

Vermont Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council

Meeting Minutes

Waterbury State Office Complex
State Dr.
Waterbury, Vermont
Wednesday, October 25, 2017
10:00AM – 12:00PM

Present:

Appointed Members: Lori Augustyniak, Jolinda LaClair, Kreig Pinkham

Associate Members: Mitch Baron, Peter Espenshade, Robert Uerz

Staff: Rose Gowdey, Marcia LaPlante, Tina Royer

Guests: David Englander, Yashira Pepin, Cindy Thomas

Welcome, Introductions and Approval of minutes

Approval of minutes

July 26 Minutes were approved with minor edits.

Statutory Change regarding the Council and Council Role Moving Forward

Discussion: (David Englander and Cindy Thomas)

A suggestion has been made as to whether VADAC should be taken out of statute and placed under the Commissioner office, at the Vermont Department of Health (VDH).

Cindy Thomas stated that taking VADAC out of the statute would allow VADAC to be utilized more by ADAP. More involvement with ADAP would mean more stakeholder input. VADAC would help with things like the Strategic Plan, Quality Plan, Initiatives, and be an oversight body. David Englander recommended the statutory change. This would provide VADAC with clear direction, and be of more assistance to ADAP. Jolinda LaClair provided a brief review of her role with the OCC, and what she has learned since her appointment. The OCC charge is to make recommendations to VADAC. VADAC has not been able to meet previous charges set forth by the current statute, with the legislature. She asked Cindy Thomas and David Englander, what their vision is for VADAC. Unless VADAC changes, there needs to be a wholesale change with a definition of what does this council look like? Bob Uerz stated that VADAC brings outside government feedback. Mark Depman felt that we should mandate the view of substance use disorder. Mark Weikert asked that we don't lose sight of the alcohol issue while working on opioid issue. Marcia LaPlante asked that the council come up with annual plan, as this would be a good time to start a new chapter with the council. Mitch Barron asked what would be the risks in leaving the statute, and going under VDH. David Englander stated that if a different commissioner is appointed, and he/she could not utilize the council, the council would no longer exist.

Discussion was held by council members.

Summary of discussion provided by Peter Espenshade:

- statute is a list of different ideas added on to
- State needs mandate for VADAC for bird's eye view of substance use disorder - from many different fields, including the public sector.
- Current statute no longer works for VADAC.
- Either go back to legislature to redo charge, or remove from legislature, and go under Commissioner's office.

Next Steps: Lori Augustyniak ask council if they wanted more direction regarding current options or keep things as are.

Straw Poll was conducted but not completed:

- Revise current statute to include ADAP - 2
- Eliminate statute, and create advisory group with ADAP
- No change -0-

Opioid Coordination Council Draft Recommendations Discussion:

(Jolinda LaClair and Rose Gowdey)

Jolinda presented the OCC draft strategies, for discussion. She asked for comments from the council regarding these recommendations.

Prevention Section:

- Bullet #2: Mitch Barron asked to add the word "intervention" after the words "disorder prevention". In the same section, add "best practices" before the words "evidence based".

Mark Weikert suggestions:

- Specifically, the AOE position to deal with substance disorders with in the school systems. We have 83,000 captive students just waiting to learn about how to handle this topic.
- Support the idea of all stakeholders from pre-kindergarten to elder care being trained/exposed to the SBIRT program.
- We should be able to easily make a state wide comprehensive prevention program work. Our student population in Vermont is the same size as some large school districts in other states.

Treatment:

Mitch will provide comments in writing.

Recovery:

- Tax reductions to incentivize with landlords, to help with housing recovery population.
- Not looking through lenses of youth and family.

Any additional thoughts send to Jolinda and Rose.

VADAC legislative report will be going in shortly. Will add statement, what the council is looking at in terms of change. Due to David Oct. 30. Will send everyone a draft copy.

Adjourn: 12:05