

Vermont Alcohol and Drug Abuse Advisory Council

Department of Liquor Control, 13 Green Mountain Drive
Montpelier, Vermont
Wednesday September 28, 2011

Attended: Joy Mitchell, Trudee Etlinger, Sarah Scrodin, Barbara Cimaglio, Patty McCarthy, Andy Snyder, Mark Ames, Marcia LaPlante, Patrick Martin, Willa Farrell, Steve Waldo

Regrets: David O'Brien

I. Welcome and Introduction

Patty McCarthy chaired the meeting; David O'Brien was out of town.

II. Approval of the Minutes for July 27, 2011

Meeting Minutes Approved.

ACTION ITEM: Alexis Leibowitz will send out updated meeting minutes from the July 27 meeting.

III. Deputy Commissioner's Report: Barbara Cimaglio

Program Updates

Due to Hurricane Irene most people are working to cope with the situation and adjusting to the changes that are occurring. There is no new information about the budgeting process for next year. Instructions should be coming shortly for the budget. The federal budget level SAMSHA and the Block grant should remain stable. There are still a few more steps to go through before the budget is final. Drug Court funding was maintained but some of justice funding for specific projects has changed. We should not see any significant reductions in the substance abuse budget. Some funding for CDC may be reduced. The State has been funded for Community Transformation Grant from the CDC, which focuses on tobacco control, nutrition and healthy living supporting the community based system.

The Stakeholder group came together to discuss the Student Assistance Program (SAP). Included in the meeting were representatives of the Principals' and Superintendents' Associations, local schools, Department of Health, Mental Health, Department of Education, and SAP. The information will be summarized and used to develop a proposal for the legislature for SAP funding. The joint fiscal committee will be meeting in November. Legislature wants to make the school program more integrated.

ACTION ITEM: Barbara Cimaglio will send out information regarding the budget.

Strategic Prevention Enhancement Grant – Need for an Advisory Council

Marcia LaPlante spoke about the Strategic Prevention Enhancement Grant, which is an extension of the Strategic Prevention Framework Grant. This grant will be considered as

a one-year grant. The focus is to enhance the states prevention system in order to carry out the SAMSHA's number one initiative, Prevention. This grant will be used as an opportunity to apply the strategic prevention framework in order to get to a leaner prevention infrastructure. It supports strategic planning, data analysis in the area of behavioral health, and coordination. One intended result is to show that all departments working toward prevention are communicating and working together to create the best possible result. The grant requires ADAP to work and create a web based data collection system for prevention grantees. Currently, most other states already have this. The Council was asked to serve as an advisor in the planning process. One benefit to the Council is that the plan could support the Council's work with the Governor and Secretary. ADAP will be contracting out for assistance for the strategic planning. The Council would help strengthen the approach and help ADAP deal with the new challenges. A strategic plan will need to be completed by July 2012 and will be a fairly quick process. The majority of the Council agreed that they would like to see a sub-committee to be the advisory council for the Strategic Prevention Enhancement Grant. The Council would like to have all information about the grant prior to any meetings so that time can be used as efficiently as possible. ADAP would like to do the best job possible with a community wide environmental approach and be targeted towards the need and focus on the high risk populations.

ACTION ITEM: Invite Mental Health to participate in a conversation about the Strategic Prevention Enhancement Grant. Send all information about the Strategic Prevention Enhancement Grant to the entire Council. ADAP will provide more detailed information to the Council about the planning process and the time required prior to the next Council meeting.

IV. New Business

Governor's Visit Now Projected for Nov/Dev Meeting

The Governor's visit is set for December 7. It was recommended that Council members review the letter for the transition team for the next meeting.

ACTION ITEM: David O'Brien will send a letter about the Governors Transition Team to all Council members.

Update on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) and Related Issues – Trudee Ettliger

Trudee Etliger reported that information is continuing to grow day by day. The supporting information is indicating that alcohol consumption during pregnancy negatively affects the fetus. The newest research shows that excessive alcohol affects the germ level and results in genetic changes in the germ cells. Pharmacies are trying to find a drug to give to mothers that will prevent damage to the fetus; this research is still in the very early stages. The PRAMS Database gives information on substance abuse among pregnant women. Vermont has the highest rate of drinking during the 3 months prior to pregnancy and during the last trimester. Vermont needs to get signage regarding the risks of drinking during pregnancy. Vermont is one of the only states that does not have signage on drinking and pregnancy and creating awareness. It was suggested to create a committee on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. Some of this may become part of the Strategic

Prevention Enhancement Grant. The Council should work with people who are already dealing with this population and have conversations about how to create awareness. The awareness would need to be created for individuals already suffering from FAS and should be added to the discussion with the Governor.

ACTION ITEM: Trudee Etlinger will bring signs for data. Invite Breena Holmes and Susan Wehry to attend a future meeting.

Drugged Driving issue Revisited – John Flanagan

Not discussed, will remain on the agenda for the next meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Tom Salmon was suggested as a future guest to talk about the drinking and driving laws.

Legislative Study on Marijuana Dispensaries – John Flanagan

Not discussed.

October Meeting Prep: Look at Our Letter to Transition Team

Not discussed.

V. Old Business

Secretary Racine’s Invitation to Council: Recommendations/ Ideas

Not discussed.

Training Physicians on Substance Abuse – What can the Council do?

How does this fit into strategic prevention enhancement grant? There is a prescription drug work group that is working on a plan to create awareness for physicians.

Prescription Drug Abuse issues and physicians need to be trained on the topic. There is a lot of effort going into how to work with physicians on this issue. Doctors do not want to deny pain medication for people who are in pain. The Council would like to have someone speak about the requirements for physicians.

Getting a Physician on the Council

The Council has started to think about having a physician on the Council and who could be considered: Phil Brown, or someone from Central Vermont Substance Abuse Services.

VI. Future Guests

Blueprint for Health – Director Craig Jones

Not discussed.

Brian Remer, U Matter

Not discussed.

VII. Member Reports/ Announcements

There are several vacancies on the Council.

Steve Waldo

The Department of Liquor Control is working on the Stop Teen Alcohol Risk Team (START). There will be another regional training in order to get additional trainings on alcohol laws for police officers. There are also conversations taking place across New England region about increasing the taxes on alcohol.

Andy Snyder

Department of Education (DOE) is working with Department of Children and Family Services (DCF) to put a grant together with the Federal Department of Education called Race to the Top an early education challenge. The DOE also received a 3 year grant for a half million for at risk kids.

Mark Ames

September was The National Recovery month.

Marcia LaPlante

There are 2 trainings planned for VDH community-based prevention grantees in FY12. The focus will be training across alcohol, tobacco, obesity prevention.

Patrick Martin

The 10th anniversary of Wits End is starting.

Trudee Ettliger

The transitions of the men and women's facilities were successful.

Joy Mitchell

Had an exhibit at the Social Workers Conference, its focus was on families and gambling and the effects.

Sarah Scrodin

Elementary school looking at 21st century grants

ACTION ITEM: Barbara Cimaglio will send out a list of open positions on the Council when the meeting minutes go out.