

Chief Prevention  
Officer  
Testimony to  
Senate Health and  
Welfare

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# AGENDA

- ▶ Role of the CPO
- ▶ Cannabis Funding
  - ▶ Prevention
  - ▶ After School
- ▶ Opioid Settlement Funding
  - ▶ Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee

# 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:

Working to convene and connect work across Agencies and Departments to leverage efforts to address prevention through operational initiatives, planning and strategic decision making.

Amplifying and Leveraging the messaging and work around prevention in relation to substance use and misuse; addressing the well-being of Vermonters through prevention of chronic disease; supporting mental health and care to prevent the need for high levels of care; supporting housing and benefits to achieve self-sufficiency; focusing on early health and intervention and aging well. Identifying opportunities to address the social determinants of health and improve conditions that contribute to health and well-being.

Creating universal understanding that prevention is a critical activity throughout the life span. Raising the profile of prevention and awareness of strategies, initiatives and efforts that are preventative in nature.

# Partners

State Government: VDH; DCF; DMH; DAIL; DVHA; ANR; DLL

Community: Local Prevention Coalitions, VT AfterSchool, Designated Agencies, Legislature

Coalitions: Substance Misuse Prevention Council, Health Equity Advisory Commission, Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee, Vermont Interagency Afterschool Task Force

# Cannabis Sales Tax Revenue

Act 164 (in 2020) made adult use cannabis legal in the state of Vermont

Governor Scott allowed Act 164 to go into law without his signature with several key requests- one was to ensure that there was a plan and significant funding dedicated to prevention efforts for Vermont's youth

Subsequent Legislation:

Act 62 (2021)- dealt primarily with the functioning of the Cannabis Control Board and addressed substance misuse prevention funding

# Cannabis Tax Revenue Breakdown

## Of the 14% Excise Tax:

70% to general fund

30% to Substance Misuse and Prevention

**\*\*\* First Use of Excise Tax is to backfill deficit in the Cannabis Control Fund for CCB operational costs**

## Of the 6% Sales Tax:

**all** dedicated for after school and summer learning programs

# OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND

**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





THANK YOU

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