

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.*

September 22, 2010 Annual Strategic Meeting Minutes

Present: David O'Brien, Christine Peterson, Kim Martin, Ann Gilbert, Pat Martin, Christine Newberry, Chrissy Anderson, Ann Moore, Joan Lenos, Terri Daniels (by phone)

Facilitator –Sarah Munro

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

Agenda:

- Review Report outs
- Survey results
- VDAC Priorities 2009-2010
- Legislative Bills 2010
- Strategies
- FY 11 VDAC Priorities
- Next Steps

Sarah introduced the agenda and introductions were made around the table. We took turns reading the boxes below and adding additional successes and challenges.

PREVENTION:

Successes

Social norms, social marketing

Legislature alcohol pops events (moved to awareness), awareness of H197 (stalled in Military)

Youth engagement

Willingness to work as coalition

“Prevention Works” advocacy group completed, successful Prevention Day, 3 public Forums, student testimony recognized.

Town Hall meetings get results of work

CLI data

Dr Jernigan at State House and local coalitions

Challenges

Not a cohesive voice, statewide and VDAC

Need more collaboration and VDAC partners

MLDA issue, public has a lot of different views

Accurate media coverage, (self promotion)

Not fully educated/skilled about legislative advocacy (some education last year, would like more training)

Economic Challenges, SPF grant money runs out June 30th, 2011

INTERVENTION:

Successes

Youth development, engagement

SAPs work with Masons, using 90 facilities to do parent education

Department of Education, tobacco dialogue regarding commonalities

SAP, YRBS

Governor Advisory Council

Principals being present at legislature-2 out of the 3 schools cut got SAP money back last year

Schools are implementing social norms, life skills curriculum, project graduation, You Matter

Suicide trainings, VKAT, OVX groups with the support of their SAPs

Challenges

Large turn-over of SAPs - hours cut, loss of Safe and Drug Free Schools money.

Funding always on the chopping block, requires time and energy

Communicating outcomes- needs strengthening, not sure if outcome data read by school administrators, boards etc.

School Boards are strapped

TREATMENT:

Successes

Will have behavioral Health Specialist at more MD offices

Perception of addiction as chronic condition growing

“Holding our own” but under the gun

Pool of uninsured has shrunk

Recovery connections through Intensive Substance Abuse Program and Outpatient at Phoenix House

Creating bridges

Use Marcia LaPlante as resource

Challenges

Eliminating positions- fewer staff, Blueprint cut funds

Economy=more referrals, less capacity, less payments

Waiting lists

Fee for Service System-not able to draw down all money available

RROSC Resiliency Recovery Oriented System of Care, took treatment money away, will look different in all communities- challenges our structure to Pay Attention to voices of peers, wrap around including housing and transitions

Challenges For Change, some cuts that were unintended, fewer staff, more desperation On positive side technology can help

ENFORCEMENT:

Successes

School Resource Officers the norm in schools
START partnership
Bigger partner in coalition today-crossing PITER lines
Attitude shift in county
Courts-Drug Free courts, Diversion, ISAP, etc. (Treatment Courts?)
More internal diversion verses external
Showing positive outcomes (e.g. alcohol blood levels decreased with DWI's)
Dennis Menard can come on a regular basis

Challenges

People drinking less when driving-not fully prevention impact (e.g. stop drinking)
More education needed
More conversations as a partner-some differences regarding strategies and foundational beliefs
Challenges to keep School Resource officers, cuts in funding

RECOVERY:

Successes

Friends of Recovery increased recovery voice (Patty applied for a SAMSHA grant)
9 centers that are more articulate regarding breadth of services
Regional meetings are happening that include Recovery Centers
New center in St Albans –concept working and growing without state money, community driven. Morrisville to open one.
More people speaking out as “voice” of recovery with skill – doing the work as volunteers
Coalitions forward outcomes/engaging people
Increased connection to legislators
Recovery Coaches Training. (National Movement) available locally
WIT's end expansion. Support groups with a SA Counselor

Challenges

Need more transitional safe housing
Federal money decreasing=work challenged
Sustainability
DETER money built on tobacco funding-unsustainable (SAP's, Turning Point Centers, WIT's End)
RROSC- challenged to bridge to Treatment and other stakeholders.

Discussion: *What could VDAC approach with a unified voice?*

Read the following re-cap of last year's strategies and ones we added. The most important points are underlined.

Survey Results 2010

Things we can do to strengthen VDAC

Legislative Updates –**Implemented this year, sent as e-mails and on the website**

Be more inclusive/Outreach/Publicize Meetings –**Mailing lists have been updated. Minutes and Notices are sent out in advance.**

Be more action oriented.

Clear messaging about priorities and mission

Priorities

Integration

Secure Funding/ Awareness of Cost Savings/ Increase of services (across sectors)

More treatment beds/funding for treatment/access for treatment

Social Host

Minimum Legal Drinking Age

Education (youth, family, parent, law enforcement, public)

Connect law enforcement and treatment

Alcohol Tax

Transitional Housing

Support, expand Recovery Centers

Stronger collaboration between sectors

Access to services. (Northeast Kingdom lacks access)

Need certified help, lack of staff

Education and promotion of VDAC and services

"Prevention Works" - can work with VDAC but remain separate.

Quality of services

Not fighting with each other over funds

Kim shared Patty's idea of a Legislative Breakfast, Joan Lenex suggested regional breakfasts

Suggestion of hiring a Marketing Team (Example "Brain Architect")

Priorities that came from last year's survey are beer tax, underage drinking, parent education, adolescent treatment and START.

Legislative Bills/Issues 2010:

We looked over the bills that came through the legislature during the last biennium, the group is aware that we do not know what this year holds yet. We believe that Marijuana Dispensaries and possibly studying legalization will come back as a taxable commodity.

If marijuana gets studied it opens up opportunities for conversations. The group is aware that there is not a unified voice about marijuana, not within Treatment, Law Enforcement or Prevention.

Bills from the 2010 legislative session

Underage Drinking

H.77 An Act Relating to Lowering the Legal Drinking Age to 18 Introduced in January 2009. Currently in General, Military and Housing

H.197 An Act Relating to Regulation of Flavored Malt Beverages Introduced February 2009 Currently in General Military and Housing

H.378 An Act Relating to a study of lowering the drinking age Introduced March 2009 Currently in General Military and Housing

H.671 AN ACT RELATING TO CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES UNDER PARENTAL SUPERVISION IN PRIVATE HOMES Introduced January 2010 Currently in general Military and Housing

S. 157 AN ACT RELATING TO A STUDY OF LOWERING THE DRINKING AGE

Introduced in January 2010 Currently in Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs

JRH21 Joint Resolution urging Congress to authorize alternative waivers to the 21 year old drinking age that do not entail federal highway penalties. Passed the Senate May 2010.

Unclear what will happen with these bills in the upcoming biennium. Hinda Miller and Kesha Ram are proponents of lowering the drinking age. Doug Racine was the one member of the economic committee to vote no on JRH21 (he will not be in the legislature this year). Diane Lanphear is a 21 advocate.

Marijuana

H.150 An Act Relating to Penalties for possession of marijuana. Introduced January 2009 In Judiciary

H.630 AN ACT RELATING TO MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES Introduced January 2010 In Human Services

H.757 An Act relating to medical marijuana dispensaries Introduced February 2010 In Human Services

s.71 An Act Relating to penalties for possession of marijuana Introduced February 2010 In Judiciary

S.226 An Act Relating to Medical Marijuana Dispensaries Ordered to Lie

S.269 An Act Relating to Studying the Legalization and Taxation of Marijuana Sales Introduced in January 2010 In Judiciary

This will come up this year. There is a lot of legislative and public support for legalization and dispensaries. ADAP, Public Safety and DLC have provided evidence against these bills.

Other issues

Interlock **H. 363 AN ACT RELATING TO IGNITION INTERLOCK DEVICES**

Public Inebriate **H.611 An Act To Establish a Public Inebriate Program**

New Tax structure for spirits from DLC

Sarah Munro, our facilitator talked about her observation that there was nothing in writing about how this group comes up with a "Unified Voice". She suggested the group put that on an agenda and clarify the process.

David shared that his team uses a "Risk Management Priority List" tool that looks at what "Big things are likely to happen?" From that perspective the group decided to focus on presenting data and information to legislators and the public about the value of Treatment, Prevention, Recovery, Law Enforcement, Intervention etc. The group will gather that data and put it together in a concept paper

with talking points to be used at regional events and at a Legislative Breakfast. It would be a VDAC document including all sectors with a unified voice about all components of addiction.

The Appropriations Committee usually meets the 2nd or 3rd week in Jan. We want to be prepared.

This will be the first priority and we will add priorities as they become apparent.

2010-2011

Necessary tasks based on all themes and priorities 9/2010:

Coordinate monthly agenda and minutes sent out to all interested members and other list serves, determined by group.

Facilitator for meetings.

Coordinate phone participation offered at all meetings.

Minute taker with write up at all meetings.

Time keepers.

Writing concept papers with clear ways to educate the communities, press and legislators. Will involve clear objectives, timelines and planning. (Work group or monthly meetings? to be decided)

Write up talking points for coalition members to utilize.

Write updates and mail them out.

Possible agenda item- How does VDAC determine what the unified voice is?

Celebrate success.

Statehouse card room reserved for April 19th, Alcohol Awareness Month.

Plusses and Wishes:

Nice facilitator

New people

Legislator

Likes Kim's minutes

Liked reading out loud the text boxes

Learned a lot

Recharged

Date for State House

Phone available

WISHES:

More people came

Next steps:

- Sarah, write up today's Strategic Planning Minutes in this format and get to Kim.
- Kim, add additional minutes and send out to group.
- Oct meeting, Bring current data (TX works!, elevator speech) etc. to be compiled into a concept paper.
- Oct. meeting begin planning for regional events, (Leg. Breakfasts and State House Breakfast).
- Think about when to address "Unified Voice" process, procedures.
- Priority one: Funding, Access and Integration.

- Look for document that Ryan Simpson wrote up about doing a forum.
- Group will get list of committees from Joan in December.
- Christine will talk to Diane Lanphere about her thoughts on H197
- Kim will put minutes and reminders on list serve.

Thank you all for coming and participating!

Next meeting: 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 2:30

Respectfully submitted: Sarah Munro and Kim Martin