

Vermont Drug and Alcohol Coalition

Mission Statement: *The Vermont Drug and Alcohol Coalition exists to continually improve access to quality prevention, intervention, treatment, enforcement and recovery services and programs for all Vermonters.*

April 28, 2010 Minutes

Present: David O'Brien, Christine Peterson, Kim Martin, Patty McCarthy, Ken Liberto

Carol Rose and Mark Ames sends regrets

By phone –Kerri MacLaury---- Note--- new call in phone number----(800) 747-5150 code 2296103

Action Steps:

- Christine will check with Mary regarding Franklin County attending a VDAC meeting (carried over)
- Christine will ask Mary about Nick's Law
- Christine will get comprehensive list from Patty
- Christine will ask Virginia Renfrew to join VDAC meeting in August to talk about alcohol tax
- Kim will email 2011 card room date to member list again and put save the date on all future agendas.
- Kim will change retreat day on website and in minutes
- Kim will contact Barbara Postman from Vermont Children's Forum or Kid's Vermont to ask her to come to the June meeting to inform group how to make successful event and how substance abuse issues relate to her world
- Mark will talk to Joey Donovan (carried over from Jan. mtg)

Review and approve minutes from March 2010 meeting: Minutes from last meeting were reviewed. Patty suggested that with Ken leaving his position there may be a gap. Ken is advocating for need for more support for the coalition. Christine motioned to approve and David seconds. Minutes accepted as written.

Treasurer's report: Kim reported that there is \$1532.96 in budget. Kim received \$121.13 for website and legislative tracking work. \$175 paid out for administrative assistance. Patty motions to accept report, David seconds, report accepted.

Membership report: No new members. Discussed planning ahead for July membership dues. Need to do a wider mailing, email letter out June 1st for FY 10/11. Christine will review current letter, add initiatives, awareness day info, legislative updates, guest speakers and send to Kim to send out. Kim will add member organizations on side.

Summer meetings and fall retreat: Kim suggested moving the priority conversation (fall retreat) to September instead of late October. This will enable VDAC to be prepared in January. Our priorities will probably continue to be medical marijuana, underage drinking and the beer tax. Should we resend survey? David suggested looking at last year's survey next month and ask people about priorities and issues. Christine wants to focus on specific bills. Patty suggested we ask people behind Nick's Law to come to a meeting and tell us how they did it. Group decided to look at hard copies of the survey at May meeting, put out new survey in early July to be collected in early September, which will inform us for the September retreat.

Davis will look into whether the VT Alcohol and Drug Abuse Advisory Council will be meeting in July. Kerri can meet in July. We will decide at the next meeting.

Legislative Update from Ken: It has been a difficult session. The good news is that small is beautiful and ADAP being small the legislature is not looking to take money from agency. The budget is still unclear and uncertain but there remains good advocacy in the legislature. Susan Bartlett runs senate budget committee and has been very committed to recovery and treatment funding. She is leaving her post. Governor Douglas is also leaving and he has also been supportive. Budget cuts are proposed in all areas of agency of human services the

challenges for change calls for large reductions on AHS. These changes will likely take about six months to implement. Ken believes there is a dangerous possibility that in September they may find a shortage of funds and may have to cut more. The plan is to develop more recovery programs out of the budget but will be cutting in many areas. The challenges for change can't generate the money needed, uncertain how it will be dealt with. Doug Racine wants to tap into the rainy day funds, but there is not a willingness to use these. More possible that in September governor's office will ask programs/agencies to take a 3% cut. In terms of 5-6 years ago, currently substance abuse advocacy is not as cohesive as it was. Public pressure makes a difference.

Two things can happen in the next 10 days, the legislature will leave knowing that there is a 10-15 million gap in funding. They can either call a special session soon or get together in August and start rescinding/cutting services to make up gap. Mental Health services will have a probable 5% cut. David is concerned and feels that it won't work if we decimate outgoing treatment services; he has a huge waiting list. Recovery centers are seen as a good deal, they have a low budget and a high return. Patty stated that the centers have been level funded. The Challenges for Change want outcomes. According to Ken, Barbara Cigmaglio wants to keep VDAC strong, Ken plans on staying engaged until November 1st, a job search will be beginning late spring.

Prepare for funding discussion with ADAP at May meeting- Next year we will combine forces for Prevention Day and apply for Town Hall Meeting funding from SAMHSA. Patty reviewed proposal to ADAP for funding that was written April 1st. Barbara Cigmaglio is coming in May to talk about financially supporting VDAC. Christine will call Barb before meeting and ask how she feels about the proposal.

Next meeting: May 26th 12:30 - 2:30PM at the Pavilion, Montpelier, 4th floor

June 23rd 12:30 - 2:30PM at DLC

July 21st 12:30 - 2:30PM at DLC

August 25th 12:30 - 2:30PM at DLC

September 22nd 12:30 - 2:30PM at DLC--- FALL RETREAT

October 27th 12:30 - 2:30PM at DLC

November/December -combined meeting TBA

SAVE THE DATE- April 19th, 2011- Awareness Day at the State House

Adjourned 1:50

Respectfully submitted: Kim Martin