



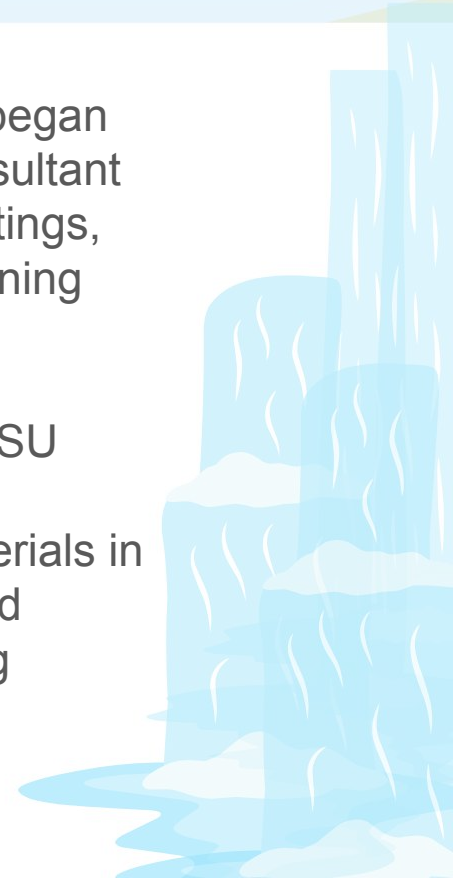
Greater Falls
CONNECTIONS

Vermont Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee Presentation
December 15, 2025

About Greater Falls Connections

The Greater Falls Prevention Coalition (GFPC) began to meet in July 2004 as the local prevention consultant and the regional partnership began hosting meetings, forums, and other discussions to kickoff the planning process for prevention in the community.

Today Greater Falls Connections supports WNESU Schools' substance misuse prevention efforts, distributes harm reductions information and materials in the community, and partners with businesses and organizations to prevent substance misuse using evidence based and relevant programming.



Substance Misuse Prevention

- Prevention Specialist - training for a Prevention Specialist and implementation of prevention programming.
- Youth Prevention Leadership - Investing in building life-long skills with a focus on prevention.
- Improved Space for Youth Activities - Safe, substance-free space for youth to engage in healthy and fun activities.

What a CPS is and does

Certified prevention specialists work to stop substance abuse before it starts through community education, policy advocacy, and evidence-based programs.

Prevention specialists are trained in the use of evidence-based approaches

The role revolves around reducing risk factors in a target group and raising protective factors.

SPF

The SPF includes these five steps:

Assessment: Identify local prevention needs based on data (e.g., What is the problem?)

Capacity: Build local resources and readiness to address prevention needs (e.g., What do you have to work with? How can you facilitate the communication of prevention science?)

Planning: Find out what works to address prevention needs and how to do it (e.g., What should you do and how should you do it?)

Implementation: Deliver evidence-based programs and practices as intended (e.g., How can you and your coalition put your plan into action?)

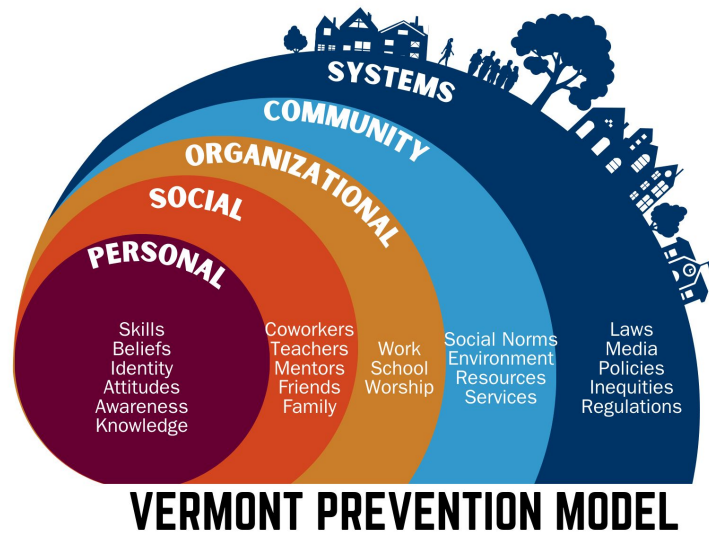
Evaluation: Examine the process and outcomes of programs and practices (e.g., Is your plan succeeding?)

-SAMHSA - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration

Why Prevention

- Evidence-based school prevention programs can save Vermont \$18 for every \$1 invested.
- For every \$1 invested in evidence-based programs that support strong family connections, combined with school prevention, Vermont can save between \$3 and \$11.
- The positive outcomes from successful substance misuse prevention include:
 - Fewer drug abuse-related emergency room visits
 - Increased productivity
 - Improved job stability
 - Fewer unemployment episodes,
 - Lower rates of violent crime,
 - Prevention of DUI injuries to others
 - Better family interaction
 - Reduced juvenile delinquency
 - Fewer incidents of family violence
 - Improved school attendance and academic achievement, and
 - Better health outcomes

-Source: CASAColumbia. (2009). Shoveling up II: The Impact of Substance Abuse on Federal, State and Local Budgets.



Adapted from: McLeroy KR, Bibeau D, Steckler A, Glanz K. An ecological perspective on health promotion programs. Health Education Quarterly 15:351-377, 1988.

Prevention Timeline and Partner Network

Coalition
Activities

Restorative Justice Partners

Community Partners, Businesses, Community Members

Substance-free
programming for
families

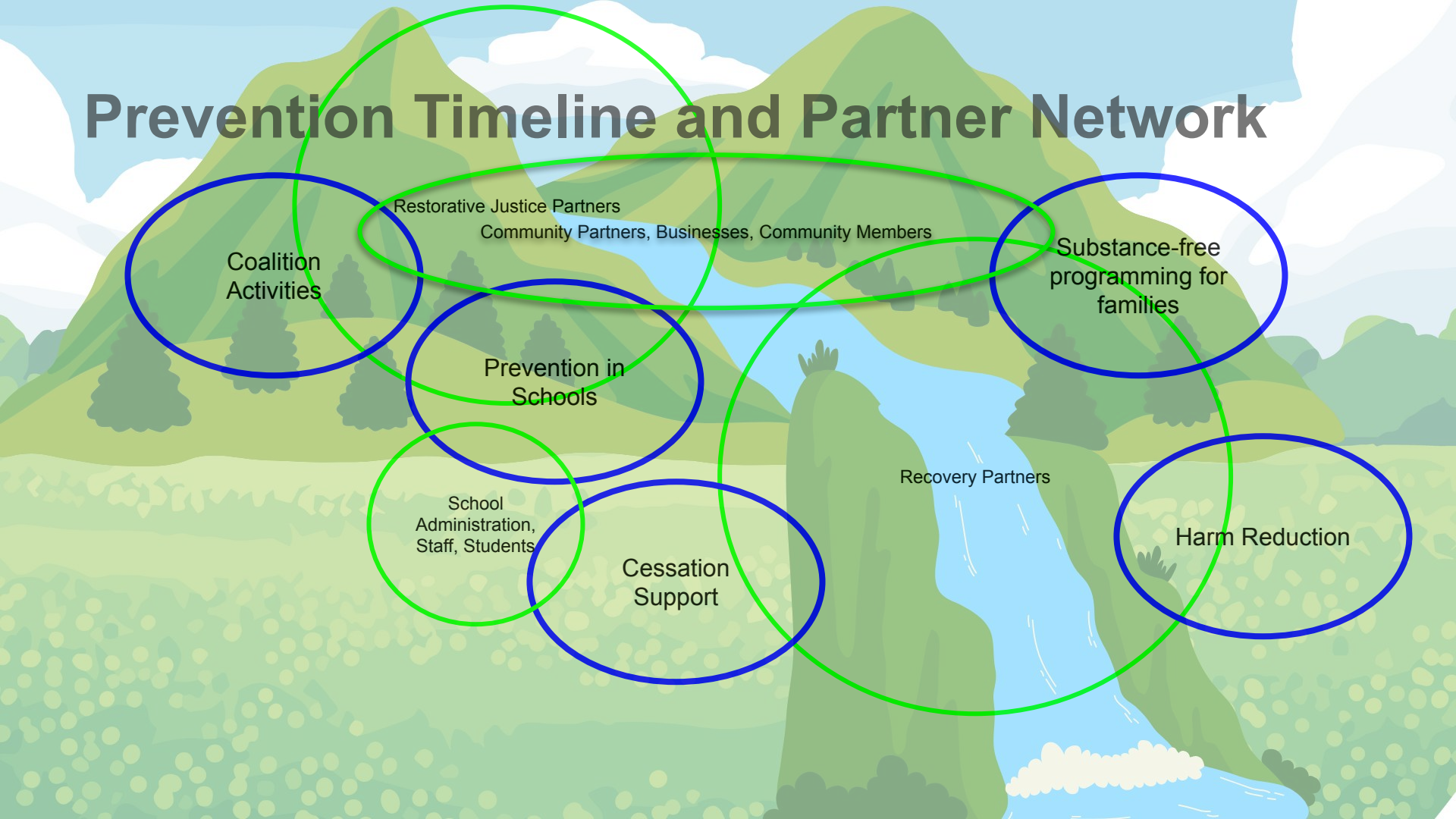
Prevention in
Schools

School
Administration,
Staff, Students

Recovery Partners

Cessation
Support

Harm Reduction



Youth Leadership Youth Spaces

Measure (YRBS, 2023)	BFMS	VT State
Ever tried to kill themselves	12	7
Strongly agree or agree that in their community they feel like they matter to people	47	56
Did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school, past 30 days	14	12
Students who felt sad, angry, hopeless or anxious that are likely to receive the help they need.receive help need	30	41
Currently use marijuana	7	4
Think it is wrong or very wrong for someone their age to use electronic vapor products	80	89
Ever drank alcohol	26	19
Ever tried an electronic vapor product	16	12
Ever tried marijuana	12	8

Measure (YRBS, 2023)	BFHS	VT State
have ever used vaping products	38	32
have ever used cigarettes	22	18
currently smoke tobacco, vape or use smokeless nicotine products	25	18
think that people risk harming themselves if they use electronic vapes	24	17
think that people risk harming themselves if they use marijuana	42	30
think it is wrong or very wrong for someone their age to drink alcohol	57	53
their parents or guardians think it's wrong for them to use marijuana	75	67

Youth Leadership Youth Spaces

- **Needs**

- Bellows Falls Union High School students were significantly LESS likely to think it is wrong or very wrong for someone their age to drink alcohol than their Vermont peers. 57% vs - YR 53% -2023 YRBS
- Bellows Falls Middle School students were significantly MORE likely to have tried alcohol, vaped and used marijuana than their Vermont peers. -2023

YRBS

- **Gaps**

- Afterschool and weekend safe spaces and activities
- Elementary school level prevention

- **What our community is looking for**

- Varied activities such as homework time, crafts, educational and physical activities

Budget

Organization: Greater Falls Connections		
	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
PERSONNEL		
Salaries (list individually below)		
Program Director/Prevention Specialist	\$36,400.00	\$36,400.00
Prevention Specialist	\$31,200.00	\$31,200.00
Fringe Benefits (list individually below)		
36%	\$13,104.00	\$13,104.00
36%	\$11,232.00	\$11,232.00
Total Personnel Costs		\$91,936.00
NON -PERSONNEL/OPERATING		
Advertising/Marketing	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Equipment (if allowable: computers, software, etc.)	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Materials/Supplies	\$5,676.00	\$5,676.00
Rent/Mortgage	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Sub-Contracts/grants (list individually below)		
Telephone (if a direct service cost)		\$ -
Training/Education	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Travel	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Utilities		\$ -
Other Direct Service Costs (list individually below)		
Total Non-Personnel/Operating Costs		\$20,676.00
Total Direct Costs		\$112,612.00
INDIRECT/ADMINISTRATIVE		
Indirect Costs (does not self-calculate; 10% unless a different rate has been approved - Federal or State)	\$12,387.32	\$12,387.32
GRAND TOTAL		\$124,999.32



Thank you!

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