

# 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.*

August 25, 2010 Minutes

**Present:** David O'Brien, Christine Peterson, Kim Martin, Ann Gilbert, Pat Martin, Christine Newberry, Guest Kelly Ault from "Kids Are Priority One"

**Note---** new call in phone number----(800) 747-5150 code 2296103

## Action Steps:

- Kim will update membership letterhead on the agendas
- Kim will send a Save the Date email for annual retreat
- Christine will check with Paula Francis regarding facilitation

**Presentation from Kelly Ault:** Kelly works with "Kids Are Priority One", an advocacy group that works on early childhood policy issues. They have six part time staff, and about 700 broad members. Every year they establish a policy agenda and bring members together for work groups. They work from a strategy chart with multiple goals, strategies and tactics. Three events are held consistently every year. During the fall, they have a statehouse open house which is an educational event for parents, and members. Legislators and kids have done skits for parents about, "how to talk to legislators, and how a bill becomes a law". Member registrations are gathered and organization follows up with them.

Traditionally in January, A Walk in My Shoes Storybook Project is implemented that collects stories from families, employers and individuals, bound into a book and presented to legislators. These stories show pattern of need in Vermont. Kids are Priority One weave in policy and ask for what they want to happen.

Early Childhood Day in March attracts an average of 250 people and 70-80 policy makers for lunch at the Capitol Plaza. They use a keynote speaker to talk about a theme.

Kelly feels that there are two things that are influential for legislators, a specific policy ASK and the messenger or constituent that is asking. They offer talking points and specific strategies for presenters.

Their website is kidsarepriorityone.org.

**Review and approve minutes from June, 2010 meeting:** Minutes from last meeting were reviewed. Pat moves to approve and Christine seconds. Minutes accepted as written.

**Treasurer's report:** Kim reported that there is \$1,730.96 in budget, \$270.00 in membership fees were added.

**Membership report:** New members to be added are CY-Connecting Youth, Franklin County Caring Communities, and ASAP Association of Student Assistant Professionals. Kim will update new members on list.

**Discussion:** Group discussed our need to meet about priorities. ADAP is willing to fund one specific event to start, such as an educational event, a Town Hall meeting during alcohol awareness month etc. We have \$5,000 for this. Group decided to move the fall retreat to September in order to have more time to set priorities and plan action steps and strategies. If we need more time we can continue at our October meeting. Christine will ask Paula Francis to facilitate and Kim will send out a "Save the Date" notice.

Lunch will be available at the meeting.

**Next meeting: September 22nd 12:30 - 2:30pm at the Department of Liquor Control, Montpelier - FALL RETREAT**

October 27<sup>th</sup> 12:30 - 2:30PM at DLC

November/December -combined meeting TBA

**SAVE THE DATE- April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011- Awareness Day at the State House**

Adjourned 2:05

Respectfully submitted: Kim Martin