

# Vermont Alcohol and Drug Abuse Advisory Council

DLC, Montpelier, VT

Minutes of Wednesday March 23

Attending: David O'Brien, Joy Mitchell, Patrick Martin, Chauncey Liese, Sarah Scrodin, Christine Peterson, Andy Snyder, Barbara Cimaglio, Mitch Barron, Mark Ames, Steve Waldo, John Flannigan, Lisa Ann Atwood

Regrets: Willa Farrell, Trudee Ettlinger, Debby Haskins Mike Hogan

Guests: John Searles

## 1. Minutes

Minutes from February were approved as written.

## 2. Update from ADAP

Barbara reported that the House has voted on a budget proposal that contains some changes from the Governor's budget. The budget proposal restores 25% to the SAP funds and 50% to the Mental Health cuts. Until the budget is finalized there will be no new RFPs for SAPs. If the restoration is included in the final budget, ADAP will fund as many schools as they can for a SAP two days per week. One condition the legislature has placed on restoring the funds is that ADAP must create performance measures and outcomes to ensure the funds are going to effective programs. Lisa mentioned that schools are in a tough position in planning for that position in the coming year. Harwood is proceeding as if there are no State funds for the position. Sarah said that her school had to let their SAP go. Several people mentioned that some SAPs have already moved on because of concern for job security. David reported that he heard mixed reports on SAPs at Recovery Day; most are doing a great job but a few are not. Barbara said that creating performance measures will help identify those who are not effective.

Barbara spoke about federal funding. The SPF funding is ending in June which puts pressure on coalitions. Some coalitions have applied for 5 year Drug Free Communities funding from SAMHSA. A few coalitions are reaching the end of their ten year cycle of that grant including Deerfield Valley, Cabot and Chittenden South. ADAP and Fit and Healthy have released a joint RFP for coalitions that have received SPF, New Directions and CHAMPPS funds. The purpose is to give some support to current strategies and work towards integration. Tobacco will be folded in in 2013. The President's budget would cut the Prevention Block Grants by 20% and alter the structure to target high risk populations. There are less dollars available for Prevention. ADAP is working with other agencies to get the most impact of the money we do receive. There is a significant effort among agencies to deliver services more effectively and efficiently. ADAP is working with Dept of Ed, Mental Health, Dept of Aging and Childen and Families.

There will be 300,000 dedicated to opiate treatment to reduce the waiting list in Chittenden County.

## 3. VT Epidemiological Report

John Searles joined us to discuss the most recent Vermont Epidemiological Data. Below is a link to the Executive Summary.

<http://healthvermont.gov/adap/clearinghouse/documents/VTEpiProfileES2011.pdf>

The data shows that the overall population prevalence rate of Rx drug misuse in VT has been steady or dropping over time, however Barbara and David pointed out that among the treatment population, it is a significant problem.

John also spoke about a new report by Hawkins and Catalano. Below is his summary on that research.  
**A report from a 25-year prospective study of the Social Development Research Group was**

published in the March, 2011 issue of the Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs. This study examined the relationship between drinking before age 21 and later development of alcohol-related disorders. Results suggested that any regular drinking under the age of 21 led to a significant increase in adult alcohol disorders and that no single developmental period beyond age 11 was more predictive of adult problem than another (11-14, 15-17, 18-20). Drinking before age 11 was highly predictive of alcohol disorders in adults to age 33.

Here is what the authors say about their results and implication for prevention (note the increased effect of marijuana):

**"The finding that the onset of alcohol use before age 11 predicted greater chronicity of adult alcohol dependence than did alcohol use onset during ages 11-14 suggests the importance of delaying the onset of alcohol use through prevention efforts in the elementary grades. In addition, the finding that the onset of regular drinking at any time before age 21 was predictive of later alcohol dependence suggests that prevention efforts should focus especially on preventing the onset of regular drinking before age 21. It is noteworthy that the odds and rate of alcohol misuse and dependence problems were increased for those participants who reported more frequent marijuana use during adolescence. Thus, prevention efforts should focus on shared risk factors for adolescent drinking and the use of other drugs."**

Barbara mentioned data on heavy alcohol use by our 18-25 yr old population. Colleges are joining the Dept. of Health as partners because they contribute to public inebriate costs. Barbara said that this age group is challenging to reach. Steve said that the alcohol industry has figured out how to connect to them and we should learn from their approach.

Mark asked if there was a correlation between accidental death and alcohol use. John replied that there is no correlation in the national data. In Vermont the only data he gets on that is from the medical examiner and that number is too small to be statistically significant.

Sarah mentioned that she is grateful that the YRBS now includes seventh graders. Mitch asked if educational facilities like Woodside are included in the YRBS data. Barbara replied that the YRBS is geared toward the general school population. Ericka Edwards will present on YRBS data when the latest data is released (fall 2011).

Patty asked if the data from Science in the Public Interest has been updated. John said he was not aware of an update.

Barbara reported that screening is included in the Blueprint for Health. Behavioral Health, mental health and substance abuse all have a place in the Blueprint. Vermont is far ahead of other states in that respect.

John closed by saying that all research he sees supports keeping the minimum legal drinking age at 21.

#### **4. Constituency Updates**

Andy gave an update on education funding. He is meeting with the Secretary of Education, Arnie Duncan. There is discussion at the federal level to set aside some grant funding for educations for rural states to compete for rather than a state like Vermont competing with major metropolitan areas for funds. Another option is allocating money to states and ask the Supervisory Unions in the state to compete for funds against one another. Congress has not started working on the 2012 budget yet, they are still trying to decide

on a 2011 budget. The Blueprint for Reform is moving slowly. Substance use will fall under the umbrella of school climate which includes things like physical activity and bullying.

John Flannigan reported that VT is ranked #2 in incidents of drugged driving. There is a bill in the Senate about driving under the influence of drugs S.75 which is different from the bill that imposes stiffer penalties for DUI H.264 (Nick's Law) . The Nick's Law bill has just passed the house and is in the Senate

## **5. Next steps**

The group reached consensus on contacting the Governor's office regarding eliminating the SAP program.

David and Mitch will craft a letter to send to Governor Shumlin.

David will invite Governor Shumlin to the June or July meeting.

The next meeting is April 27 at the DLC.