

Substance Misuse Prevention Oversight and Advisory Council (SMPC)

May 2025 Meeting Minutes

Date: May 19, 2025 Time: 1-3 PM	Mtg. Facilitator: Amy Brewer Mtg. Recorder: Trina Crockett Where: Microsoft Teams
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	Name	Organization and Role
X	Kelly Dougherty	Department of Health, Chair
X	Amy Brewer	Northwestern Medical Center, Vice Chair
X	Mourning Fox	Department of Public Safety, Executive Committee Member
X	Monica Hutt	Agency of Administration, Executive Committee Member
X	Kimberley Diamond	Big Brother Big Sister, Member
	Kheya Ganguly	Department of Mental Health, Member
X	Skyler Genest	Department of Liquor and Lottery, Member
	Cindy Hayford	Deerfield Valley Community Partnership, Member
X	Maryann Morris	The Collaborative, Member
X	Janet Potter	Hartford Middle and High School, Member
X	John Searles, Ph.D.	Department of Health (Retired), Member
X	Stephen Von Sitas	Vermont Judiciary, Member

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Agenda Item	Lead	Minutes
Welcome, Introductions, and Quorum Determination	Amy Brewer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the pieces of the executive committee was discussing gauging interest from this Council on connecting with our federal delegation or representatives from our federal delegation. We have focused and done some great education for State decision makers, but don't want to miss the opportunity to engage through our federal representatives, by reinforcing the work of prevention and ongoing support for that including financially, in policy making and decision making with that.
Review and Approve March 2025 Minutes	Nicole Rau Mitiguy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March minutes approved as written
Legislative Overview and Updates	Amy Brewer, Nicole Rau Mitiguy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opioid Abatement Special Fund (H. 218): this bill has been signed off and some of the language wasn't necessarily primary prevention but was in the sphere of prevention. It was signed by the Governor and will go into effect July 1. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The members of the Opioid Abatement Settlement Advisory Committee are identified in the statutes that created the advisory. The committee makes recommendations to legislature and then legislature has the final decision as part of the appropriation process. There could be opportunity for this Council to take a look at the original statute that created the Advisory Council and perhaps make a recommendation if the group saw fit about the makeup of that group. H.339 Act relating to removing the repeal of V.S.A. 230: sale of alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumptions is in the Senate S.36 Medicaid coverage of long-term residential treatment for co-occurring substance use disorder and mental health condition is in the House House bill 321: this bill contains updated language for both tobacco and other tobacco products, and new smokeless tobacco so it more accurately reflects the types of nicotine, nicotine alkaloids and analogues that are used and even stronger than natural nicotine. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bill went to Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs last week, then will need to move to Senate Finance, and then appropriations. It still has the Senate side to go. For this group the Senate Economics and Development Committee added events showcasing the bill allowing five events or showcases for cultivators all through retailers. Each showcase would require a retailer who has the extra training for dispensing cannabis to be at the event, the same advertising requirements would

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		<p>apply, ID checking would apply and then it would be up to the board to create some guidance around the type of security that we would like to see at those types of showcases. There is no consumption at these showcases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What does a showcase look like? in our minds a showcase is similar to a Farmers Market, but security would be very different and the way folks purchase would be very different. The retailers will have to partner with a specific number of cultivators. The overall goal is access for small cultivators and social equity folks' access to the market where they may not have access to retailers otherwise. Folks would have to be 21 and older and IDs would be checked as part of it. If someone wanted to purchase, they would have to purchase through the retailer. It was almost like a remote retail shop. With the ID checking and all of those pieces of POS systems that connects to our track and trace system. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a mock set up of this at the New England Cannabis event in Essex. Basically, they had a 10x10 ten that had product locked in boxes, secured behind a table. They had security cameras all around and those worked off of satellite or Wi-Fi. ▪ Are these Farmers Markets or stand-alone events? The answer is unknown at this time as that has not been defined in the language, but it does state they have to be 21 plus to enter their area. ▪ Is there an enforcement officer going to be added to the Cannabis Control Board? We are adding enforcement attorney. We have grade enforcement officers, so we need someone who can do some of the documentation for investigations and then move forward when there is a notice of violation and do that documentation. We have a general counsel, but it is overloaded with rule writing and doing the sort of notice of violation pieces. The idea is to separate those two roles with two different attorneys. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CADCA has a great newsletter and information on the federal pieces that may potentially affect either local or community work or state level work. Anyone can sign up for CADCA to receive the alerts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Alerts today included how to connect with our representatives to try to prevent the funding from getting cut, specifically Federal funds that come to VT ○ Stop funds – which is alcohol us prevention for previous drug free grantees and also the PFS that both the state and communities have been utilizing here in VT pretty effectively • Common Good VT has a page that has up to date Federal budgeting and other decisions that are

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		<p>being made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On April 1st, the Office of Smoking and Health and the CDC was dismantled - all the researchers, scientists, project officers, communications evaluators and contractors. It looks like there will not be a Tobacco Control and Prevention component in the Make America Healthy Again design. If that does prove to be accurate than it is effectively 1/3 of the budget that will be cut for the tobacco control and prevention at the state level. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Public Health Chronic Disease Prevention unit provided examples of success in terms of what Tobacco control in partnership, a multi component, effective program is well established and those who campaign for tobacco free kids and other national organizations including the American Lung Association have been educating congressional members about the cuts and its impact on cancer, respiratory disease, cost of the healthcare system and certainly that if the goal is to improve chronic disease in the United States then tobacco control should be a part of that. We provided 2 examples for that with the use of our evaluation, surveillance and coalition examples. We will keep folks updated as we hear things, but it looks very similar to what we are seeing for COPD and several other grants.
Grantee Presentation Framing and Goals	Amy Brewer, Nicole Rau Mitiguy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bringing us back to when we were preparing our 2025 report, there was a good question and call out to develop a performance measure connected directly to our work as a Council. We're part of a much more expansive system of prevention. The recommendation that was put forth was our own accountability of doing outreach and connecting with some of our grantees funded throughout the state doing prevention work. Where we landed was looking to connect with the Vermont Prevention Lead Organizations (VPLOs), as well as our tobacco grantees throughout the state that are directly funded through VDH. We wrote our own performance measures that we would at least do that connection annually that would be through presentation or just through written communication from those grantees. Our performance measure was written to hear from our grantees on how the work is going, are there still gaps and where, what are some successes they are seeing; all for us to consider and think through so we can continue to uplift the work of prevention and work towards our third goal, which is really that sustainable and comprehensive work of prevention across the state. Maryann went above and beyond during a very busy time for herself to work with her team to put forward a presentation from The Collaborative, one of our VPLOs, to kick this off for us. There were a few other grantees we invited to this session that were not able to attend – they

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		will be invited to later sessions as well.
Grantee Presentation	Maryann Morris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The presentation can be here: https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/document/dsu-smpc-materials-may-2025.pdf Challenges include - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> July 2024 The Collaborative takes on sole LEAD and Fiscal agent for PL4 Getting systems prevention work going in a short time Lack of best practices around sign placement for tobacco free zones Working with corporations when a local office wants to create a smoke-free workplace with employee cessation services but corporate is non-supportive. Questions? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Is this a main source of their funding going forward and is the program able to fund them at levels high enough for them to achieve their goals or the goals that they proposed?</i> In general, we cannot afford to fund everybody at the full capacity that we are supporting what prevention is for that project-based piece so there has to be some other funding associated with. Other organizations that are coalition based are relying on funding like this or federal funding or other state funding foundations and have had to get creative to be able to fully operationalize what they have. <i>Can you speak more to the successes and challenges of taking a regional approach and regional support for the work happening through the VPLO itself?</i> Each region's going to have a different story. In the first 6 months of this grant, we went really heavy and hard on trying to communicate and be as open as to what our processes were and to be inclusive as much as possible in order to bring people on board. When you bring people in to be a part of building it, I think everybody feels a good amount of ownership over it. That's on the prevention coordination team. The hope was for the folks on the advisory team to know how much they've been valued for it, but that was a struggle. It is also a struggle to fully understand all of the regional and district level needs. The PL4 are really happy with the regional work so far and happy about trying to figure out the need to be covered in the region and then that's on us and the prevention coordination team and what can really be done at this local level and how. In each little region we have the non-traditional partners we are really trying to leverage them. Like in Bennington County they are really aligned with the mental health provider organization and in Springfield, we're really aligned with the Turning Point Center and in White River Junction we are really aligned with the regional Commission. Those are unique aspects and trying to support the whole work and to increase everybody's exposure to the work. <i>What do you think is missing?</i> A piece that is missing goes into our Goal 3 for the SMPC, trying to make those things more connected and simpler. One of the things that is missing is maybe we are too early perhaps. Like how we are getting known at the general community

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		<p>level, within the region for this work when it is so organizational based.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>How the SMPC can help and your recommendations for the SMPC?</i> It may be the evaluation or ask of the SMPC, something around evaluation to show the work with data. ○ <i>Question to ponder only putting on your SMPC hat – Are there any questions you would hope to be asked further or that you would have asked if you were sitting in the audience?</i>
Public Comment	Nicole Rau Mitiguy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julie Hurlburd • Rhonda Williams • Traci Sawyers

Next Steps or Assigned Tasks		
Task	Responsible	Due Date
SMPC Members to think about the VPLO presentation and use it to inform subcommittee meeting discussions in June.	SMPC Members	6/30/25