

Vermont Drug and Alcohol Coalition Minutes

Annual Strategic Meeting

10-28-09

DLC, Montpelier

1:30-3:30

Present: David O'Brien, Debby Haskins, Mark Ames, Christine Peterson, Patty McCarthy, Dick Powell, Pat Martin, Joy Mitchell, Andy Hauty, Mary Fletcher, Kim Martin, and Emma Rowe
Paula Francis facilitated. Delightful refreshments were served.

Action Steps:

- Andy will email VDAC survey link to Patty
- Patty will send VDAC survey out to her e-mail list
- David will bring VDAC survey to monthly meeting
- Kim will develop new list serve for VDAC-include prevention coalitions, SPF/SIG grantees, Recovery Centers, Treatment, Enforcement, etc.
- Ask enforcement for feedback-ask for more contacts
 - START Coordinator-Kelly Hale Lamonda
 - Court Diversion- Willa Farrell
 - SRO contact-Mark Moody
 - States Attorney
 - Drug Court Administrator-Karen Gennett

Agenda:

- Report from prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery
- VDAC- top issues
- Survey
- Membership
- Review priorities of FY 09
- Legislative Issues
- FY 10 Priorities
- Next Steps

PREVENTION:

Successes

Social norms, social marketing

Legislature alcohol pops events, awareness of H197

Youth engagement

Willingness to work as coalition

Created "Prevention Works" advocacy group

Town Hall meetings get results of work
CLI data

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)

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
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.

TREATMENT:

Successes

Will have clinicians at more MD offices
Move to looking at addiction as chronic condition
“Holding our own”
Pool of uninsured has shrunk
Recovery connections through ISAP and others
Creating bridges
Use Marcia LaPlant as resource

Challenges

Eliminating positions
Economy=more referrals, less capacity, less payments

Waiting lists

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

Recovery Oriented Treatment System of Care-took treatment money away, will look different in all communities

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.

More internal diversion verses external

Showing positive outcomes (e.g. alcohol blood levels decreased with DWI's)

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

RECOVERY:

Successes

Friends of Recovery increased recovery voice

9 centers that are more articulate regarding breadth of services

New center in St Albans –concept working and growing without state money, community driven

More people speaking out as “voice” of recovery with skill – doing the work as volunteers

Coalitions forward outcomes/engaging people

Increased connection to legislators

Challenges

Need more transitional safe housing

Federal money decreasing=work challenged

Sustainability

DETER money built on tobacco funding-unsustainable

Survey

Current results are mostly from Prevention folks

Need outreach to additional partners; enforcement, treatment, recovery

Lack of Communication

Lack of clear messaging

Lack of Collaboration amongst work/priorities (e.g. who gets engaged)

STRATEGIZING:

1. Create unified message/position statements/talking points around purpose and priorities- then publicize it
 - a) Create emails, e-list, and other links to coalitions
 - b) Create levels of communication and method to communicate with them
 - c) Determine what the unified voice is
 - d) Assure diverse voices/membership/input (e.g. law enforcement)-use survey
2. Each segment research “sector” priorities bring to group for cohesive priorities and ID what each group can do for one another i.e. collaborating regarding activities/PR/advocacy etc. to next VDAC meeting. Be flexible regarding current conditions

Coordinated mobilization around priorities/activities

- a) Link each coalition’s work to VDAC
- b) Mobilize on issues as a collective

Priorities that came from survey are beer tax, underage drinking, parent education, adolescent treatment and START. We will need to rethink these after we get more survey responses from other sectors.

3. Increase revenue and membership to VDAC
 - ☞ Join now get 14 months
 - ☞ Bill directly to organization/department for renewals
 - ☞ Dues tied to legislative session (beginning in January)
 - ☞ VDAC letterhead incentive
 - ☞ Options for giving more
 - ☞ Educate regarding ability to pay dues in some circumstances
 - ☞ Non-voting member option

Next meeting:

- Calendar for 2010
- Sector priorities
- Talking points