## Vermont Governor's Opioid Coordination Council

### Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 3/12/2018  
**Location and Time:** 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. Waterbury State Office Complex, Sally Fox Conference Center, Cherry (2nd Floor)


**Absent:** J. Bowen, M. Bucossi, A. Bunting, T. Donovan, A. Chetwynd (for J. DeLena), B. Grearson, D. Ricker

**Visitors signed in:** Tom Dalton, Diane Derby, Paul Dragon, Leilani Provencal (Heath), Will Eberle, Jane Helmstetter, Christine Johnson, Sarah Kleinman, Vincent Livoti, Cass Mabbott, Mairead O’Reilly, Kirby Parker, Judy Rex, Kevin Veller.

### Agenda Item

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<th><strong>Agenda Item</strong></th>
<th><strong>Discussion</strong></th>
<th><strong>Action/Next Steps</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Opening of meeting</td>
<td>Chair: Commissioner Tom Anderson. Opening comments, introductions</td>
<td>Approved, Unanimous voice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approval of minutes</td>
<td>No changes</td>
<td>Report, discussion Liz Genge added to housing update Mark Levine added to Correctional update</td>
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| Director’s report (R. Gowdey for J. LaClair) | • Recovery Committee: Employment partnership project moving forward;  
Housing – building partnerships  
• Prevention Committee to launch end of April. Build inter-dept. connections  
• Recovery Day, Prevention Day at Statehouse  
• Tour/discussion Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility  
• Dept. of Libraries partnership  
• Opioid Overdose Awareness Day on April 11 | |
| Member updates | | |
| Chief Seth DiSanto | • Newport developing new community-based coalition “RISC” team developing based on St. Johnsbury DART; Orleans developing a “mini-OCC”  
• Working to build capacity to sustain programs  
• Training for police dept. in mental health recognition | |
| Mayor Dave Allaire | Reports Project Vision will be traveling to demonstrate progress, provide model to other communities | |
| Comm. Tom Anderson | Updates on roadside testing bill, ER visits, efficacy of opioids for pain relief (by message) | |
| Judge Brian Grearson | | |
| **Strategy Development Topic: Department of Corrections Update** | | |
| Lisa Menard, Commissioner | • November 2017 DOC moved to 120 days of treatment. Continuation beyond 120 on case-by-case basis, with verification. Collecting data on people being tapered off MAT, who receives methadone, buprenorphine.  
• 350 since November continued with MAT. 8 tapered.  
• Working with VDH and Hubs to track/ensure treatment after release  
• Described current induction process  
• Challenges with methadone due to DEA regulation and lack of space, logistics  
• People must choose MAT – some may refuse due to readiness/concerns. | |
- Looking to strengthen relationships with recovery programs
- Currently not initiating MAT treatment within facilities – only continuing for those who enter with MAT.
- Diversion to drug court and other options has increased.

**Discussion:** Induction, use of naltrexone (Vivitrol). Highest risk time is on release. Citizenship model underway, connecting to recovery network and recovery centers

## Strategy Development Topic: Intervention: Syringe Exchange

| Moderator: David Allaire, Mayor, Rutland | Spoke from personal experience of journey into addiction, use of syringe exchange, being on waitlist, entering treatment and sustaining recovery. | See handout on website |
| Speaker 1: Personal experience | | |
| **Grace Keller**, Howard Center’s Safe Recovery Program Coordinator, Burlington | Goal of syringe exchange is to be an “unburnable bridge to recovery” by providing contact, anonymity, resources, and, when ready, a conduit to treatment. Service provides safe syringe disposal on site, and training; syringe supplies; community syringe pick-up; referrals to resources. | See handout on website |
| **Laura Byrne**, H2RC (HIV & HCV Resource Center), White River Junction and Springfield | • Co-located with clinic, which helps provide immediate help with infection while avoiding use of emergency department. • Number of women is rising • Clients are assigned unique identifiers for anonymity and tracking • Only about 30% report calling 911 about overdoses • Much fentanyl in Springfield | See handout on website |
| **Daniel Daltry**, Program Chief HIV/STD/HepC, Health Surveillance Division, VT Dept. of Health HIV | • More than 700 individuals with HIV in VT • These programs work. Majority of VT counties have some kind of programming • Still have need • Helping individuals make healthy choices • Challenge for all organizations to provide as much service as possible • Agencies go above and beyond their quarterly goals • Secondary Exchange from direct participants to others
  o Primary idea for Primary clients outreaching to others and working to provide aid and access to treatment referrals
  o Telephone referrals to treatment as well • Need better outcome indicators | See handout on website |

**Public comment**

No remarks

**Closing remarks. Adjourn.**

Adjourned 3:35