

Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee

Date: 12/23/2024
Location and Time: 10 - noon
Present: Mark Levine, MD, Shawn Burke, Caroline Butler, Michael Doenges, Ruth Hardy, Monica Hutt, Liz McLoughlin, Madeline Motta, Jess Kirby, Deb Wright, Dane Whitman, Joe Magee
Absent: Kristin Atwood, Scott Pavek, Stacey Sigmon, Heather Stein, MD

Meeting Facilitator and Note Taker: Mark Levine, MD, Sarah Gregorek

Meeting Objectives:		
Agenda Item	Discussion	Next Steps
Future Opioid Settlement meeting poll results	Based on the poll that was sent out, the 4 th Monday from 10 – noon is the best day for the majority of the committee members.	
Application voting process	The form will be sent to the Committee the week of 12/23.	
Treatment Associates, Washington County MH, Kate Burkholder	Treatment Associations is an outpatient substance use program in Montpelier/Barre and Morrisville. They recently merged with Washington County Mental Health. Requesting funds to hire a peer recovery coach in their treatment program. There has been a decline in attendance with local AA and NA chapters since COVID. A Recovery Coach will be a part-time member to engage with the community to connect them to programs for better outcomes. The goal is to have at least 100 people engaged with the recovery coach and get connected to two different services. Funding request \$30,000 per year for this service.	
Johnson Health Center and Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform, Tom Dalton and Geoff Butler	Looking for ongoing support for the low barrier program that started last year. This is a partnership between the Johnson Health Center and VCJR to provide medical care for individuals with SUD and engage with people who have trouble accessing traditional medical care, intensive case management and meet basic needs. Can treat	

	<p>infectious disease and Medication for Opioid Use Disorder and can assist with mental health treatment.</p> <p>Funding request for \$300,000 per year for three years.</p>	
<p>Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform, Tom Dalton and Sarah Ashley Simmons</p>	<p>Work with high-risk individuals with complex issues who are justice involved. Request the State assign one of the 26 outreach positions to VCJR to deploy in Chittenden and Addison Counties. This wouldn't require additional funding. If the 26 positions are filled, request one outreach position for VCJR. They currently only have three staff.</p> <p>VDH is looking into the 26 outreach positions with DSU to determine if any are unfilled and will report back.</p> <p>Funding request: \$76,000 per year ongoing</p>	
<p>Prevent Child Abuse, Michelle Richling</p>	<p>Nurturing program for families undergoing substance use treatment and recovery. Offer weekly 90-minute trainings for 17 weeks, held virtually throughout the state. There's a lot of treatment in rehabilitation facilities where parents can become sober, but there are few programs that address both substance use and parenting issues together, so this is one of, if not the only program that addresses both of those issues.</p> <p>Goal is to provide opportunities to gain parenting skills and social and emotional support without the economic barriers to parents with significant substance use challenges so that we can see outcomes in areas of substance use, recovery, child abuse prevention. Benefiting those impacted today and in future generations.</p> <p>Fund request for \$80,000 staffing and operating expenses.</p>	
<p>Friends for Change, Hailee Galandak-Cochran, Deb Witkus, Meghan Licciardi</p>	<p>Friends for Change Youth Center (FFC) is an established place-based initiative located in Bellows Falls, Vermont, built by and for historically marginalized youth. As a result of this effort, FFC, has earned the trust and respect of families directly impacted by generational trauma, poverty, and substance misuse within the greater Rockingham catchment area. This degree of trust places FFC in a unique position to effectively deliver intervention strategies and harm reduction to most at-risk youth and young adults aged 14- 25. Project Goal: The primary goal of our project is to build transformative relationships with most impacted youth, young adults and their families. Our approach utilizes the Search Institute's Developmental Assets (an</p>	

	<p>evidence-based approach.) We also integrate research-informed strategies which include play, sensory-integration, and SAMHSA's Trauma-Informed Approach. We will provide safe spaces that create connection and belonging to help heal some of the underlying causes of substance use disorder.</p> <p>Funding Request: \$100,000 per year for three years to assist with personnel and overhead.</p>	
<p>Pathways Vermont, Skylar Kelley and George Vana, MD</p>	<p>We propose that Pathways Vermont receive funds to implement a Contingency Management (CM) pilot program with our FACT (Forensic Assertive Community Treatment) and Housing First Department of Corrections (DOC) programs. Both programs enroll participants who are under direct supervision with the DOC.</p> <p>It would be offered to all in the program who struggle with substance use disorder, particularly around stimulants. The program would roll out under the supervision of our medical director, Dr. George Vana. It would utilize various tools for the incentives, likely a mix of urine drug screens, engagement with team members, and attendance at appointments.</p> <p>Funding request \$35,000 per year for two – three years for staffing and paying for CM rewards</p>	
<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>Ed Baker</p> <p>I know you're going to go into voting on proposals soon and I just want to reiterate the underlying philosophy of the opioid settlement class suit to develop and fund programs that are both efficacious and immediate and really with the primary focus on serving those most at risk for death. The people who had been victimized by predatory behavior on behalf of pharmaceutical companies and distributors and a segment of the medical profession. This is a population that was really abused by our culture and our culture's values. And I think that people need to focus on that because it's easy to drift away from that. The primary purpose to stay focused on people most at risk for death.</p>	
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>Monday, 1/6/2025, 10 - noon</p>	