

Substance Misuse Prevention Oversight and Advisory Council (SMPC)

May 2026 Meeting Minutes

Date: May 18, 2026 Time: 1-3 PM	Mtg. Facilitator: Amy Brewer Mtg. Recorder: Heather Michaud Where: Microsoft Teams
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	Name	Organization and Role
X	Rick Hildebrant	Department of Health, Chair
X	Amy Brewer	Northwestern Medical Center, Vice Chair
	Mourning Fox	Department of Public Safety, Executive Committee Member
	Monica Hutt	Agency of Administration, Executive Committee Member
X	Courtney O'Brien	Representing Courtney O'Brien, Agency of Education, Executive Committee Member
X	Kimberley Diamond	Big Brother Big Sister, Member
X	Kheya Ganguly	Department of Mental Health, Member
X	Maryann Morris	The Collaborative, Member
X	Janet Potter	Hartford Middle and High School, Member
X	John Searles, Ph.D.	Department of Health (Retired), Member
X	Olivia Terranova	Vermont Judiciary, Member

Others Present: Jane Bourhill, Kathrin Lawlor, Katie Niebuhr, Galaxie Pistole, Traci Sawyers, Beth Schrader, Carolyn Towne

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Agenda Item	Lead	Minutes
Opening Remarks, and Introductions	Dr. Hildebrant /Amy Brewer	- The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. - Amy will facilitate today's meeting and introduced Heather Michaud as the new notetaker for the council while Nicole is on leave. - Council members were reminded that the meeting is recorded, therefore making it a public document. - Olivia Terranova was introduced as a new council member. - Round robin introductions took place. - Concerns over youth caffeine use discussed, as well as the challenges of identifying and keeping up with the variety of substances available.
Review January and March 2026 Minutes	Amy Brewer	- January minutes accepted with one modification noted by Amy. - March minutes accepted as presented.
Update on SMPC Membership	Amy Brewer	- Vacancy disciplines identified. - Recruitment efforts have begun and are ongoing. - Amy provided an overview of the application process.
Legislative Session Discussion	Amy Brewer	- S.198 Act relating to the regulation of tobacco products and tobacco substitutes. - Increases penalties for retailers who sell tobacco or nicotine products to minors. - Requires licensing of wholesalers enabling DLL to oversee rather than just monitor. - Bans marketing and sale of vaping products that are designed to look like school supplies or characters. - Although still illegal, removes fines for minors' possession, use or purchase of tobacco or nicotine products while at the same time increasing penalties for those selling to minors. The goal behind removing criminal penalties for minors is to provide support for their efforts to not become addicted rather than to penalize. - This bill started in the Senate, passed out, moved to the House and made its way formally and informally through four different committees. It was voted on the House floor on May 15, 2026 where it passed with a House proposal of amendment. - The House amendment involves implementation of some sort of a tax stamp for new products like pouches and vapes similar to what cigarette packs currently have. - Bill returned to the Senate for committee review. - S.278 Act relating to cannabis. - Introduced as a bill that would double possession limits and double THC package limits.

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		○ Rep. Theresa Woods has, through her committee, tried to make some changes to proposed limit increases. ○ Has not been voted on the House floor or Senate floor. ○ Still an active bill that's been through several committees. ○ Additional changes coming, including possible elimination of the delivery piece. ○ Efficacy of change efforts is still very unclear at this point.
Continued Discussion on SMPC Report Performance Measures and Recommendations	Amy Brewer	• Materials • Continued discussion regarding revision of the fourth performance measure, specifically inclusion of a goal specific to the amount or the percentage of available funding we want dedicated to prevention. ○ The executive committee will review the tobacco per capital funding recommendation and see how that might be replicated for alcohol and cannabis. ○ Discussion about the possibility of using the Office of Performance Improvement as a resource to help identify a good performance measure to look at. • Discussion regarding revision of the fifth performance goal. ○ Consensus that the wording is long and clunky and needs refining. ○ Performance measure definition versus assessment. ○ Utilize resources within state government to help. ○ Council members will send recommendations to Amy to bring back to the executive committee for fine tuning.
Public Comment	Amy Brewer	• Kheya Ganguly – loss of harm reduction dollars on a federal level. • Kathrin Lawlor – subcommittees status. • Janet Potter – needles in the community. • Kimberley Diamond – update on policy subcommittee. • John Searles – THC limits presentation. • Katherin Lawlor – performance measures.
Adjourn	Amy Brewer	• The meeting adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

Minutes approved on July 27, 2026