

## VDAC Meeting

December 3, 2008

12:35 started

Those present: Patty McCarthy, Patrick Martin, Mike Hogan (Comm., DLC), Marcia Lawrence, David O'Brian, Ryan Simpson, Mark Ames, Joan Lenex, Joy Mitchell, Dick Powell, El'Anya Nightingale, Brigid Sullivan, Robin Riske, Mary Fletcher, Ethan Dezotelle, Harley Patterson, Tiffany Cassidy, Rosemary Rifenburgh, Carol Rose.

### Special Meeting:

Robin Riske, Prevention Consultant, Brattleboro - is presenting.

Three key points-

1) Department of liquor control called for a response to the Alcopop issue.

-could treat it as an environmental strategy or a legislative issue

2) Issue with the use of adolescence and Alcopops increase.

Targeted to young women

Alcohol energy drinks are-

a) possibly fatal

b) there's the disallowance of natural body reaction,

3) Transition drink- easier to consume!

- it's more of a distilled beverage, not beer!

-Needs proper classification

- it's about health and well being for young people

Coalition's Strategies Could be:

a) make it not available at mom and pop stores

b) taxed appropriately

Marin institute letter – 183 responses.

Marin offering technical support, along with Join Together, to help tackle this issue.

(RR passed out paper on alcopops)

Commissioner Hogan: Talked about his opinion on this issue. In Vermont it is a tax it as a malt beverage.

People will have strong opinions about this issue. There will be a big debate when it comes down to it.

Can't guess at the outcome – if taxed differently it could mean money for a Vermont.

RR- we have citizen legislature he wrote in Vermont, and with that we could make a difference, they will be looking for revenue sources.

How can VDAC be most effective?

We can-

-approach the issue from a life trauma point of view; i.e.: young people suffering

- educate the public

-public hearings (DLC)

-real push coming from collations

- go through the process with the legislature; find out which committees hold the most pull

\*\*Willa Farrell is checking to see if there is a correlation between corrections and this Alcopop issue

We need talking points, sound bytes to referred to

(Alcopop reclassification sheet sent around)

LCC- using Alcopops as a compliance test

There is data to support that taxing and reclassification is working

**Regular Mtg:**

Approval of minutes;

David O'Brian motions to accept minutes; Ryan Simpson seconds; unanimous vote

Treasurer's report:

-\$2,400.60 in the treasury from dues \*\*see treasurer's report

Membership updates: 2 new memberships

Pat Martin's election as Co-Vice Chair:

Does pat accept position? Yes Brigid Sullivan nominates; Rose Carol seconds; unanimous vote

Membership:

Expanding e-mail list- get word out!

- inviting new members

- (Patty) give coalition list to Buffy

On VDAC web site – legislative updates

-Buffy- send the e-mail out about updates to “click on web site” – send out with listserv; then sent to Dawn for CAPT listserv

SAP's SAD advisers on list? NO

Have we done a press release? NO- Ethan will help with that

- Enosburg high school students will help – several losses in the last two years

Link to VCPG's website

**NEXT STEPS:** strategic planning; VDAC Activities-

I. What we are/can be doing:

A) legislative day – no space but if we call now we can set it up for 2,010

El'Anya- Call Sergeant-At-Arms right after the first of the year

(We could piggyback on FORVT's advocacy day at the statehouse in March)

B) April – Town Hall Meeting – we can put it on again; 4-6 in the afternoon; speakers; plan in January (we received \$500.00 from SAMSHA last year for this event, can we get it again?)

II.

A) Ken working with coalitions; He has received a grant to educate community coalitions about working on environmental policy issues related to prevention.

B) Coalitions at table

C) some coalitions at legislative breakfasts;

>Need dates, times of legislative breakfasts as they are known; send it to Buffy or

ElAnya

> community (Google) calendar on web site?

> Get independent coalition members to call their legislators!

- after Saturday the legislature will set up their committee structure and we will know before January who's going to be and what committee (Joan will let us know)

- If anyone (Ryan?) would like to write up the steps to setting up a legislative breakfast we can put it out as a VDAC paper!

III.

A) Joan- we need to recruit others; who would be likely to come?

Recruit council members; town, school

> Diane Lanphere, Vergennes

> Tom Koch, a champion of substance abuse already

For January, put out an invite for them to come

**Top 4 VDAC priorities:**

1) Sustainability of PITER-

a) alcohol tax?

b) readily available treatment for current offenders

2) Underage drinking –

a) counter statement: something like:

> “We at VDAC support the MDLA of 21 years “

3) Alcopops-

a) reclassification

b) proper taxation

4) A Broader Point of View -

> “proper classification of all alcohol products”

Draft Tax Paper- Tabled – on Agenda for January

Patty will work with treatment providers to cosponsor this position paper.

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