



Opioid Coordination Council

May 2019

Jolinda LaClair, Director of Drug Prevention Policy

Jolinda.laclair@Vermont.gov

www.healthvermont.gov/opioid-coordination-council



Updates

... the work continues ...

- **S. 146:** Substance Misuse Prevention Oversight and Advisory Council
- **Prevention Initiatives and Committee**
- **Underway**
 - Recovery coaching
 - Recovery residences
 - Employer toolkit
 - Community-based collaboratives



OCC's Mission

“... to lead and strengthen Vermont’s response to the opioid crisis by ensuring full interagency and intra-agency coordination between state and local governments in the areas of prevention, treatment, recovery and law enforcement activities.”



What We Did ...

- **Insights:**
 - Can't silo substances
 - meet people where they are
- **21 OCC meetings** since May 2017
- **26 Committee meetings** focused on prevention, intervention, treatment, recovery and enforcement
- **Reports:**
 - 2018 and 2019 Recommended Strategies
 - 2017 – 2018 Strategic Action and Progress Report
 - 2018 Safe Injection Facilities



Outcomes: How Well We Did ...

1. Workforce Development

Streamlined the LADC

2. Recovery Housing (agencies, depts, regional & statewide non-profits)

Recovery Residence Report

3. Employment in Recovery

Employment consultants in 12 RCs & additional treatment providers

4. Recovery-Friendly Workplaces

Employment Toolkit

5. Transportation

AHS & VTrans inter-agency working group

6. Sharps Disposal Tool Kit

Web-based resource tool

7. Non-pharmacological pain management & SUD treatment

Exploratory roundtable with complementary providers

8. Syringe Services Working Group

\$1M tobacco funds to expand SSPs statewide



Additional Outcomes ...

- Drug Disposal Taskforce
- New community-based initiatives:
 - PITR in Newport (Prevention, Intervention, Treatment, Recovery)
 - *ProjectCARE* in Brattleboro (*Community Approach to Recovery & Engagement*);
- VT Department of Libraries partnership



What's Worked for the OCC ...

- Big table, many perspectives
- Multi-sector, multi-discipline lenses
- Stories: personal, lived experiences
- Building relationships (connection)
- New approaches to addressing challenges
- Collaboration!



What's Next ... for a Future Council

- Big table, many perspectives
- Multi-sector, multi-discipline lenses
- Stories: personal, lived experiences
- Building relationships (connection)
- New approaches to addressing challenges
- Collaboration!

AND ...

- All substances
- Focus on prevention



A Call to Action ...

Leadership.

Resources.

The will to listen and act.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead



Thank You!



More OCC Information ...

OCC reports, meetings, resources:

www.healthvermont.gov/opioid-coordination-council

Contact us:

jolinda.laclair@Vermont.gov

rose.gowdey@Vermont.gov

