

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.*

December 1, 2010 Minutes

Present: David O'Brien, Christine Peterson, Kim Martin, Patty McCarthy, Floyd Nease, Ann Gilbert, and Ed Williamson by phone

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

Action Steps:

- Kim will contact Jim Bellino about continuing the weekly bill updates
- Patty will review Elephant in the Living Room report and find current data
- Floyd will call speaker's office and get copy of Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendations on Vermont's tax structure
- Kim will send out six member renewal notices in January
- David will contact Ryan Simpson regarding forum notes
- Christine will redraft concept paper and send it out for feedback
- Kim will look over member list to make sure current

Review and approve minutes from August and September, 2010 meetings: October minutes were reviewed. Kim modified Treasurer's report to reflect correction from \$1,646.39 to \$1,596.39 in budget. David moves to approve minutes with change and Kim seconds. All in favor.

Group looked over action steps. Christine talked about central Vermont's legislative breakfast scheduled for Tuesday, December 14th in Montpelier. Group discusses beer tax and wondered about other states who have recently raised beer taxes and whether they are controlled states? By January we should have a better idea about the tax recommendations from the Blue ribbon committee. VDAC wants beer taxes raised and money dedicated to programs where needed. Vermont currently has a dedicated education and transportation tax. Floyd stated that the Ways and Means Committee will see some member turnover this session and that George Till, an Underhill physician may be a big supporter of raising the beer tax.

Treasurer's report: Kim reported that there is \$1,423.89 in budget. Patty added that Friends of Recovery Vermont will bill VDAC for a year's use of the conference phone.

Membership report: No new membership to report. Kim will send out six renewal notices to the members who renewed last January and ask them to pay their dues (\$25.00) for the next six months.

Updates from Last Month: Kim will ask Jim to continue tracking the bills during upcoming legislative session. Floyd feels that this is very valuable. David will follow up on Ryan's forum document.

Review concept paper: Christine passed out concept paper draft for review. Current VT beer tax is 26.5 cents a gallon. Highest tax in country is in Tennessee at \$1.07/gallon. Vt is ranked the 34th highest tax in the nation (51) and ranked the second highest state with alcohol related health care costs. Ed wondered if raising the beer tax actually deters youth use. Patty will check into current amounts and review Vermont's report titled "Elephant in the Living Room". Group talked about the CASA report, Shoveling Up which talks about impact on state budgets, as well as child welfare, criminal justice systems, property damage etc. Alcohol and drug addiction impacts all areas of the Agency of Human Services. Floyd reminded us that Susan Bartlett is also a supporter of strengthening treatment and recovery. Group agreed to get the data out there, and keep it simple, a one page document with contact information on back side. We reviewed the paper, suggested edits, additions and changes

and Christine volunteered to redraft paper, send it out to members for feedback and then to Patty to reformat it. Our target date is the first week of January to put in legislator's mailbox by the second week.

Action plan for legislative session: Group will start with the concept paper and follow with a second letter asking members and organizations to sign their name to support VDAC's three priorities at coalition meetings, events etc. We will make it an ask and follow up with phone calls. This document could have a VT coalition map on the back so legislators can see their local support.

Next meeting we will start planning for Prevention Day, April 19th. Patty suggested addressing a letter to the new governor and asking him to attend our February meeting.

Next meeting: January 27th, 12:30 - 2:30pm at the Pavilion 4th floor conference room, Montpelier (bring ID).

February 24, 2011

March 24

April 19th -Awareness Day at the State House

May 26

June 23

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

Adjourned 2:30

Respectfully submitted: Kim Martin