

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

Date: October 27, 2026 Time: 1-3 PM	Mtg. Facilitator: Nicole Rau Mitiguy Mtg. Recorder: Nicole Rau Mitiguy Where: Microsoft Teams
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	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization and Role</b>
X	Kelly Dougherty	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	Courtney O'Brien	Agency of Education, Executive Committee Member
X	Kimberley Diamond	Big Brother Big Sister, Member
	Kheya Ganguly	Department of Mental Health, Member
X	Cindy Hayford	Deerfield Valley Community Partnership, Member
	Maryann Morris	The Collaborative, Member
X	Scott Pavek	Municipality Experience, Member
X	Janet Potter	Hartford Middle and High School, Member
X	John Searles, Ph.D.	Department of Health (Retired), Member
	Stephen Von Sitas	Vermont Judiciary, Member

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Agenda Item	Lead	Minutes
<b>Opening Remarks, Welcome Courtney O'Briefn and Quorum Determination</b>	Kelly Dougherty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VDH has a new Commissioner who will be starting on October 13<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Rick Hildebrandt.</li> <li>• Dr. Hildebrandt currently works at Rutland Regional Medical Center and has a strong interest in community health.</li> </ul>
<b>Review July and September 2025 Minutes</b>	Nicole Rau Mitiguy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July minutes pass as written</li> <li>• September minutes pass as written with one modification; Kimberley Diamond will be marked as not present.</li> </ul>
<b>SMPC Report Discussion - Recommendations</b>	Nicole Rau Mitiguy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendations were presented by the Policy Subcommittee</li> <li>• Recommendations were voted on with unanimous support and will be included in the SMPC Report as written</li> </ul>
<b>Grantee Presentation</b>	Mahat Abdullahi, Kate Nugent, Mariah Flynn, Amy Brewer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentations can be found here: <a href="#">SMPC October Meeting Materials</a></li> </ul>
<b>Presentation Discussion</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Question for Mahat: What does engagement with older Vermonters look like for prevention through the Region 1 VT Prevention Lead Organization? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mahat: Region 1 does not currently fund any specific programming focused on older adults, however we provide information to organizations supporting older Vermonters and are exploring what we could support in the future with entities like our Area Agencies on Aging.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The task of the SMPC is to bring the information provided throughout this year into our work in 2026, to help inform recommendations in our next report on what is working well and where there may still be gaps in our prevention system.</li> </ul>
<b>Public Comment</b>	Nicole Rau Mitiguy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rhonda Williams</li> </ul>

Minutes approved on January 26, 2026.