Substance Misuse Prevention Oversight and Advisory Council August Meeting Minutes

**Mtg. Facilitator:** Nicole Rau Mitiguy  
**Mtg. Recorder:** Nicole Rau Mitiguy  
**Mtg. Time Keeper:** Nicole Rau Mitiguy  
**Where:** Microsoft Teams meeting  
**Date:** 8/24/2020  
**Start Time:** 1:00 pm  
**End Time:** 3:10 pm

### Council Attendees
Mark those present with an “X”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization and Role</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X Mark Levine</td>
<td>Health Department, Co-Chair</td>
<td>X Skylar Dryden</td>
<td>Youth Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melanie Sheehan</td>
<td>Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center, Co-Chair</td>
<td>X Peter Espenshade</td>
<td>Recovery Vermont</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel French</td>
<td>Agency of Education, Executive Committee Member</td>
<td>X Courtney Farrell</td>
<td>Lund</td>
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<td>X Chris Herrick</td>
<td>Dept. of Public Safety, Executive Committee Member</td>
<td>X Clay Gilbert</td>
<td>Rutland Mental Health, Evergreen Recovery Center</td>
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<td>David Allaire</td>
<td>City of Rutland</td>
<td>X Cindy Hayford</td>
<td>Deerfield Valley Community Partnership</td>
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<tr>
<td>X Amy Brewer</td>
<td>Northwestern Medical Center</td>
<td>Roger Marcoux</td>
<td>Lamoille County Sherriff Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>X Rebecca Brookes</td>
<td>Upstream Social Marketing</td>
<td>X Maryann Morris</td>
<td>The Collaborative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moses Delane</td>
<td>Youth Representative</td>
<td>Christina Nolan</td>
<td>U.S. Attorney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kimberley Diemond</td>
<td>Big Brother Big Sister</td>
<td>Eileen Peltier</td>
<td>Downstreet Housing</td>
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<td>X John Searles, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Retired, Dept. of Health</td>
<td>X Daisy Berbeco</td>
<td>Vermont Department of Mental Health</td>
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<td>X Stephen Von Sitas</td>
<td>Regional Treatment Court</td>
<td>X Auburn Watersong</td>
<td>Agency of Human Services</td>
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<td>X Skyler Genest</td>
<td>Dept. of Liquor and Lottery</td>
<td>X Erica Gibson</td>
<td>University of Vermont Medical Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>Time Allotted (Optional)</td>
<td>Type of Topic</td>
<td>Agenda Item (Topic/Objective)</td>
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| 1  | 1:00-1:10                | Inform, Discussion, Decision | Welcome, Introductions, and July minute review | - A few remaining tasks from July meeting:  
  o Review Prevention 101 Training(s) to ensure resiliency is discussed in training  
  o Make edits to Universal Afterschool Recommendations and send final version to SMPC  
  - July minutes were approved.  
  - Quorum was determined. |
| 2  | 1:10-1:30                | Inform, Discussion, Decision | Updates to SMPC Membership | - At this point, VDH has not heard of any movement on the Chief Prevention Officer position. VDH Policy will ensure priorities identified by the SMPC are discussed with the general assembly during the 2021 legislative session.  
  - Daisy Berbeco has joined the SMPC to fill the position of an individual from mental health identified by the SMPC this winter.  
  - Tim Trevithick has resigned from his position on the SMPC as he has taken a new job. Tim will send Nicole suggestions of Student Assistant Professionals (SAPs) who could fill this role for the SMPC’s Executive Committee’s consideration, following the process of all identified SMPC members. |
| 3  | 1:25-3:10                | Inform, Discussion, Decision | SMPC Recommendations related to S. 54 | - David Englander provided an overview of the process of recommendations from the SMPC to move to the legislature:  
  o Act 82 is written in a way that embeds the SMPC within the Department of Health; the SMPC is not an independent Council as was seen in previous Council’s or Committees (example: Vermont Tobacco Evaluation and Review Board). With that, policy recommendations from the SMPC must move through the same process as all policy recommendations from VDH.  
  o The SMPC would vote on the recommendations, which would then be reviewed by VDH Policy and the VDH Commissioner.  
  o If the VDH Policy Team or VDH Health Commissioner had any questions, suggested edits or concerns, they would come back to the SMPC to clarify. This clarification could be completed with the Executive Committee if agreed upon by the full SMPC.  
    ▪ If the concerns were not addressed by the SMPC to overcome the stated concerns from VDH, the report could continue through the process with the note of those concerns.  
  o From VDH, the policy recommendations report would move to the Agency of Human Services (AHS) for the AHS Secretary to review. If the AHS Secretary had questions, they would reach out to VDH for clarification. If VDH did not have that clarification, they would reach out to the SMPC Executive Committee for that clarification.  
  o From the AHS Secretary’s office, the recommendations would move to the general assembly.  
  o This process would take a minimum of 2 weeks. |
As Act 82 is written, the expectation is that these recommendations would come in the form of the annual report, but recommendations outside of the annual report are welcome.

- The review process detailed above is the same process the annual report is reviewed. The proposed timeline for writing the annual report can be found on the SMPC webpage for the August 24th meeting materials [www.healthvermont.gov/smpc] and in this PDF:


- Recommendation from David Englander to ensure the annual report is provided before December 1st to ensure there is time to receive feedback from the AHS Secretary if needed. Substance Misuse Prevention Manager will adjust accordingly.

- It was expressed by SMPC members that they were not provided clarification of this required process or timeline prior to beginning the process of developing the recommendations; having this information could have impacted their timeline.
  - It was requested that moving forward, a VDH staff member be included on each workgroup or subcommittee to help make a direct connection to any VDH process the SMPC would need to follow.
  - A suggestion was made by a SMPC member to have the SMPC write a memo to VDH to note that this review process is interfering with the SMPC to make policy recommendations.
  - David Englander offered to note to the AHS Secretary that the speed, and timing, in which the Conference Committee for S. 54 is working is a concern for the SMPC in their ability to provide recommendations on S. 54, noting that the SMPC was expecting that work on S. 54 would not have picked up until August 25th when the special session was slated to begin. He was asked by the co-chair to do so.

- The SMPC discussed whether to vote on the recommendations the workgroup has drafted for review, to integrate the S. 54 recommendations into the 2021 annual report in hopes that S. 54 does not move forward.
  - It was noted that there are some key discrepancies between the House and the Senate versions of the bill, with a few points that would prevent each side coming to an agreement; specifically the House amendment includes a point around individuals being pulled over if observed not using their seatbelt.
  - Deputy Commissioner Herrick noted that Departments are requested to provide legislative priorities to the Governor’s Office by mid-October each year.
    - It was recommended therefore, that in future years the SMPC decide on their recommendations prior to October to ensure that those are taken into account when the Department of Health formulates their priorities.
There was a question on whether the SMPC not providing recommendations related to S. 54 would be taken poorly by the general assembly as in Act 82 it is noted that the SMPC was developed to ensure prevention is at the forefront of policy decisions.

- It was noted that S. 54 existed before the SMPC and the SMPC was not asked specifically for recommendations from the general assembly on S. 54.

A move was made for a three-pronged approach to be taken:

- Vote on the recommendations even if the VDH review may be outside of the timeline for the bill itself in this special session
- Ensure the annual report provides generalized recommendations on alcohol, tobacco, and cannabis that could cover any recommendations that come up during the legislative session in relation to these substances to ensure the annual report can be used to guide policy making
- If S. 54 does pass, the SMPC should include how the 30% of revenue earmarked for prevention be used in the 2021 annual report.

There was a question on whether the SMPC should vote on whether or not S. 54 should be passed to contextualize the recommendations

- Given that S. 54 has moved to both chambers, it was decided that the SMPC should move forward on voting on the recommendations as a whole.

- The draft recommendations can be found on the SMPC webpage for the August 24th meeting materials (www.healthvermont.gov/smpc):


- The SMPC voted to approve the recommendations:
  - 13 voted in favor
  - 0 voted opposed
  - 12 members were absent at the time of voting

- The Substance Misuse Prevention Manager will work with VDH Policy on the report for the recommendations.
- The SMPC decided to discuss next steps with recommendations and the annual report when the SMPC meets in September.

- Next SMPC meeting is on September 21st from 1:00-3:00 using Microsoft Teams
## Action Item Log

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Action Item</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Staff Responsible</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Review Prevention 101 Training(s) to ensure resiliency is discussed in training</td>
<td>9/21/2020</td>
<td>Nicole Rau Mitiguy (NRM), Auburn Watersong with ADAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Make edits to Universal Afterschool Recommendations and send final version to SMPC</td>
<td>9/21/2020</td>
<td>NRM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Make edits to S. 54 recommendations and move to VDH Policy for official review</td>
<td>ASAP</td>
<td>NRM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>SMPC members to fill out survey to collect input on recommendations for the 2021 SMPC Annual Report</td>
<td>9/4/2020</td>
<td>SMPC Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Add all SMPC members to the SMPC Sharepoint site</td>
<td>9/21/2020</td>
<td>NRM</td>
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August minutes approved on 9/21/2020.