

NORTHWEST + CENTRAL VT PREVENTION NETWORK

MEETING NOTES

July 10th, 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 Partner Updates
Backbone Updates
Region 1 Prevention Consultant Updates
Matt Wolf, Vermont Afterschool
Open Discussion

Prevention Partner Updates

Amy Brewer, FGI Tobacco Prevention Coalition: Cigarette Butt litter cleanup happening in St. Albans on July 16th, July 23rd, and August 13th from 9:00am – 3:00pm.

Michelle Parent, PCAVT: Trying to get an in-person parent recovery group started at the Turning Point in Franklin County on Wednesdays at 3:00pm. As soon as she can get 5 people to come, the group can start

Marcus Aloisi, Flavors Hook Kids: Started having a Tobacco Prevention Champion of the Month. If you think someone should be highlighted, submit [this form](#) to nominate them (also find on social media!)

Stefani Hartsfield, ATN: ATN hired a new Programs Coordinator!

Mariah Flynn, BPHC: If you work in or serve residents of the Franklin Grand Isle area, please help share this [survey](#) (~3-5 minutes) to gather information about perspectives on substance misuse and prevention in those areas; at the end there is a chance to enter a raffle for a \$50 grocery store gift card.

Common Good VT: Panel Discussion on shared services on July 16th. It is FREE to register. [Click here.](#)

Nonprofit Mergers and Consolidations: Open Office Hours on Opportunities and Challenges. [Click here](#) to register for free.

Megan Bridges, United Way of Northwest VT: Vermont Community Foundation is going to do a screening for Gone Guys, a movie about males and social isolation. Find out more information [here.](#)

Christine Hughes, Richard Kemp Center: The Richard Kemp Center is running a small Summer Activities & Free Lunch Program, with a community dinner on Saturday.

Christine Hughes, VT Racial Justice Alliance: Holding a First African Landing Day at the Richard Kemp Center and Roosevelt Part on Saturday, August 23rd.

Backbone Updates

- Hold the date for our annual Prevention Summit on Wednesday October 8th in South Burlington at the IDX building. More details to come!
- Following up on the last meeting we had an open discussion around challenges and opportunities. If you did not attend the meeting, or have something more to say, please fill out [this form.](#)

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Region 1 Prevention Consultant Updates

Hilary Denton, PC Barre Health District: Good Samaritan is hiring for 2 positions, find out more [here](#). Twinfield Union School is also hiring a Student Assistant Professional (SAP), find out and apply [here](#).

Eva Zaret, CVPC: Seeking a screen to project a PowerPoint if anyone has one they can borrow for an overdose prevention training on July 24th or 31st in Barre.

Nick Tatakis, PC Burlington Health District: 2025 Vermont Suicide Prevention Symposium is on September 11th in South Burlington at the Double Tree. They have put out a call for proposals, [linked here](#).

DSU Workforce Development [calendar](#), please submit your event to the calendar!

Matt Wolf, Vermont Afterschool

Matt Wolf, Senior Associate for Youth Empowerment at Vermont Afterschool

- VT Afterschool addresses upstream prevention: looking at the causes of the causes of substance use and delinquent behavior
- VT Afterschool is a statewide nonprofit hoping to help all of Vermont's children, youth, and young adults benefit from the power of afterschool, summer learning, and third space programs during the out-of-school time hours
- The Third Space needs to be driven by young people and their interest, activities, and leadership
- Provide professional development and training, have an annual conference, coaching, mentoring, and consultations
- Support with Youth Councils/Leadership
- VT Afterschool work is divided into 2 main teams: strengthening programs, and youth empowerment
- Professionals and Program Resources web page has links on it to afterschool guidebooks. Click here [Click here](#).
- **Vermont RAYS** (Raise Awareness for Youth Services) is a youth group that focuses on adolescent and young adult public health issues, with a focus on improving access and utilization of preventative health services. The goal is to amplify youth voice and engagement in youth health-focused activities.
- **Vermont Youth Project** is a statewide initiative that aims to give youth leadership and a voice in Vermont communities and to foster youth voice at a community level. VT Afterschool supports participating communities establish local coalitions that center positive youth development, creating localized plans to address risk and protective factors of youth, and building cross-sector partnerships and collaboration.

Importance of VYP

1. Youth-driven community change to increase third space opportunities
 2. Increasing protective factors and investing in youth empowerment prevents substance use
 3. Build youths' sense of belonging, connection to peers and their community
- Building a coalition brings together adults in the community who are invested in youth voice and building positive youth environments – VT Afterschool helps with this by supporting the community in their establishment of a coalition, community asset mapping and coalition recruitment, and helping identifying and exploring the data and information that already exists locally

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- Building a youth council leverages the resources and relationships in your community coalition to build a youth council for community action – VT Afterschool offers workshops and best practices on how to build a strong council, technical assistance for recruitment, and supports with planning for meeting routines, agendas, and expectations
- Funding youth driven change empowers the council to create community change, and gives them money to support their ideas to come to life – VT Afterschool trains the youth council lead to run the PB process and workshops, provides supports for the youth council and its lead to fund youth-driven projects identified by the Participatory Budgeting process, and empowers the community to Continue Community Coalition and Youth Council meeting routines
- The impact of the projects is profound - can see the kid's pride in their work and it is rewarding
- Some events: skate and paint, color run, soccer tournaments, trainings on equity and LGBTQ+ support, murals for black lives, environment, dance classes, cooking classes, inclusive literature and libraries
- Introduction to the VYP Principles of Resilience and Youth Voice: redefining resilience, resilience and youth wellness, and creating a culture of youth voice (all workshops)
- Principles in Action: Basics of SEL and Youth Empowerment as Healing Practice, Equity and Inclusion Practices, and Culturally Responsive Practices After School Programs
- Community is defined by the way anyone in the community defines it. It is not a specific or one-size definition.
- The Pediatric Advisory Council is through UVMHC, and is young people willing to share insights with the pediatric medical community

Looking Ahead

Next meeting: August 14th, 2025

10:00am - 11:30am

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

