

Vermont Drug and Alcohol Coalition (VDAC) Minutes January 28, 2009

Attendance:

-Approval of December minutes (Motion to accept - Emma Rowe; Motion seconded - Ryan Simpson)

-Treasurers report- Mark Ames- No report.

-Member organizations listed on the agenda so that people can see whether or not their organization is already a member of VDAC.

-Old Business:

Budget cuts; at morning Governor's Meeting, Barbara Cimaglio spoke about the Governor's proposed cuts in FY 10. New cuts would include 4% to all providers, contractors and ADAP grants. ADAP letter to providers, prevention and recovery was distributed to VDAC group..

Discussion; VDAC members can show up at discussions about the budget. No organized hearing yet.

The House and Senate Appropriations committees will hold a joint public hearing on Vermont Interactive Television on Monday, February 9th from 4:30 to 7:00. This "hearing" is designed to give Vermonter's throughout the state an opportunity to express viewpoints, perspectives and recommendations about the state budget for fiscal year 2010. (Good time for coalitions to get involved in their own community through this interactive process)

-New Business:

Alcohol Tax-

- **Beer Tax Petition** from VDAC and the VT Association of Addiction Treatment Programs was distributed (see attached). Coalitions, groups, town meetings, recovery centers are all encouraged to collect signatures and return by mail to Buffy Root, VDAC administrator. Date to be signed and returned? No, we should leave it open ended for now.

-Petition changed slightly; The Vermont Council on Mental Health and Substance Abuse created a letter to the governor in support of the beer tax as a revenue source. We can use the language in that letter to draft our own version and send it around for signatures before it goes to the Governor.

-Question's - Is beer and wine lumped together for the sake of taxation? We can look on the DLC web site (E- Find out)

-Card Room all booked up at the statehouse for 2010 when El'Anya called that AM. We have reserved room 11 though, (El'Anya will get date and time to the membership) next to VDAC e-mail, Patty will attach the letter and ask members to copy, distribute, sign and return.

Small Market Survey; should pose the question in this survey,

"If you knew it would fund substance abuse treatment in Vermont would you be willing to pay .02, .05 or even .10 cents per can of beer?

-UVM students help? E- Call UVM substance abuse department to see if we can get some students to help

-Did someone do this already? Debby will know (E- find out)

-Gail Mears is a resource at Norwich.

-Bill Doyle; see if we can get on his survey (E- call him by Tuesday!)

Can we get the last survey results and get on the next one?

Andy- We could do a Survey Monkey survey and send it out on our listservs- Andy will take the lead on this-

VDAC Weekly Beer Tax Strategy Meeting- Suggest we meet by phone every Tuesday morning at 9:00 AM to work on this the alcohol tax issue.

Call in number: 1-877-278-8686 pin: 123353

George Hacker from the Center for Science in the Public Interest, Might be joining us on the call on Tuesday, February 3, 2009 at 9:00 AM.

Green Up Day idea- When is Green Up day? We could bring all of the beer cans that people collect on Green Up day and line the state house lawn with them to show the amount of beer cans and actually get thrown away.

-We can find out who know store owners, bar owners; talk to them; see where they stand.

Contacting Legislators

Passed out "Key Legislative List" from VAMH and FORVT 2009 Legislative Priorities.

What are prevention field's priorities?

Prevention coalition folks on the call and in person talked about their respective priorities within their coalitions: Alcopops issue, sustaining system of care, marijuana decriminalization, underage drinking. (Can use these tools: postcards, talking points for legislators)

VDAC's 3 main 2009 Legislative Priorities;

- 1) Sustain PITER (Prevention, Intervention, Treatment, Enforcement and Recovery)
- 2) Maintaining the Minimum Legal Drinking Age of 21 years
- 3) Proper (Reclassification) of Flavored Malt Beverages (FMB's) -
Alcopops

Any other issues we need to pay attention to? DUI laws brought up that the governor's council meeting this morning. (E-search out legislation around this)

ALCOPOPS- Ken Libertoff report on status

-February 4, 2009 from 10-12, in Room 11, there will be public hearing at the statehouse on this issue. We are looking for everyday people to tell stories about how Alcopops has affected their lives or families.

This is a chance to raise the issue around teen drinking and to create a common message.

This is also an educational opportunity for legislators because many of them are not aware of this issue-not understood by legislators.

Rep. Diane Lanpher (Addison) is working on drafting a bill sponsoring the language.

Talk to your legislators; set up lunch with them; and then tell them you'll be there next Wednesday and that you want to talk with them.

There will be opportunities for people to speak; anyone who cares about this issue

Next meeting is February 25, 2009 at the Pavilion.

To Do List-

Patty – Email VDAC about weekly calls, and hearings

El'Anyia-

1. Search out legislation around any new DUI law legislation
2. Call Bill Doyle about his survey before Tuesday
3. Call Debby and UVM
4. Get Date and time for 2010 Statehouse day to the membership
5. Find out the Beer/Wine info on the DLC website, get out to the membership

Andy-

1. Survey Monkey- Draft survey, send out to the membership
2. Recorded by: El'Anyia Nightingale
3. edn/1/2009