

**Substance Misuse Prevention Oversight and Advisory Council (SMPC)
January 2025 Meeting Minutes**

Date: January 27, 2025 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	Dr Mark Levine	Department of Health, Chair
X	Amy Brewer	Northwestern Medical Center, Vice Chair
X	Mourning Fox	Department of Public Safety, Executive Committee Member
X	Monica Hutt	Agency of Administration, Executive Committee Member
X	Kimberley Diamond	Big Brother Big Sister, Member
X	Kheya Ganguly	Department of Mental Health, Member
	Skyler Genest	Department of Liquor and Lottery, Member
X	Cindy Hayford	Deerfield Valley Community Partnership, Member
	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	Stephen Von Sitas	Vermont Judiciary, Member

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Agenda Item	Lead	Minutes
Welcome, Introductions, and Quorum Determination	Dr Levine and Amy Brewer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The legislature continues to be committed to prevention work • There were more sales in cannabis than originally anticipated, which would mean that there is more funding for prevention through the excise tax allocation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ VDH provided testimony related to the Budget Adjustment Act (BAA) related to this. Testimony included a need to achieve geographic equity, particularly in thinking about rural reach • A potential missed talking point for prevention is the impact prevention has on overall healthcare costs. By investing in prevention, that investment is one to reduce overall healthcare costs.
Review and Approve July and September 2024 Minutes	Nicole Rau Mitiguy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July minutes were approved as written • September minutes were approved as written
Legislative Overview and Updates	Monica Hutt, Dr. Levine, Amy Brewer, Prevention Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monica will continue to update the legislative tracker that she has developed; this will be shared by Nicole to the SMPC as it is updated. • Currently tracking a few house bills related to substance use, no Senate bills have been identified at this point. • There is currently a lawsuit occurring between a cannabis retailer suing the Cannabis Control Board related to marketing requirements infringing the first amendment. As this progresses and if there is legislative action as a result of this, there may be an opportunity for the SMPC to weigh in on the importance of the marketing requirements to reduce youth and young adult use of cannabis. This may be something the Policy Subcommittee may want to keep track of. • Coalition for Tobacco Free Vermont is focusing on parity of retail policy across substances, and advocating for additional enforcement support to track and enforce online sales of products. • Prevention Works will be providing periodical policy updates. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is rule making happening with the CCB, specifically in relation to limiting the checking of ID at cannabis dispensaries to one time at the point of sale, rather than when an individual enters the building and at the point of sale as is currently required. ○ The public comment period for the rules ends February 28th, and more information can be found here: 2025-01-06 Rules Hearing Notice.pdf • Something we will need to be mindful of as our Council, is the impact national policy is and could have on communities of focus for our council.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An example includes the number of calls made to national LGBTQ+ crisis lines doubled on Inauguration Day, and have not gone down substantially. As we think about Vermont’s data, we will need to consider impacts happening at a national level as well.
Discussion of the Cadence and Proposed Topics for 2025 Meetings	Nicole Rau Mitiguy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Executive Committee has shifted the cadence of the meeting for the end of the year, to allow for any discussion to be had before the Annual report is submitted. ● The cadence of the full Council meetings and subcommittee meetings can be found here. ● The objectives of the February subcommittee meetings will focus on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify lead(s) for subcommittee ○ Reflections of today’s discussion ○ Identify key questions/topics of interest from grantees at full SMPC meetings ○ Other priority topics
Data Presentation and Discussion	Nicole Rau Mitiguy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presentation ● Feedback from youth of color is they feel no one is paying attention to them and the data reflecting their experiences as the state is predominately white ● Shared experience from SMPC members that there continues to be a perception from middle school students that cannabis helps treat or address anxiety or depression; an opportunity to address this perception. ● VDH utilized the data from previous YRBS related to perceptions of harm of vaping to inform the Unhyped campaign. In this YRBS report there is an indication that progress has been made in that regard. ● The Young Adult Survey results just released indicate that use of cannabis products is continuing to increase. It is important to address the perception of harm of use to address increased use among young adults as well. ● Q: Is there a potential to utilize social media platforms to counter message about substances for youth and young adults? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It would be critical to use credible messengers for this if we were to explore this as an option. ○ The Tobacco Control Program has piloted engaging known social media influencers to help with counter measuring. ● An additional helpful data source to review in the future would be tax and sales data. ● Need to also review data for adults and older adults in addition to youth and young adults to help inform our approach as a Council.

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Public Comment	Nicole Rau Mitiguy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhonda Williams (provided comment throughout the meeting) • Beth Shrader (provided comment in the Legislative update section of the meeting)

Next Steps or Assigned Tasks		
Task	Responsible	Due Date
No tasks identified.		

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