

**Substance Misuse Prevention Oversight and Advisory Council (SMPC)
October 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Date: 10/24/2022 Time: 1-3 PM	Mtg. Facilitator: Nicole Rau Mitiguy Mtg. Recorder: Nicole Rau Mitiguy Where: Microsoft Teams
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	Name	Organization and Role
X	Kelly Dougherty	Department of Health, Chair
X	Melanie Sheehan	Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center, Vice Chair
	Daniel French	Agency of Education, Executive Committee Member
X	Mourning Fox	Department of Public Safety, Executive Committee Member
X	Monica Hutt	Agency of Administration, Executive Committee Member
X	Amy Brewer	Northwestern Medical Center, Member
X	Rebecca Brookes	Upstream Social Marketing, Member
	Moses Delane	Youth Representative (18-25 year old), Member
X	Kimberley Diamond	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Vermont, Member
	Skyler Dryden	Youth Representative (<18), Member
	Alex Figueroa	United Counseling Services, Member
X	Kheya Ganguly	Department of Mental Health, Member
	Skyler Genest	Department of Liquor and Lottery, Member
X	Charles Gurney	Departments of Disability, Aging and Independent Living and Health, Member
X	Cindy Hayford	Deerfield Valley Community Partnership, Member
X	Maryann Morris	The Collaborative, Member
X	Kat Patterson	Cathedral Square, Member
	Scott Pavek	City of Burlington, Member
X	Janet Potter	Hartford Middle and High School, Member
	Jillian Rinehart, M.D.	UVM Children's Hospital, Member
X	John Searles, Ph.D.	Department of Health (Retired), Member
X	Stephen Von Sitas	Vermont Judiciary, Member

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Agenda Item	Lead	Minutes
Welcome, Introductions, and Quorum Determination	Kelly Dougherty	
Review and Approve December 2022 Minutes	Nicole Rau Mitiguy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edits needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The subcommittee Dr. Levine sat on for the Cannabis Control • Decided to postpone voting on August minutes until December meeting
Tobacco Strategic Plan	Melissa Chapman, Public Data Analyst	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting Materials • Utilizing feedback from the SMPC in July, PDA along with other stakeholders further discussed and developed priorities, developing four for 2023-2027 planning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prioritization of youth prevention, cessation, and vaping ○ Increase adult cessation of combustible and other tobacco products ○ Increase sustainability and collaboration ○ Eliminate exposure, educate, and protect the public from second hand smoke and electronic vape product emissions • Has PDA consulted the Department of Health’s equity team in this process? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes, specifically the equity lead for the Health Promotion and Disease Prevention division. • The goal is to have the plan finalized to be utilized on Prevention Day next year.
SMPC Recommendations	Nicole Rau Mitiguy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting Materials • Recommendations and suggested edits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Vermont Department of Health (VDH) should ensure that under-served and under-represented communities, including Black, Indigenous, People of Color, New Americans, people with disabilities, older Vermonters, and the LGBTQ+ community are consulted during the planning process for all prevention funding. This should be completed using cultural humility and exploring different ways to engage these identified communities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Want to ensure youth are also included within this recommendation ▪ Noting that while we want to ensure this is done thoughtfully, the SMPC should not include how it should be done in this recommendation, as this may differ for each community and should be completed by meeting the

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		<p>community where they are instead of only utilizing current systems as those may inherently be oppressive and exclusionary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A suggestion was made to develop an ad hoc committee to examine a few examples of prevention best practices, to review if the populations included in the evaluation of the best practice was exclusionary and if so, examine how Vermont can overcome that issue. ▪ Potential to need to break this into two recommendations. One focused on engagement in the prevention planning efforts, and one focused on examining best practices. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was decided to focus on the planning recommendation for this report. ▪ A suggestion was made to include youth in this recommendation. ▪ Nicole Rau Mitiguy to work on wordsmithing this recommendation for the SMPC's consideration in the voting process. <p>○ As part of the planning process for new prevention funding, including the \$3 million allocated to prevention coalitions in the SFY23 budget, VDH should identify opportunities for the SMPC to provide feedback and guidance in this process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Acknowledgement that the \$3 million prevention funding was allocated with a specific intention to support prevention coalitions, so while there is an opportunity to provide guidance, this will need to be done within the intention of the funding allocation ▪ There is a desire to strengthen this language to ensure the SMPC is proactively consulted throughout the planning process as the SMPC was developed by the legislature to ensure a variety of expertise is available and utilized for this type of planning. <p>○ The Vermont Department of Health (VDH) should review current funding levels dedicated to prevention messaging of all substances at risk of misuse in comparison to the CDC's recommended level of prevention messaging funding. If there are gaps in recommended funding levels and current budgets for messaging, VDH should prioritize additional funding to meet or exceed the minimum recommended levels.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Communications Subcommittee has spent significant time over the last year discussing communications evaluations and investing in communication campaigns that are shown to be effective. The current recommendation does not include language reflecting those conversations, so there is a suggestion to integrate language around effectiveness into this recommendation. ▪ The intention behind this recommendation is not to take money from other prioritized activities, but instead ensure that evidence-based campaigns are invested in enough for them to be effective in Vermont. ○ The Agency of Human Services (AHS) and the Agency of Education should integrate substance use prevention strategies and programming as part of the AHS' Social Emotional Learning and Well-being supports. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wordsmithing is needed to better clarify this recommendation ▪ Decided to keep the “how” out of the recommendation and instead focus on the “what” ○ Amend 18 V.S.A. §4803 to change the reporting cadence of the SMPC to the Vermont Legislature to every other year beginning with 2023; an interim executive summary can be provided upon request. This amendment will allow for more strategic and comprehensive recommendations to be provided to the General Assembly from the SMPC. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No edits noted for this recommendation ○ Develop a process by which the legislature reconsiders the allowable THC limits for adult use cannabis at regular intervals to ensure alignment with evolving scientific research. ○ Add: Explore the necessity to develop cannabis retail outlet density parameters to limit the impact of commercialization on towns and communities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This is noted as a best practice for advancing public health and addressing equity in cannabis policy ○ Enact a comprehensive ban of the sale of all flavored tobacco and nicotine products in Vermont, including menthol flavored products.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to add language to distinguish that this focuses on recreational use rather than traditional/cultural use.
Public Comment	Nicole Rau Mitiguy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beth Keister

Next Steps or Assigned Tasks		
Task	Responsible	Due Date
Provide overview of the Public Consulting Group's report	Traci Sawyers	TBD
Review and provide edits to recommendations	All SMPC members	11/2/2022
Consolidate edits	Nicole Rau Mitiguy	11/4/2022
Vote on recommendations	All SMPC members	11/8/2022
Finalize report and submit to VDH Policy	Nicole Rau Mitiguy Executive Committee	11/15/2022

Minutes approved on December 12, 2022.