

Vermont Alcohol and Drug Abuse Advisory Council
Chapel Conference Room, Waterbury, VT
Minutes of Wednesday, April 27

Attending: David O'Brien, Steve Waldo, John Flanagan, Debby Haskins, Pat Martin, Andy Snyder, Sarah Scrodin, Christine Peterson, Trudee Ettlinger, Jackie Corbally, Joy Mitchell, Mark Ames

Regrets: Mitch Barron, Barbara Cimaglio, Sarah Scrodin

1. Minutes

Minutes of March meeting were approved.

2. Update from ADAP

Jackie Corbally was there as the ADAP representative. First, she passed on a Prevention update from Marcia LaPlante. The applications for the Community Prevention Grants are being reviewed. ADAP received 27 applications requesting \$900,000. The amount of funds available is \$400,000. Healthy Retailer trainings are happening this week and next week. Jackie reported that the Lamoille Public Inebriate program that is being paid for by a Challenge for Change grant should be soon. They are working on MOUs with the Stowe, Hardwick, State Police and Johnson State College. . It will have four beds. Jackie and Tony Folland toured the facility which is located next to Copley Hospital. ADAP is going forward with SAP grants at 50% funding. Debby pointed out that the amount approved by the House and Senate is actually 42%. She wants to make that clear so that the legislature doesn't misunderstand what they are funding. The current level of funding would reduce the number of SAP positions from 92 to 38. ADAP will add evidence based tools in the grant for Prevention, Treatment and Recovery so SAPs can measure outcomes to satisfy the legislatures request for outcomes and keep the confidentiality of the program. . The RFP will ask for a Supervisory Union for a match, either financial or in kind. The RFP should be out within the month. ADAP realizes that the timing presents a challenge as many counselors have found other jobs and school budgets are already complete. Debby feels that it is positive that the position is going back to Supervisory Unions. She also said that the SAP program got a lot of support and testimony from principals, school staff, parents and kids

Jackie spoke about the recent closing of the Synergy. ADAP is involved with regulating methadone but not Buprenorphine .Following the closing of Synergy which left 170 people without services ADAP was asked to develop Emergency rules for physicians prescribing buprenorphine. Physicians who prescribe to more than 30 clients will be required to have oversight, an emergency plan and provide counseling for clients. Currently Vermont has 137 prescribing physicians. The maximum number a physician can serve is 100. Jackie said that some physicians will leave the program when the rules go into place but others will come in because the guidance will make them feel more comfortable. Mark pointed out that there are many people using recovery centers that are on waiting lists for bupe and obtain it illegally.

Governor Shumlin and Susan Bartlett are calling a meeting about substance abuse on May 2nd. Not all organizations have been asked to attend but Jackie and Mark Ames said that this is being considered a first step by the Administration and others will be brought on as discussions continue. Barbara will report on this to the Council at the next meeting.

Finally, Dick Keane is leaving ADAP for another position. ADAP anticipates that they will get approval to hire for his position.

2. Letter to Administration in support of SAPs

At our March meeting, it was agreed that David and Mitch would draft a letter to the Administration expressing the Council's support for the SAP program. David presented a draft at the meeting and it will be circulated for feedback. The Council agreed that despite the recent restoration of funding we should still send the letter.

3. Marijuana Dispensary Bill

The Council talked about S.17 which recently passed the Senate. This bill would authorize the operation of four medical marijuana dispensaries which would serve Vermonters with a diagnosis of six months of chronic pain. Currently there are 344 Vermonters on the medical marijuana registry. If this bill is passed, the Council anticipates that many more people will be added. Debby feels the Council should be vocal on this issue. She will distribute some data from Drug Courts that shows potential issues with dispensaries. Senators Brock, Illuzzi, Mazza, Nitka voted no on this bill. The Department of Public Safety will be responsible for the oversight of dispensaries. David said that marijuana was mentioned in the report to the transition team. Jackie mentioned that Tony Folland is going to a federal conference on marijuana. David asked if Jackie could invite Tony to the May meeting to talk about it.

Decriminalization will not be taken up this year

4. Constituency Updates.

Andy gave an update on education funding at the federal level. The reauthorization for o Child Left Behind is past due. Safe School issues are part of that. A bill is expected to be introduced in the next week for 1 billion for the Safe and Healthy Student Act. It changes this funding to a competitive process rather than a formulaic one. It would support physical education, prevention of bullying and promotion of mental health and development of social and emotional skills. The competitive process is of concern because it would give an edge to urban areas. Commissioner Armando Vilaseca will be attending a meeting in Montana with other rural states to discuss how to ensure rural states receive needed services. Steve pointed out that binge rates are highest in rural states.

John Flanagan provided some information from the Dept of Public Safety. The Department has added 2 Drug Recognition Experts to Lamoille and Franklin County. They hope to add 10 within the year. The Governors Highway Safety Program is sponsoring training. He restated some information that was shared last month, which is that Vermont is rated 2nd in the nation in drugged driving. We do not have the equipment in state to test for substances except alcohol so we must outsource to test for other substances. The DUI Inferred System will be moved from the Dept of Health to the new Department of Public Safety forensic labs. John talked about some legal substances that we may be hearing about such as Salvia "K2", "Spice" and "Bath Salts" These are becoming more popular with youth. DPS would like these substances to be added to the regulated drug rule which would make them illegal to purchase. Jackie said that there is a misconception that K2 is "synthetic marijuana" but it is 5 times more powerful and affects the body differently. At the moment, we don't have the capacity to test for these substances but officers are being trained to look for signs. The Dept of Public Safety held a mini DITEP training for driving instructors.

Steve reported that Attorney Generals in 15 states sent a letter to the Pabst brewing expressing concern over a new product called Blast which is a 12% alcoholic beverage sold in a 23 oz can. Four Loko is back on shelves, according to the manufacturer caffeine has been taken out.

Chauncey reported on the status of Interlock. There are 7 participants in the pilot and 2 expected to come on board. The program is expected to be made available to the public by July 1. There is some concern about recidivism. The current policy kicks someone out of the program after one refusal. The Dept of Motor Vehicles is going to recommend broadening the refusal policy and adding a \$125 fee. It's still not clear who in the DMV will monitor the devices and all the data that is generated.

The next meeting is May 25 at the DLC.