

Substance Misuse Prevention Oversight and Advisory Council (SMPC) July 2022 Meeting Minutes

Date: 7/25/2022 Time: 1:00-3:00 pm	Mtg. Facilitator: Nicole Rau Mitiguy Mtg. Recorder: Trina Crockett Where: Microsoft Teams
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	Name	Organization and Role
X	Kelly Dougherty	Department of Health, Chair
X	Melanie Sheehan	Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center, Vice Chair
	Daniel French	Agency of Education, Executive Committee Member
	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
	Rebecca Brookes	Upstream Social Marketing, Member
	Moses Delane	Youth Representative (18-25 year old), Member
X	Kimberley Diamond	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Vermont, Member
	Skyler Dryden	Youth Representative (<18), Member
X	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
	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
	Stephen Von Sitas	Vermont Judiciary, Member

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Agenda Item	Lead	Time	Minutes
Welcome, Introductions, and Quorum Determination	Kelly Dougherty		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The \$1M in tobacco funds focused on vaping prevention was approved in this last legislative session. The Divisions of Substance Use Programs (DSU) and Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (HPDP) have worked together to develop an RFP for these funds which has been published as of this morning. Minimum award \$10K maximum award of \$30K for the RFP for one year budget but annual renewal for up to 2 additional years may be offered through the RFP process. Proposals are due August 19th and questions are due August 3rd. Quorum Determined
Review and Approve May 2022 Minutes	Nicole Rau Mitiguy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes approved as written
2023 SMPC Annual Report Overview	Nicole Rau Mitiguy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SMPC will be utilizing the time between this meeting and the October meeting to develop recommendations for the report. This work will be completed in subcommittees with information supporting proposed recommendations provided to the full SMPC for consideration prior to the October meeting. The report will be submitted in early November for review and any edits that are needed for clarity from VDH Policy team and leadership before it goes to the General Assembly by January 1st. The subcommittees will also be reviewing the logic model for suggested edits to be included in the SMPC Annual Report.
Update on the Cannabis Control Board (CCB)	Monica Hutt		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CCB is moving forward on the licensing, licensing for growers and cultivators is complete. Retail licenses will not be issued until October 1st. Shops should not be open at this time. If you are coming up against this in your communities, let the CCB know. A topic of interest is the high TCH levels in solid concentrates that was in one of the CCB reports. This is just something for the SMPC to pay attention to and we should consider having a conversation with the board prior to the report being published. A full compliance team has been hired and the director comes from the Department of Agriculture and has done a lot of compliance work there related to the hemp market. The Department of Tax has decided that tobacco product tax applies to vaping liquids and oils that contain cannabis. So that means vapes and oils that contain cannabis will be subject to the tobacco tax, cannabis excise tax and regular sales tax. This means

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			<p>the products are going to be very expensive which we know will have an impact on people purchasing these products. This also means any shops selling vaping liquids and oils that contain cannabis are going to be subject to the Dept of Liquor and Lottery (DLL) and will need to be registered with the DLL which will also regulate them as well as being subject to regulation and enforcement through the CCB which creates a tight structure around cannabis products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Legislature may try make changes to this in the upcoming legislative session <p>QUESTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Is the tobacco tax that is being applied to the vaping products and oils that have THC in them, going back to the DLL? The General Fund is the recipient of those tobacco products tax. ● Regarding the CCB report on the high THC levels in concentrates – do you feel that the report is in preparation for a possible legislative change to the THC caps in the coming legislative year? This could be possible. ● Should we start to prepare in terms of preparing evidence-based talking points related to public health for a potential meeting with the CCB? It would be great as part of our role is to share as much information as possible.
Tobacco Control Program Strategic Plan	Melissa Chapman, Professional Data Analysts		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stakeholder engagement – included folks from Our Voices Xposed and VT Kids Against Tobacco, many of the coalitions, VCHIP, pediatricians, some citizens, Department of Liquor and Lottery, local district offices, VT Afterschool and some other such partners including Prevention Works. This group completed some mapping activities and initiatives to draft strategic plan topics. ● Vaping remains a topic of great interest and need. With focus on schools and how to handle it, and restorative practices for those students. ● Equity and making sure folks are reached and engaged from throughout VT including youth, Black, Indigenous, and People Of Color, rural populations, behavioral health and mental health populations, among others. ● Substance coordination continues to come up and how to make sure tobacco control continues to be a part of the conversation and elevated in context and in relation to other substances. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The group would like PDA to keep them engaged during the revision process, potentially to include a discussion of taxes, and more about cannabis and the relation to cannabis in this plan, particularly in relation to vaping.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure was another priority topic discussed in stakeholder engagement conversations as well as budget and then public perception that we've solved the smoking problem already, which is not true. • The next convening of the stakeholders will be mid-September. The information for this meeting will be out soon through the VDH prevention listserv and shared broadly. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The focus will be what we are doing this summer is taking some of the longer-term objectives that are informed by surveillance and then supplementing those with data provided by the 12 funded coalitions, youth work that is happening, work with Prevention Works and other partners. ○ What we want to do is have more immediate and shorter-term indicators in the plan because we want to keep this alive and have reports back on progress. ○ We would like to feature stories of Vermonters' who have been impacted by tobacco or vaping; could be personal, family, provider, youth, school personnel, and we are looking for volunteers. <p>QUESTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could you talk more about the equity being one of the topics that was surfaced and the concern or importance? Some of it was just figuring out what the needs are, so like an assessment from an evaluation perspective. Examples could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More training and technical assistance provided on how to be more equitable and efforts. ○ How to bridge the gap between policies and the lived experiences of Black, Indigenous, and People Of Color folks. ○ Saying you are focusing on equity is easy, harder to put into practice. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are community-based disparities projects that are occurring and funded by VT Tobacco Control Program in Windham County and that came up as one community LED opportunity. ▪ Other organizations and partnerships connecting with Outright VT with LGBTQ+ efforts, dealing with store and retail density and neighborhoods. ○ A lot of topics got brought up about equity and a lot of it is on the ground in terms of density or school related or community supported efforts to engage and reach more. Black, Indigenous, and People Of Color and LGBTQ+, and behavioral health populations are a priority for the program. • Is there enough good data specific to Black, Indigenous, and People Of Color

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			<p>community, LGBTQ+ community, and disability community in terms of health impacts of tobacco and is that part of the work? There is information on prevalence and quit attempts for those populations that we get from our partners in Health Surveillance. When it comes to community-based disparities project, in particular Windham County, we have the YBRS reports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kheya sits on the Health Equity Advisory Committee, so she is probably the most direct way from the SMPC to get information back to them and for general information purposes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The term “BIPOC” is starting to fall out of disuse due to confusion around the term. It is preferred for people to say Black, Indigenous and People of Color, rather than the acronym. • How old is the health disparities plan? Melanie thinks it was pre-COVID. There was a specific health disparities plan and Melanie will do some research and follow up by email
Overview of \$3 million Prevention Funding	Public Consulting Group (PCG)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/VDH-SMPC-July-2022-Meeting-Materials.pdf <p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the funding comes from the Federal Government for prevention. Are we getting a huge infusion of state money? This is related to the \$3M we are getting each year until the Cannabis sales revenue becomes available. Are there going to be the same reporting requirements that the Feds have? It looks and feels and sounds as if it is state funding so there is no federal funding in that \$3M
Public Comment	Nicole Rau Mitiguy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cindy Seivwright • Rhonda Williams

Next Steps or Assigned Tasks		
Task	Responsible	Due Date
Complete the July Meeting Evaluation	SMPC	8/5/2022

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Send PCG Stakeholder meeting times	Nicole Rau Mitiguy	7/27/2022
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Minutes approved August 22, 2022.