

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.*

February 23, 2011 Minutes

Present: David O'Brien, Christine Peterson, Kim Martin and Bruce Cunningham (guest)

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

Action Steps:

- Christine will put together a summary sheet (PITER) for our legislative day, April 19th and write the Prevention outcomes
- Kim will ask Patty to write something up for Recovery and ask Debby for Intervention outcomes
- David will do the Treatment piece
- Christine will ask Willa to give us info about Diversion
- Christine will ask Patty about the VDAC banner
- Kim will ask a START member to sign up for a shift in the card room
- Kim will call state house and confirm times for card room

Review and approve minutes from December, 2010 meeting: December minutes were reviewed. David motions to approve minutes as written, Christine seconds. All in favor.

Treasurer's report: Kim reported that there is \$1,320 in budget.

Membership report: Five renewal notices came in since December for half a year's dues. We currently have 19 members with the new membership from Bruce Cunningham that was received today.

Legislative Update: Floyd was unable to join us today.

Tobacco Compliance Check Bill: Bruce Cunningham, an independent advocate from Hinesburg came to talk to us about a house bill that proposes to clarify the actual requirements of the current Act 58 Law (relating to compliance testing of tobacco licensees). He states, "That this will not change the current meaning or intent of the law-it will only clarify its standard relative to *the prohibition on sales to minors* and define a specific mechanism for responding to DLC failure to satisfy the *as frequently and as comprehensively as necessary requirement.*" He is adding language not changing standards. Currently, Vermont has an 88% compliance rate for tobacco and a 90% compliance rate for alcohol. He feels these numbers are high and inaccurate. He is looking for coalition members to testify on this bill and he will keep us informed on where it is and when people can testify. It is scheduled to go to General Affairs. He can be reached at (802) 482-2933 or bcunning@gmavt.net.

Legislative Day Questions

- **What information should be there?**
- **Who should be in the card room? Can we divide it into shifts so that organizations from each sector can have a chance to be there?**

Group discussed legislative day plans. Christine sent out a signup sheet for one hour shifts in the card room. We will be able to hand out information but we will not have display boards or other bigger items at the table. VDAC will bring a banner (if we have one), copies of There is an Elephant in the Living Room report and a short paper on the outcomes of PITER, Prevention, Intervention, treatment, Enforcement and Recovery. We can get CRASH information on the Department of Health's website.

Discussed federal budget cuts and how programs will be affected. David talked about the Blueprint for Health in his area. Insurance companies are supposed to pay up front for clients which help with sustainability. There is an expectation to integrate substance abuse and mental health, where screening is involved. Physicians are pleased with this model of health care.

Christine's Resignation: Christine will continue her VDAC position until Legislative Day on April 19th. She needs time to finish up at New Directions for Barre on June 30th. We are sorry to see her leave and thank her for her leadership work with VDAC.

With Christine gone, and declining commitment and involvement from people the group is questioning the future of VDAC. We decided to spend our March meeting discussing VDAC's direction and asking for input from all members. We will also finish planning for the April 19th event at the State House.

Next Steps:

Next meeting: March 24th, 12:30 - 2:30pm at the Pavilion 4th floor conference room, Montpelier (bring ID).

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 2:20

Respectfully submitted: Kim Martin