

# NORTHWEST + CENTRAL VT PREVENTION NETWORK

## MEETING NOTES

April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### Meeting Goal

Providing an opportunity for people and organizations across Northwest and Central Vermont to come together to share information, make connections, and explore opportunities related to prevention of substance misuse and promoting wellbeing in our communities.

### Welcome & Agenda Overview

#### Agenda:

Prevention Updates

Backbone Updates

Region 1 Prevention Consultant Updates

Prevention Works VT Updates

Presentation: Vermont Language Justice Project

Wrap-Up

### Prevention Partner Updates

**Marielle Matthews, Winooski Partnership for Prevention:** Dropped [sign on letter](#) for alcohol policy in the chat. The new strategy is to hold on to this letter and release it at the end of this policy effort and in the meantime gather more grassroots support. Helpful strategies in addition to conversations would be letters to the editor, op-eds, or any other type of generated media on this. Here is the [outreach folder](#).

**Hilary Denton, PC for Barre Health District:** [BAART Open House in Berlin](#) on **April 17<sup>th</sup>**, 12:00pm – 2:00pm. May 7<sup>th</sup> is school-based substance use prevention conference at Lake Morey and Hilary and Nick Tatakis are co-facilitating Prevention 101. [Register Here](#)

### Questions for Partners:

What's been at the top of your mind in your work recently?

Is there stuff you are seeing in your community that others might learn from?

**Christine Hughes, Richard Kemp Center:** Very excited for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual trip to the National Museum of African American History in Washington, DC. We are still fundraising. Something that the new federal administration is inspiring us to do is find new ways to do things and find new paths to sustainability. It encourages us to look at new paths and partnerships. It does bring us closer together because we are all focused on trying to do better. It also makes us focus on youth even more because they are worried. RKC has a "Know Your Rights" pamphlet that is really helpful.

**Dr. Childs, Trinity Education Center:** Suicide is increasing. A lot of students are discouraged, especially those who are refugees. Mental illnesses will increase, and a lot of black and brown people are not taught about mental health literacy, so they are scared or don't know how to ask for help. They need a place to say what they need to say. Winooski has passed a safe school ordinance in response to the recent deportations; here is the [school district's policy](#).

**Amy Carmola:** [VAAP trainings](#) (Vermont Asylum Assistance Project) are on April 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. You can [register here](#).

### Backbone Updates

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- The Request for Proposal applications are due tomorrow, April 11<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00pm. Find helpful resources, including the recording of the Q&A, on the [Funding & Subgrants](#) page on our website.

## Region 1 Prevention Consultant Updates

**Mary Pickener, PC for St. Albans Health District:** Looking at being able to provide resources and connections for parents with children who go to the pediatrician around alcohol use. Another thing is thinking about what older Vermonters know about substance misuse prevention. What will motivate an older Vermonter to look at their substance misuse and decide that they want to change their habits. Trying to figure out ways to meet older Vermonters. Lastly, thinking about how do you put prevention in the criminal justice system.

- **Christie Holmes, TPCCC:** Turning Point Center supports all of Chittenden County and provides services for the family including peer support and recovery support. Children can come to the center. They are expanding their Justice Involved programs.
- **Megan Bridges, UWNVT:** Wanted to share about the program that Rosemary Rosa at TPCCV (Turning Point Center of Central Vermont) is doing in which she is combining peer recovery support and home visiting. As for older adults, we are trying to build up volunteering in our [Bone Builders Program](#).

**Hilary Denton, PC:** Working on getting the Turning Point Center of Central VT and CVPC to connect more in the following year. We are currently trying to find the best ways to build up our Prevention Network in Washington County. There is a real lack for mental health and substance use services for youth. Building capacity is the main goal in all of Central Vermont at this point.

**Nick Tatakis, PC for Burlington Health District:** The Burlington Health District does not include Buel's Gore, even though it is in Chittenden County. The 2024 [DSU Annual Overview](#) was released a couple of weeks ago. Percentage of high school students using alcohol, cannabis, and tobacco has decreased. DSU is not the only division of the health department that addresses substance misuse and so the document is helpful to review in order to get to know more about what specifically DSU is responsible for and what other divisions are responsible for. VT has also released a more [detailed analysis](#) of the YRBS.

- **Mariah Flynn, BPHC:** The federal cuts are going to trickle down and have an effect on our region in a year or two. We might not need to think about capacity building but rather capacity maintaining. [The Fight Against Big Tobacco Just Got Harder - American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation | no-smoke.org](#)
- **Mark Hughes, RKC:** Marginalized communities are immediately impacted by crises, such as COVID, at the federal transition. We need to have equity in prevention. We are looking to find new approaches to build equity.

## Prevention Works!VT Update

**Beth Schrader, Prevention Works VT:** Statewide organization working with all prevention organizations. They are not a coalition. Our mission is to unify the voices and be a guiding force on policy, practice, and attitudes that support substance misuse prevention and healthy lifestyles. Engaged in policy practices in delaying the onset of substance misuse. The Collaborative is the fiscal agent of Prevention Works. There is a shared leadership model within Prevention Works, and they also have a steering committee that provides structure for the leadership of the organization. PW is funded by DSU, a congressional direct spending allotment from Senator Sanders, and two of the LPOs. PW has networking groups, work

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groups (alcohol policy, cannabis education, and vaping), and also offer lunch and learns. Working really strongly on workforce development.

## Vermont Language Justice Project Presentation

Alison Segar from [Vermont Language Justice Project](#)

- Began during COVID
- Has family members who do not speak English as their primary language, and realized during COVID that they really did not know what was going on and kept in the dark on how to keep themselves safe
- CDC gave DOH dollars to do this project, which gave them lots of flexibility. They just lost that funding.
- Made over 190 videos to date, between 5 and 21 languages
- 3 videos with United Way - one on health insurance w/ Working Bridges program, and now 2 videos related to substances/substance misuse with the Prevention Network
  - o [The Legal & Health Consequences of Using Drugs & Alcohol](#)
  - o [How Medicines and Alcohol Affect You as You Get Older](#)
  - o [Different Kinds of Health Insurance](#)

## Looking Ahead

Next meeting: May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

10:00am-11:30am

**NEW MEETING LINK:** [Join the meeting now](#)

