

▶ Prevention Work in State Government

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Recovery and Revitalization Metrics

Areas of Focus

- Healthcare

Focus: Mental Health and Substance Use

Overdose deaths, deaths by suicide, ER visits, Available beds, Crisis services in ER

- Education

Focus: Academic and Social-Emotional Recovery

Truancy and absenteeism

- Housing

Focus: Expanding Housing Opportunities

service in emergency housing, # in transitional housing, # of households who are homeless

- Public Safety

Focus: Impact Areas of Significant Crime

Heat map of public safety incidents

Public Safety Recovery Approach

What is the Public Safety Enhancement Team?

- ▶ PSET's goal is to reorient policies and improve coordination among programs and systems for better health and safety outcomes. The agencies and departments have been directed to apply the principles of the State's nation-leading Pandemic Response to measure activity and respond in real-time, identify causal factors and take action to prevent crime and better serve Vermont's most vulnerable.
- ▶ The critical work of the PSET is to identify "hotspot" communities for prioritization to swiftly deploy needed interventions and/or services to actively disrupt patterns and prevent interactions with the criminal justice system.
- ▶ Led by DPS and AHS

Role of the Chief Prevention Officer

Created by Act 82, 2019

“coordinating, across State government and in collaboration with community partners, policies, programs, and budgets to support and improve the well-being of all Vermonters through prevention efforts. The Chief Prevention Officer shall:

identify and coordinate initiatives across State government and among community stakeholder groups that improve well-being;

examine promising prevention practices in other jurisdictions that may be replicated in Vermont; and

improve the well-being of all Vermonters by considering population prevention measures in relation to all policy determinations

Role of the Director of Violence Prevention

October 2022: EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 05-22 Governor's Violence Prevention Task Force

Director of Violence Prevention will lead a reconstituted Violence Prevention Task Force made up of Executive Branch officers responsible for law enforcement and prosecution, and social service interventions.

The Task Force shall:

- Coordinate policy implementation across state government to help address violence against others in schools and communities;
- Identify needed reform of existing criminal justice laws, regulations, policies, and programs and propose - and advocate for - legislative and programmatic changes to better deter and prevent violent crimes and hold offenders accountable;
- Coordinate federal funding opportunities to better prevent community violence, facilitate better use of ERPO implementation/enhancements and significantly improve school safety and school violence prevention; and
- Perform other duties with respect to violence prevention initiatives as the Governor may direct

Chief Prevention Officer:

Convene and connect work across State Government to address prevention through operational initiatives, planning and strategic decision making. Guidance on policy and operational implementation in areas as diverse as:

- Substance Use Disorder, including Cannabis
- Suicide Prevention
- Mental Health
- Housing and Homelessness
- Chronic Disease
- Aging Well
- Health Equity and Elimination of Disparities
- Refugee Resettlement
- Social determinants of health and conditions that contribute to health and well-being.

Partners

State Government: VDH; DCF; DMH; DAIL;
DVHA; DOC; AOE; ANR; DLL, ORE, AOA

Community: Local Prevention Coalitions,
Vermont AfterSchool, Designated Agencies,
Preferred Substance Use Providers, Prevention
Works VT!, Mentor Vermont, Vermont
Legislature, Johns Hopkins, VAMHAR/Recovery
Vermont

Councils: Substance Misuse Prevention
Council, Health Equity Advisory Commission,
Opioid Settlement Advisory
Committee, Governor's Challenge to Prevent
Service Member, Veteran and Family Suicide,
Vermont Interagency Afterschool Task Force,
Violence Prevention Task Force

Local Coalitions

Chief Prevention Officer

- ▶ 25 Local Coalitions in 11 counties across the state

Director of Violence Prevention

- ▶ Vermont Superintendents Association
- ▶ Vermont Principals Association
- ▶ Vermont League of Cities and Towns
- ▶ Vermont School Crisis Planning Team
- ▶ State's Attorneys and Sheriffs

Director, Violence Prevention

Report directly to the Office of the Governor and responsible for:

- ▶ Ensuring the Violence Prevention Task Force (VPTF) is achieving real results.
- ▶ Working with the Agency of Education, the Vermont School Safety Center and school safety teams to expand the use of Behavioral Threat Assessments in schools;
- ▶ Developing a plan to ensure every school is using and updating assessment tools;
- ▶ Developing a streamlined response and reporting system for school threats.
- ▶ Working with the Attorney General, the States' Attorneys and Sheriffs and the departments of health and mental health to maximize the use of Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) laws statewide, among other responsibilities.

Partners

- ▶ Agency of Human Services
 - ▶ Department of Corrections
 - ▶ Department of Health
 - ▶ Department of Mental Health
 - ▶ Department of Children and Families
- ▶ Department of Public Safety
- ▶ Department of States Attorneys and Sheriffs
- ▶ Agency of Education
- ▶ Agency of Digital Services
- ▶ Attorney General's Office
- ▶ Center for Crime Victim Services
- ▶ Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
- ▶ Vermont School Safety Center

Violence Prevention Legislative Policy Package

1. Drug Offenses (S.58)

- ▶ Fentanyl
- ▶ Drugs Death Resulting
- ▶ Second and Subsequent Offenses

2. Bail (Portions in S.4)

3. Delinquency and Youthful Offender (Portions in S.4)

4. Competency and Insanity - (S.91)

5. School Safety (S.138)

Options-based Response Drills

Visitor Management

Emergency Operations Plans (EOP)

Behavioral Threat Assessment Teams (BTAT)

Funding Opportunities

Prevention Work

- ▶ Cannabis Excise Tax Revenue- for prevention/prevention coalitions
- ▶ Opioid Settlement Funds- for opioid abatement efforts

Violence Prevention Work

- ▶ School Safety Center- federal grants
 - ▶ Department of Homeland Security
 - ▶ Department of Justice

Extreme Risk Protection Orders

- ▶ In collaboration with the Department of Public Safety, development and launch of an ERPO training for law enforcement, prosecutors and the public.
- ▶ Final drafts of the training modules are currently being reviewed.

Domestic Violence Working Group

- ▶ Domestic Violence is most reported violent crime
- ▶ Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission Report 2023
- ▶ Focus on how to assist employees who are experiencing domestic violence/ intimate partner violence
- ▶ Developing guidelines for supervisors
- ▶ Identifying and implementing supervisor training
- ▶ Developing an employee support model
- ▶ Future work on policy

OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND Advisory Committee

Act 118 (2022) An act relating to the creation of the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee and the Opioid Abatement Special Fund

- Signed by the Governor on 5/16/22
- Creates the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee
- Committee supported and Chaired by VDH
- First meeting to be called before June 30, 2022
- Meeting regularly to discuss the use of the Settlement Funds

Opioid Settlement Advisory Council

The Committee agreed to adhere to and expand upon a set of five principles for the use of funds from opioid litigation espoused by Johns Hopkins:

1. Spend money to save lives; use the funds to supplement rather than replace existing spending.
2. Use evidence to guide spending.
3. Invest in youth prevention.
4. Focus on all forms of equity, including geographic/rural.
5. Develop a transparent, inclusive decision-making process guided by public health leaders with the active engagement of people and families with lived experience, clinicians, as well as other key groups.

For SFY 2024- Recommendations from the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee

- ▶ Expanded Naloxone Distribution
- ▶ Opioid Medication Units- 3 additional sites in: Addison, Eastern VT, Chittenden + 1 DOC site within the NSCF
- ▶ Additional Outreach Workers in 26 Preferred Providers and Outreach through the 4 Syringe Service Programs
- ▶ Funding for a Contingency Management Program for 1120 individuals
- ▶ Wound Care Telehealth Consultation
- ▶ Expanded Fentanyl Test Strips (and Xylazine when available)

School Safety Center Grants

Vermont School Safety Center Grants

- ▶ Department of Justice grants
 - ▶ Behavioral Threat Assessment training
 - ▶ SurviVermont Program
- ▶ Vermont Department of Homeland Security Grant
 - ▶ Current Behavioral Threat Assessment Training
- ▶ Working on a grant application through the Department of Justice for a School Violence Prevention Program grant



THANK YOU

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