

**Substance Misuse Prevention Oversight and Advisory Council (SMPC)
September 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Date: September 16, 2024 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
	Mourning Fox	Department of Public Safety, Executive Committee Member
X	Monica Hutt	Agency of Administration, Executive Committee Member
	Kimberley Diemond	Big Brothers Big Sisters, Member
X	Kheya Ganguly	Department of Mental Health, Member
X	Skyler Genest	Department of Liquor and Lottery, Member
	Cindy Hayford	Deerfield Valley Community Partnership, Member
	Maryann Morris	The Collaborative, Member
	Kat Patterson	Cathedral Square, Member
	Scott Pavek	City of Burlington, 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
Welcome, Introductions, and Quorum Determination	Dr Levine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding was allocated from the Opioid Settlement funding to primary prevention along with harm reduction and clinical strategies.
Review and Approve July 2024 Minutes	Nicole Rau Mitiguy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance would now allow quorum. July minutes will be reviewed in next full SMPC meeting.
SMPC Goals, Performance Measures, and Recommendations	Nicole Rau Mitiguy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SMPC members reviewed the SMPC goals, and as discussed in previous meetings, agreed to maintain the goals as the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase protective factors and build resilience and feelings of connectedness in Vermont communities, across all ages, cultures, and socioeconomic conditions. ○ Decrease risk factors for substance misuse in Vermont for individuals of all ages, cultures, and socioeconomic conditions. ○ Increase efficiency and collaboration on substance use prevention efforts across all state, public, and private entities, through a consolidated and holistic approach to substance use prevention that is sustainable, scalable, and equitable. • The SMPC members discussed the first three performance measures proposed should remain as written: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Percent of high school and middle school students who believe they matter to their community. (Measures Goal #1 and is measured through the Youth Risk Behavior Survey). ○ Percent of high school and middle school students who perceive harm in using substances (marijuana, alcohol, and tobacco). (Measures Goal # 1 and is measured through the Youth Risk Behavior Survey). ○ Percent of Vermonters who used alcohol, cannabis, stimulants (prescription and illicit), opioids (prescription and illicit), tobacco/nicotine products in the last 30 days. (Measures Goal #2 and is measured through the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, YRBS, BRFSS). • It was noted that the Policy and Communication Evaluation (PACE) data could be utilized to support the performance measures along with the data sources listed. • Additionally it was noted that the data included in the SMPC Report to show progress on the performance measures should include details including age, gender identity, race and ethnicity,

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		<p>and income level whenever possible to show potential inequities across Vermont’s communities and populations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following Performance Measure was discussed and edits were made to better communicate how Goal 3 would be measured: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As discussed: Number of prevention initiatives and services available and sustainably funded across Vermont’s communities and schools. (Measures Goal #3 and is measured through review of state and federal investments in prevention). ○ Edited to read: Percentage of the cannabis excise tax, opioid settlement funds, Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement, and other state revenue allocated to prevention programming (Measures Goal #3 and is measured through review of state and federal investments in prevention). • It was raised that there should be one performance measure that reflects the SMPC directly. Language was proposed on requiring the SMPC to meet with the Vermont Prevention Lead Organizations and Tobacco grantees at least annually to learn about successes and potential barriers to help inform future recommendations in SMPC reports. • Rhonda Williams proposed the following policy recommendation as informed by subcommittee and full SMPC meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To promote prevention, develop, review, and update statutes to regulate all substances to ensure parity. Parity efforts could include, but not be limited to, addressing the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requiring retailers to hold a separate retail license for each substance sold; ▪ Conducting regular youth enforcement checks; ▪ Adhering to Drug Free School Zone (V.S.A. §4237) requirements by implementing and enforcing buffer zones of at least 500 feet from schools and childcare centers; ▪ Establishing and maintaining concentration limits on substances for safety purposes (such as THC levels for all cannabis products, and nicotine levels for tobacco products); ▪ Decreasing youth physical access (such as products behind the counter, reducing retail density, increasing enforcement of online sales); ▪ Banning price discounting (such as buy one and get one free, coupons); ▪ Prohibiting packaging and promotions aimed at youth; and ▪ Restricting flavors in all tobacco products.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The SMPC members felt this was inclusive of priority topics, and allows the SMPC’s recommendations for the legislature to be more proactive, rather than react in nature. • • Voting will occur through an online survey; votes will be identifiable and will be publicly available.
Public Comment	Nicole Rau Mitiguy	None

Next Steps or Assigned Tasks		
Task	Responsible	Due Date
Subcommittees to continue discussion on Goals and Performance Measures and begin thinking about recommendations.	All	8/22/24
NRM, Monica Hutt, and John Searles to discuss engagement with the HEAC	NRM	9/16/24

Minutes approved on 1/27/2025.