LaClair, R. Gowdey.

**Visitors:**

**AHS:** C. Seivwright; L. Uerz; (VDH-ADAP); H. Bradshaw (DAIL/VR); A. Ramniceanu (DOC); C. Bell (VDH-EMS); Renee Swain (DCF-Child Dev-Head Start); W. Eberle (AHS Field); Alison Harte (AHS)

**State Government:** J. Broughton (Dept. Libraries); J. Rolla, B. Connolly (VT Nat. Guard)

**VT Delegation:** D. Derby (Sen. Leahy)

**Organizations:** C. Antley, MD; C. Boyd (Kingdom Recovery Ctr); J. Caceres (Valley Vista); K. Donohue (CCOA); D. Franklin (Northcentral VT Recovery Ctr); G. Keller (Safe Harbor/Howard); S. Kleinman (VT Extension); A. Koch (VT Chiropractic Assoc); A. Marti (Aspenti); F. Montanye (VT Recovery Network); R. Stankevich (Dominion Diagnostics).

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action/ Next Steps</b>
Convened		1:03 p.m.
<b>Introductions</b>		
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	Approved unanimously. Moved B. Bick; 2 <sup>nd</sup> S. Byers	Voice/unanimous
<b>OCC Director Report</b> (J. LaClair)	See slide deck (to be posted on OCC webpage)	
<b>OCC Members’ Reflections</b>		
Council members	<p>Council members offered their reflections on their time on the OCC. Themes included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How much members have learned, and changed their thinking due to the pollination across perspectives and the educational opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ from opposition to advocacy of MAT</li> <li>○ awareness of how well Vermont is doing compared to other states in terms of services, and yet how far we need to go to reduce deaths and improve prevention and recovery;</li> <li>○ importance of improving connections and integration between and among services, and drivers</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Thank you to the Chairs, to Jolinda and Rose, and to the individuals in recovery, the family members, and those providing services, who have shared their lived experience.</li> <li>• Consciousness of the progress made against stigma, and how much work there is yet to do (education, and stories, help)</li> <li>• Reminder that the sense of crisis began with big pharma’s role in the epidemic</li> </ul>	

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/ Next Steps
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hopes for the new Council relating to drilling down to the community level – select boards, coordination of resources, connection to best practices, etc.</li> <li>• Support for a focus on prevention while continuing to engage around intervention, treatment and recovery</li> <li>• Support for an expansion to address all substances – they cannot be siloed</li> <li>• Effective connections/partnerships made within state government – AHS Field, Central Office; Health Dept. and ADAP; Corrections and Annie Ramniceanu; DAIL/Voc Rehab and Hugh Bradshaw; Public Safety; ACCD, Transportation, Sec. of State/OPR</li> <li>• Thank you to the Congressional delegation and staff, the VT National Guard, the non-profits and private partners</li> <li>• A note that a question lingers regarding the place and role of residential treatment in the continuum</li> <li>• The importance of wellness, accountability, humanness, systems thinking, and unconditional positive regard</li> <li>• Recognition of the role law enforcement has played in the Council, and that law enforcement in general is facing a workforce challenge</li> <li>• Reminders of hope from tragedy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ProjectVISION was the result of Rutland community response when Carly Ferro was killed by a community member who had been huffing</li> <li>○ Lamoille County’s Tatro family is organizing resources in Johnson in response to the death of their daughter, Jenna</li> <li>○ The encouragement OCC members have taken from the willingness of people in recovery sharing their stories</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Recovery-friendly workplaces – important for people in recovery, and for the health of the community</li> <li>• Reminder that treatment courts are doing good things, and that graduations are inspirational</li> <li>• How essential culture changes is – a culture that considers intervention, treatment and recovery all a part of prevention</li> <li>• First responders’ experience and role is important.</li> </ul>	
Governor Scott	<p>Couldn’t be more proud of the OCC’s work. Credit to Governor Shumlin’s leadership on the opioid crisis. Jolinda was the right person at the right time. Thank you to co-chairs Al Gobeille, Tom Anderson, Jim Leddy. Just having the OCC has reduced stigma. It’s not over. Prevention is not the only part.</p> <p>Note that Austin Eubanks (Columbine survivor – injured, put on opioids, has been in recovery. Spoke recently in Vermont) -- died this weekend – recovery is day-to-day, and is never over.</p>	

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/ Next Steps
	<p>You've heard heart-wrenching stories, including the Tatros in Lamoille County and their daughter, Jenna. Things we have moved forward in these two years: Employment. Availability of treatment (previously, two hours each way for people in the Kingdom)</p>	
<p>Mark Levine: The Future</p>	<p>Prevention takes a long time, but you get some early wins in a couple of years, then, it takes time – ongoing – to see the full effects goes beyond political terms, unfortunately.</p> <p>3 things – opioids 101</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stop flooding the market with opioids</li> <li>• Save lives (naloxone)</li> <li>• Capacity to treat</li> </ul> <p>Opioids 201 has been the OCC.</p> <p>The messages resonate with everyone: The first meeting this year of the Prevention Committee was packed. We're talking about creating culture change – Iceland has done it, and that's where we are.</p> <p>We will continue to use what is evidence-based, and be courageous in also using what isn't (innovation)</p> <p>We will also focus on “gateway” drugs – juuling is every bit as important – nicotine, alcohol, cannabis – no siloing. Focus on health.</p> <p>Bringing these Councils together for next steps is healthy.</p> <p>Jim is right – the hardest work is yet to come. The ills of society are the root causes.</p> <p>We have the “luxury” of looking at earlier points in life now for our next efforts.</p> <p>Austin Eubanks, who spoke so well about addiction and recovery, ended his presentations with several slides on prevention. Recovery <u>is</u> secondary prevention – we can't take our eyes off of any of the other balls as we focus on prevention.</p>	
<p>Jolinda LaClair</p>	<p>Closing comments</p>	
<p><b>Public Comment</b></p>	<p>In recovery peer support, announcing that one is “in recovery” is met with applause. Hope for the time when the same greeting occurs in the mental health world.</p>	
		<p><b>Adjourned: 3:05</b></p>