

Vermont Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Advisory Council

Department of Liquor Control
13 Green Mountain Drive
Montpelier, Vermont
Wednesday, October 28, 2015
10:00AM – 12:00PM

I. Welcome and introductions:

Welcome:

Welcome everyone

Introductions

Mitch Barron
Matthew Amadon
Erin Devost
Jen Fisher
Mark Ames
Scott Davidson
Mark Weikert
Willa Farrell
Anne Van Donsel
Bob Uerz
Barbara Cimaglio
Marcia LaPlante

Regrets

Chauncey Liese
John Gramuglia
Melanie Gaiotti
Bob Uerz
Patrick Martin
Cindy Thomas
Lori Augustyniak
Mark Ames
Willa Farrell
Todd Bauman
Mark Depman
Jennifer Wall-Howard
Rita Johnson
Michael Hogan
Amanda Fulmer

Marcus Hass
Greg Nagurney
Matthew Birmingham
Peter Espenshade
~~Rebecca Fenn~~

I. **Approval of the Minutes:** Minutes reviewed from July 22, 2015. Minutes approved with no corrections/edits/additions.

II. **Secretary Hal Cohen**

Mitch Barron introduced Secretary Hal Cohen to the council. Mitch provided an overview of the Vermont Alcohol and Drug Advisory Council (VADAAC). The Council's main focus is to represent the full system of care in substance abuse. VADAAC is identified as significant and historical for spreading awareness to each sector in the full system of care (prevention & education, treatment & intervention, recovery & resiliency, and law enforcement and justice).

Secretary Cohen shared his background in the field of substance abuse. He discussed the importance of the different sectors in the council and the importance of integrating each program area to be effective in addressing Vermont's drug epidemic. He is not sure the community fully understands the seriousness of the issue or what it takes to address it. The state of Vermont has come so far but has more to go to. The Agency of Human Services is focusing on efforts to expand the treatment capacities but also working to prevent substance abuse. He is pleased that the Regional Prevention Partnership grant will provide more prevention services. He expresses the need all the departments throughout the state need to be working closer together on addressing substance abuse problems. Some of the strategies he specifically noted were::

1. Measurement and outcomes of treatment and recovery
2. Increase access to substance abuse, (prevention, treatment recovery, etc)
3. Addressing the rising number of Children in DCF custody as the result of the family's substance abuse issues
4. Adding Vivitrol (drug used injection to opiate treatment) 30-day treatment and hoping to reduce waitlists
5. Counseling services to be increased

Hal will be working with AHS on the strategic plan to sharpen the focus on substance abuse and will be working with the Governor's Office to complete the process of making new appointments to VADAAC

Discussion with Secretary Cohen:

Willa Farrell: Is currently working at the Attorney General's office and court diversion on following an SBIRT type model program and recently applied for funding through the Reclaiming Futures program. They are looking to expand on meeting the needs of others and to nurture those going through treatment and recovery.

Jennifer Fisher: Department of Liquor wondering where they stand in VADAAC. They are the first in line in terms of alcohol and licensees in the state that require training. Want to provide help to all sectors. Barbara expresses her appreciation for their role but also the importance of new appointees who are involved in the community over individuals from an agency. The council would like the Department of Liquor to continue serving in the council. Mark Weikert noted the loss of Steve Waldo who has retired from DLC with his positive impact on the schools. He wishes someone would be able to replace him.

Scott Davidson: The Governor's Highway and Safety program is working to reduce and prevent with DUI offenders from getting multiple DUIs. The program is based off a reward system when following the DUI program. The idea is to put them on the path to recovery at little to no cost. The program is in Windsor county for now and hoping for expansion in the program throughout the state. Next step may be to expand to Washington County. Hal Cohen noted that people of low socio-economic status AHS is looking into strategies for a payment plan based on what one can afford monthly. Willa Farrell As the Attorney General's Office is involved in this effort, Willa Farrell will invite representation from ADAP's Project CRASH to be involved in the planning.

Highway Safety has concerns that the state isn't ready for marijuana legalization.

Hal Cohen: Hal went to Colorado recently. He related Dr. Chen's concerns about the possible impact of legalization on health.

Jennifer Fisher: Noted that the licensing, enforcement if legal. The other issue is labeling and the name brands that are a great impact on using marijuana or alcohol. Especially the popularity of edibles and managing the serving sizes for both substances.

Mark Ames: Marijuana is much stronger than how it was back in the 1960s. Memory loss is a huge impact on marijuana. He expresses the need of warning labels and how marijuana impacts in decision making. The drug has a high abuse rate.

Highway safety new campaign focuses on driving under the influence of drugs. It is important to inform and educate the public about the impacts of marijuana. From a traffic safety enforcement perspective the state is not ready for legalization.

ADAP Report Out

Highlights:

Member Updates/Announcements

Anne VanDonsel presented a review of performance and outcome measures for Alcohol & Drug Abuse Programs.

Please see attached PowerPoint: *ADAP Performance Measures and VDH Dashboard 102815.pptx*

Prevention & Education:

Marcia LaPlante: Wanted to give a shout out to the Department of Liquor Control and PreventionWorksVT for their organizing Prevention Day. The focus of the day was for adults and youth working together on preventing substance abuse. A very interactive, engaging and positive day.

Mark Weikert: Announced a few days ago, southern Vermont encountered the largest drug bust in Vermont history. Since then, the community faces concerns with drugs in the community and it's going to be an interesting in terms of what actions will be taken. Three school break-ins have also occurred over the past month.

Bob Uerz: Donna McAllister is retiring. Next step is not determined about her position. Bob will continue to serve council.

Treatment:

Recovery and Resiliency:

Mark Ames: Went to Rally for Recovery in Washington DC. Raised awareness of recovery and overcoming addiction. Large presence and support from national and music icons.

Jennifer: Steve Waldo is now retired. Jennifer will be stepping in. Melanie and Jennifer have big shoes to fill in terms of next steps. Department of Liquor is trying to figure out where they stand in the council and what they can do to continue participating. Mitch suggested bringing the question to Hal Cohen to figure out the position that can play in the council.

Event Reminders and Links:

***Save the Date:**

11/4/15 – VAMHAR Annual Meeting; focus on substance abuse and the elderly, Capital Plaza, Montpelier, VT

Link to Trello website:

www.trello.com

Link to Opiate Dashboard:

<http://www.healthvermont.gov/adap/dashboard/opioids.aspx>

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