

**Substance Misuse Prevention Oversight and Advisory Council  
March 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Date: 3/28/22 Time: 1:00-3:10	Mtg. Facilitator: Nicole Rau Mitiguy Mtg. Recorder: Nicole Rau Mitiguy Where: Microsoft Teams
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	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization and Role</b>
X	Mark Levin, MD	Department of Health, Chair
x	Kelly Dougherty	Department of Health, Chair
x	Melanie Sheehan	Mt. Ascutney Health, Vice Chair
	Daniel French	Agency of Education, Executive Committee Member
x	Mourning Fox	Department of Public Safety, Executive Committee Member
x	Monica Hutt	Agency of Administration, Executive Committee Member
x	Amy Brewer	Northwestern Medical Center, Member
x	Rebecca Brookes	Upstream Social Marketing, Member
	Moses Delane	Youth Representative (18-25 year old), Member
x	Kimberley Diemond	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Vermont, Member
	Skyler Dryden	Youth Representative (<18), Member
x	Peter Espenshade	Recovery Vermont, Member
	Alex Figueroa	United Counseling Services, Member
x	Kheya Ganguly	Department of Mental Health, Member
x	Skyler Genest	Department of Liquor and Lottery, Member
x	Charles Gurney	Departments of Disability, Aging and Independent Living and Health, Member
x	Cindy Hayford	Deerfield Valley Community Partnership, Member
x	Maryann Morris	The Collaborative, Member
x	Kat Patterson	Cathedral Square, Member
x	Scott Pavek	City of Burlington, Member
x	Janet Potter	Hartford Middle and High School, Member
	Jillian Rinehart, M.D.	UVM Children's Hospital, , 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
<b>Welcome, Introductions, and Quorum Determination</b>	Kelly Dougherty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductions</li> </ul>
<b>Review and Approve December 2021 and January 2022 Minutes</b>	Nicole Rau Mitiguy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Edits needed for December minutes:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Agency of Health and Human Services needs to be edited to read as Agency of Human Services under the first bullet in the second agenda item</li> </ul> </li> <li>• December minutes passed with identified edits</li> <li>• Edits needed for January minutes:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In the task section, identify what HIA (health Impact Assessment) stands for and specify that it is for cannabis</li> </ul> </li> <li>• January minutes passed with specified edits</li> </ul>
<b>Intervention, Treatment, and Recovery Committee Update</b>	Nicole Rau Mitiguy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was a request proposed to the SMPC Executive Committee to allow the ITR to act as an advisory committee directly to the Department of Health on work being done in the intervention through recovery components of the substance use continuum. The SMPC will remain the advisory body for prevention.</li> <li>• This request was approved by Executive Committee.</li> <li>• There will continue to be a connection with the SMPC and there are a few SMPC members who also sit on the ITR.</li> <li>• ITR in process of identifying priorities for this year               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Overdose prevention is a new priority                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This is an overarching topic area that they wanted to prioritize in their conversations.</li> <li>▪ There are no more details currently.</li> <li>▪ ITR has requested to look at available research regarding overdose prevention sites but have not formally put together a recommendation or consensus on where the committee stands on the topic.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Tobacco Control Program Strategic Plan</b>	Melissa Chapman, Professional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Materials</a></li> <li>• This portion of the meeting will be to discuss the Tobacco Strategic Plan that is currently being revised with a portion of this plan focused on substance integration and polysubstance use, particularly in light of vaping rates increasing and multiple</li> </ul>

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	Data Analysts	<p>substance being able to be vaped</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ New working title of Plan is going to be the Vermont Plan to Reduce Tobacco Use, Vaping and Nicotine Addiction</li> <li>● There is currently a survey that is open to anyone to provide feedback or insights during the strategic planning process: <a href="http://www.myevalsurvey.com/VermontTobaccoPlan">www.myevalsurvey.com/VermontTobaccoPlan</a></li> <li>● Through a stakeholder interview process a need for cross collaboration of substance misuse topics was identified. With that, a question was posed on if there is a plan to move forward in integrating work from two different Department of Health Division's (Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs) to ensure the Health Department is talking about substances in a unified way or to be presenting about them in a unified way? Has there been any action taken to that specific piece of feedback? It is important to integrate it into the strategy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It was noted by a few members of the SMPC, that the Council may want to consider sharing strategies and connect with the Health Department to ensure there is a coordinated effort happening across divisions to ensure an efficient support and implementation of prevention activities across substances at the community level.</li> <li>○ This aligns with the SMPC's third goal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase efficiency and collaboration on prevention efforts across all state, public, and private entities, through a consolidated and holistic approach to prevention that is sustainable, scalable, and equitable.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Reports from Subcommittees</b>	SMPC Members and Nicole Rau Mitiguy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Communications:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of communications subcommittee was on 2/14/22. Consisted of a deeper understanding of the work being done on substance misuse communications at VDH.</li> <li>○ Nicole extended invitation to ADAP and HPDP information directors, along with VDH policy to attend our April subcommittee meeting.</li> <li>○ Information directors will share an overview of the communications work on deck over the next year and discuss VDH's plans for messaging around cannabis</li> <li>○ Subcommittee has meeting scheduled with Andrea Valente and Julia West of PACE on June 20<sup>th</sup> to hear findings from their national search on substance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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		<p>messaging on what works and does not work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Findings will be presented to full SMPC and help create recommendations for VDH</li> <li>○ Suggestion to the committee to connect with Prevention Works as they are supporting communication efforts at a local level as well, which may be helpful for this subcommittee to have awareness of their work to inform the subcommittee recommendations or decision-making process</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Equity:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A member of the Equity subcommittee is no longer on the SMPC and so this is a committee of two SMPC members as of this meeting</li> <li>○ The subcommittee is starting to look at some intersectionality specifically with youth and marginalized populations – the subcommittee is looking to better understand the experiences of individuals in these populations to inform decision making and recommendations.</li> <li>○ Additionally subcommittee is looking to connect with the CDC Health Disparity and Equity grant work to align with and inform that opportunity if and when possible</li> <li>○ Youth Engagement:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Vermont Afterschool has a very robust Youth Advisory Council which could be engaged to provide input and guidance to the SMPC to ensure youth perspectives are considered during decision making processes</li> <li>▪ If the Council is looking to ensure representation as part of the Council from youth and young adults, the Council may need to adjust when we meet and where we meet to ensure ease of access for these representatives</li> <li>▪ There was a concern from one of our youth representatives that they and their voice were not heard on a Council this large and diverse, so the SMPC may need to consider engaging youth and young adult voices in a different way to ensure that voice feels valued and not tokenizing this voice.</li> <li>▪ While Act 82 requires youth and young adult representatives, this does not need to be limited to one individual and the SMPC can think about how to engage multiple youth and young adult voices to ensure</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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		<p>consistency with Act 82 while balancing some of the concerns noted above.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Individuals who would like to continue this conversation further between full SMPC meetings can join the Equity subcommittee meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup> from 11-noon.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Prevention:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Subcommittee discussed how the prevention inventory is being used across communities and what role the SMPC may have to ensure that those individual conversations are connected or happening with intentionality together to magnify the impact of those individual discussions, rather than having small action forward.</li> <li>○ Discussed what was proposed in the Governor’s Budget Address around substance use prevention and the subcommittee wanting to ensure that the prevention carve out was intended to be used for prevention of all substances including tobacco, which would align with the focus of the SMPC which is the prevention of all substances at risk of misuse.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Governor’s initiative was specifically around opioid overdose and addressing the overdose crisis, though much of the local prevention work is substance agnostic which lends toward the ability to support prevention of all substances at risk of misuse with this funding opportunity if it passes in the budget.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Policy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ One of the discussion points from this subcommittee in their last meeting was exploring parity across all substances in relation to compliance checks, specifically examining how compliance checks for tobacco and cannabis will look moving forward as these will be completed through two different agencies.</li> <li>○ The Policy subcommittee continues to monitor the legislative session to identify areas for recommendations in this year’s SMPC report to inform legislatures next session.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Legislative Session Updates and Discussion</b>	Monica Hutt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Update on the Cannabis Control Board:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ From the conversation from the Policy subcommittee, part of the reason the decision has been made to keep cannabis regulatory and compliance checks separate from the alcohol and tobacco regulatory system is that cannabis</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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		<p>remains a schedule 1 drug. Because it is still a scheduled 1 substance, including regulatory components with other entities that receive federal funding could potentially put that funding at risk as cannabis is not legal at the federal level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bill S548 contains language about the level of THC allowed in a product; this bill originally included language to remove the cap, but at the time of this meeting that language had been removed to keep the THC cap in place.</li> <li>○ S188 is related to farming, and while this bill does not explicitly name cannabis cultivation as farming, it is beginning to connect cannabis cultivation and farming together, which could allow cannabis cultivation to be included in other farming benefits.</li> <li>○ H701 is related to the cannabis license fees. This bill has been signed by the Governor.</li> <li>○ The CCB received 8 positions for regulation and enforcement through the fiscal year 22 Budget Adjustment Act and currently have three additional positions in the FY23 budget bill.</li> <li>○ The CCB reports that they have received a significant number of applications for their pre-qualification process, which does not mean all of those will come to fruition. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Generally these applications seem to be smaller retail establishments and cultivators rather than a surge of large out of state entities</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ There has been concern from the community on how the CCB defined BIPOC in relation to their social equity work as their definition is narrow and it seemed that they decided this in an executive session.</li> <li>● <b>Overview of Legislative Session:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We have made it to cross over, so most of the bills that will continue to have traction have been passed to the other chamber for consideration</li> <li>○ House Human Services committee had developed bill H728 which is an act related to opioid overdose response services in which they propose repurposing the funding outlined in the Governor’s Budget Address for substance use prevention to fund the activities outlined in H728, leaving about \$650,000 for prevention. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This bill was developed quickly and right before crossover so there was</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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		<p>not a lot of time for testimony to be provided, but there will be opportunities in the Senate for information to be shared and testimony provided</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SMPC requested the Executive Committee discuss how the SMPC may engage key members or key legislative committees in discussions around the value of substance use over the summer and fall to help inform decisions in next legislative session with a prevention lens as part of their considerations.</li> </ul>
<b>Public Comment</b>	Nicole Rau Mitiguy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beth Shrader, Prevention Works               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Starting a Prevention Academy which would provide credentialing for prevention professionals, which is the first time this will be offered in Vermont</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Next Steps or Assigned Tasks		
Task	Responsible	Due Date
Complete the March Meeting Evaluation	SMPC Members	4/8/2022
Discuss engaging members from the legislature in conversations about prevention over the summer and fall	SMPC Executive Committee	7/1/2022