

**Attachment C: Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF)  
Vermont Advisory Council Meeting Agenda and  
Summary/Minutes**

**AGENDA**

**December 7, 2006 9:30-3:30 P.M.  
Capital Plaza, Montpelier**

**Goal:** To provide input and recommendations to inform the development of the SPF Plan

**Objectives**

1. Provide input on resources and capacity for carrying out a comprehensive plan
2. Analyze approaches for allocating resources to address specific prevention priorities

**Welcome** – Lori Uerz

**Overview of Process** - JoEllen Tarallo-Falk, Center for Health and Learning, Facilitator

**SPF Priorities and Measures** - Barbara Cimaglio, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Alcohol & Drug Abuse Programs

**Funding Strategy Goals and Criteria** - Dr. Robert Flewelling, PIRE, Evaluator

**Funding Strategy Simulation** - JoEllen Tarallo-Falk

**Funding Strategy Criteria** - Kelly Hale Lamonda, Chair, Epidemiology Work Group

**Funding Options** - Lori Tatsapaugh Uerz, Strategic Prevention Framework Coordinator

**Underage Drinking Task Force Update** - Jim Bellino, Prevention Coordinator

**Work Groups:**

- Resource Allocation/Funding
- School Age Youth and Families
- 18-25 Year Olds
- Communications/Public Information

**Work Group Reports**

**Wrap-up and Next Steps** – Marcia LaPlante, SPF Manager

**Evaluation**

## **Summary/ Minutes of Workgroups**

### **Resource Allocation – Input on Key Funding Issues**

Small groups were asked to suggest what percentage of funds should be allocated to communities that demonstrated different levels of need and capacity in order to achieve the SPF outcomes and build infrastructure for prevention in Vermont. There was a fair amount of agreement that the bulk of funds (i.e., between 20-70%) should be distributed between communities with high need/high capacity and high need/low capacity. Four groups suggested that a small percentage of funds (i.e., 10-20%) be distributed to communities with low need/high capacity.

When asked whether Vermont should establish a competitive, invitational or a combination process *for allocating funds to achieve SPF outcomes* three groups suggested a competitive process targeting high needs (one group suggested a tiered system: beginners/intermediate, advanced). Four groups suggested a combination process.

When asked whether Vermont should establish a competitive, invitational or a combination process *for allocating funds to achieve infrastructure development* five groups suggested a combination process, one group suggested invitational and one group preferred a competitive process.

Groups had more divergent thinking on whether communities should self-select to apply or whether application should be based on geographic or other agreed upon boundaries. Two groups suggested self-selection, one group suggested geographic boundaries be used, and three groups recommended a combination process.

### **School-Age Youth Work Group**

The work group identified critical gaps that need addressing in order to reduce underage drinking. These include:

- Transition to college/adulthood to high school
- System of adolescent prevention, early identification and treatment services (funding and qualified people)
- Parental education (communication between parent-child/problem identification/impact of parental substance abuse)
- Opportunities for positive youth development
- Community awareness of norms and impact of prevention and intervention
- Too much responsibility on schools to intervene, prevent, follow up—need stronger collaboration between school, business and community

The work group suggested partnerships be strengthened between community coalitions, the business community, medical practitioners, law enforcement, athletic coaches and family-serving organizations (Teen Centers, Recreation Departments, Religious organizations, Recovery Centers, housing projects, etc.).

The work group suggested that existing systems could strengthen efforts to address underage drinking among school-age youth by:

- Continuing the work established to support Act 51
- Department of Education work more closely with nurses, counselors and administrators
- Create a venue for existing coalitions to share best practices—e.g. Chittenden South Coalition
- Encouraging schools to develop partnerships with community organizations and develop more after-school and weekend programming.

### **18-25 Year Olds Work Group**

The work group identified systems, networks and resources that have the most contact with and/or reach this age group, resources that currently exist to address the priorities and gaps in resources. The work group agreed that there is a need for more information about the 18-25 year olds and that grantees should use the recommendations from the Underage Drinking Task Force. The group suggested that partnerships should be strengthened with: schools to better prepare students for the transition from high school to adulthood, colleges, Corrections, the medical community, food, media and music industries, and youth advocacy groups. When asked if, given limited funding, the SPF should prioritize college or non-college youth as a target audience the group agreed that targeting both groups is important. The group stressed the importance of engaging representatives from the target groups in discussion and decision-making.

### **Media/Communications Work Group**

The group agreed that media needs to be viewed as something that goes beyond a pamphlet, flyer, print ad or PSA to include non-traditional methods such as interactive media like e-mail and the internet, the arts, guerilla/grassroots activities, word-of-mouth, etc. All marketing must be clear and consistent, be a comprehensive mix of media and it must be relevant for the audience. The first step is cultural competency training – to create better understanding about the lives and needs of the audiences and goes beyond race or ethnicity. This should also include training to help adults work with youth. The group felt that it is important to include adults in the target because of the influence they have on the lives of youth, modeling behaviors, and in setting community social norms.

The group reviewed the New Directions media capacity survey and discussed the PC feedback about media in their regions. Overall the group agreed that the media was not reaching the right people enough times and in enough ways, and that the messages were inconsistent.

### **Evaluation of Meeting**

Approximately 50 people attended the meeting representing a broad range of interests: state agencies, human services, education, medicine, law enforcement, Institutions of Higher Education, arts, and the prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery fields, etc. Twenty-four participants provided meeting evaluation feedback. People rated the meeting on a scale of 1-5 (1=Poor and 5=Excellent). The average score was 4.0 for organization of meeting, information provided, value of activities, rapport established among participants, relevance of discussion to work/role and value of discussion at sub-group levels. Comments included that people liked the progression of activities and the information on the SPF was the best to date. Participants learned about Vermont data and the complexity of issues related to resource allocation. People value keeping this an open process, and recommended DOH provide updates on the process and continue planning with input from key players.