

**Opioid Coordination Council  
Prevention Strategies Committee  
Thursday May 24, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
Waterbury State Complex  
Informal Meeting Notes**

**Attendance:** Suzanne Legare-Belcher, Scott Murphy, Jason Broughton, Christine Johnson, Grace Keller, Jane Helmstetter, Sarah Squirrell, Mariah Sanderson, Beth Keister, Adam Bunting, Chuck Whitehead, Matt Prouty, Bess O'Brien, Christina Nolan, Kayla Donohue, Melinda Lussier, Hal Porter, Cathy Nellis, Cheryl Chandler, Stephanie Thompson. **Staff:** Jolinda LaClair, Rose Gowdey, Eleanor Springer.

**Introductions and Welcome:** Chair Stephanie Thompson, NE HIDTA, OCC member; Jolinda LaClair, OCC Director; Rose Gowdey, OCC Community Engagement Liaison

### **Updates**

OCC/Director of Drug Prevention Policy: Jolinda LaClair:

- Engaging week for conversation on the opioid crisis
  - Howard Center Conference on Tuesday provided provocative perspectives and pointed out the powerful impact of recovery support, changing the cycle of addiction
- As we move forward in this prevention committee:
  - School-based prevention and intervention
  - Community based prevention and intervention
  - Youth leadership, engagement, and messaging
  - In preparation for the next report to the Governor, we need to be sure to address gaps!
- Recovery strategy: Focusing on recovery network, on housing (including family housing, sober housing), employment in recovery (every person who is employed feels valued and valuable)

ADAP: written report from Lori Uerz: Three recommended readings:

- [CADCA 7 Strategies](#) for Community Change
- [Iceland Prevention Model](#)
- [Vermont Prevention Model levels](#)

Agency of Education: Beth Kiester

- Beth's position evolved from just tobacco prevention
- Iceland's model is being replicated in West Virginia
- Even before school setting, comprehensive prevention must include babies/pregnant women
- Tier 1: We tend to think about drug and alcohol prevention, but emotional and social skill building start at home, early in life
  - The practical limitations of budgets and local control can be an obstacle
- Tier 2: Alcohol and Drug Education (marijuana, opiates)
  - Different professionals and different curricula school to school, which is ok, as long as up to date information and student engagement, focus on the qualities of effective education

**Sarah Squirrel**, Executive Director, Building Bright Futures

- BBF is a statewide public-private partnership established by law so support early childhood system
  - 16 duties and powers: monitoring, advising, convening
- Statewide collective impact structure (regional)

- Having a backbone organization is key to statewide impact
- Coordinated and collaborative work across public, private, etc. networks
- Implementation science: implementation predicted by community preparedness, leadership, perceptions
  - Implementation gap: too many models/interventions, insufficient scale

#### Re youth prevention:

- Strong data connecting ACEs in young children, to the likelihood of substance abuse later
- Key Data Findings:
  - Increase of young children in DCF custody
  - Between 2010 and 2015, substance abuse was the most frequent risk factor identified by reporters calling Child Protection Line
- Task force recommendations:
  - Systems integrations and care collaboration across adult and child systems
  - Multi-generational treatment services and family-friendly care settings
  - Cross-training, cross-system, info-sharing and shared practices
  - *Develop recommendations to address barriers to treatment and to support family engagement (billing!)*
  - Keep track of how many adults entering recovery have children. Provide child care to those who do to make it accessible.

#### **Discussion**

- How do we support mothers around their ACEs and challenges navigating the system while preventing them from using in front of their children?
- Motherhood/ parenthood is a huge opportunity to load prevention supports
  - Long term effects of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome actually much more pronounced and long lasting than opioid
- How do we get into communities and talk about trauma and its long term effects? (There isn't a lot of funding for community building and education opportunity.)
- It has less to do with the substance, more to do with the root cause. True not only for substance abuse, but also for being part of the system, for DCF involvement.
  - If we're having multigenerational problems somewhere like Franklin County, then we're clearly not cutting off the trauma, what is DCF doing to prevent trauma??
- Recalling OCC panel with a focus on street social workers
  - While we are focused on turning the curve in SUDs, we know that childhood development is critical. Franklin County has set the stage
  - Street social workers: nexus between law enforcement and mental health and counseling providers works
  - We have best practices that are already starting to happen: how do we sustain (funding and leadership) and how do we amplify (get it out to other communities, even if it doesn't look the same)
- It's not always a need for money. Putting into action the ability to work together (outreach, people in recovery with law enforcement officers)

#### **Committee Member Highlights**

- Jolinda: From Howard Center: focus on love. Incentives to look for healthy pleasure (rather than consequences for unhealthy pleasure)
  - What if there was a recovery coach associated with schools?

- Is there a recommendation that the OCC makes about well-being?
- Mariah Sanderson/Burlington Partnership: How do we make the healthy choice the easy choice? (accessibility)
  - Focus on delay of age of first use.
  - How are policies and practices in community supporting the changes we want to make?
- Jolinda: Time to do some thinking about how to engage the private sector, how to get private sector representative at the table. This includes finding employers, especially as some employers are realizing they need some more training.
- Bess O'Brien, Kingdom County Productions, Voices of Vermont
  - Listen To! Project: Working with kids statewide (1,000 kids) to have them tell their stories. Create an original script. Have kids write music and fill roles. Travel play around Vermont with Q&As with kids.
    - Going directly to kids, involved up front, getting their perspective, adults listen
    - Reaching out for funding.
  - VT Law School Restorative Justice Conference end of June  
<https://www.vermontlaw.edu/academics/centers-and-programs/center-for-justice-reform/conference/international-restorative-justice-conference>
- Adam Bunting/Champlain Valley Union High School: "Every system is perfectly designed to get the results it gets."
  - Every school now is looking into transformative education.
  - Engagement survey (not anonymous), based on the 40 developmental assets that they found via the prevention committee.
  - Social-emotional learning coordinator funded through Medicaid?
- Jason Broughton/Libraries: Look into what college/ higher education librarians are doing. Everyone knows who is using at that age, but how do they formalize that knowledge and intervention
  - Jolinda: UVM is only higher education institution in Vermont with its own recovery network

**4:03 Adjourn**