

Please post Jolinda's letter.

From: James Harrison
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 8:07 AM
To: Maida Townsend
Subject: Fwd: Letters of support for acudetox accessibility from Seniors at the Bugbee Senior Center in WRJ

FYI

Jim Harrison
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "LaClair, Jolinda" <Jolinda.LaClair@vermont.gov>
Date: February 6, 2018 at 10:05:49 PM EST
To: James Harrison <JHarrison@leg.state.vt.us>
Cc: "Gowdey, Rose" <Rose.Gowdey@vermont.gov>, "LaClair, Jolinda" <Jolinda.LaClair@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: Letters of support for acudetox accessibility from Seniors at the Bugbee Senior Center in WRJ

Good evening Jim. Thanks for reaching out...Non-pharmacologic approaches to pain management and treatment are an important strategy recommended by the Governor's Opioid Coordination Council (OCC) for reducing the use of opioids. I am unclear whether this distinct license is only for acudetox – many more certified acupuncturists in the state of Vermont than 7? Tried to find more information just now on OPR website...unsuccessful.

Pasted below is the OCC strategy recommendation pertinent to this topic. Have you called upon anyone from the DVHA which just conducted the acupuncture study, or the Vermont Department of Health? Or, Dr. John Porter, the new Ex Director of UVMHC Integrative Health Care Pain Clinic? I do not have background on this particular license; I do know research and exploration of all payer reimbursement for health care modalities which provide options for pain management must be part of our multi-faceted approach to turn the curve on opioid use and addiction. In addition, Governor Scott and AHS Secretary Gobeille testified before the US House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health today – every state in the nation is facing this opioid crisis and seeking alternatives for pain management...Governor Scott raised this issue in his testimony and reaffirmed in his response to questions. Please let me know if I can offer further information. Best, Jolinda

MAXIMIZE NON-PHARMACOLOGICAL APPROACHES

MAXIMIZE THE USE OF NON-PHARMACOLOGICAL APPROACHES (INTEGRATIVE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS) FOR PAIN MANAGEMENT, AND FOR SUD TREATMENT AND RECOVERY.

Action: In the next year the OCC will support a working group, including Blueprint, Health Care Reform, Vermont Department of Health, and integrative health care professionals to address research opportunities, coverage across all payers, and the availability of integrative health care options for pain management, and SUD treatment and recovery, throughout Vermont.

Related goals:

- Reduce the number of people with SUD.
- Reduce the total opioid pain relievers dispensed each year.
- Reduce the number of youth using illegal substances.
- Reduce the risk of relapse in recovery.

Narrative: The OCC joined Health Commissioner Levine in a roundtable conversation about the potential of integrative health care professions and interventions to address pain management, and to support substance use disorder treatment and recovery. These may include acupuncture, chiropractic, yoga, physical therapy, massage therapy, meditation/mindfulness and other evidence-based methods.

Vermont integrative health professionals and the University of Vermont are working to advance strategies that can help to increase access to these methods.

VT response to NGA recommendation: Build the evidence base for non-opioid treatments for pain. YES. Vermont supports the recommendation to continue to build the evidence base for alternatives to opioids in the treatment of pain. This includes support for complementary and integrative health care research institutions (including the NIH-NCCIH), the funding of independent research efforts, and studies that focus on key populations (e.g. minorities, veterans, rural). Vermont's Department of Corrections (DOC) offers non-pharmacological treatments for pain including NSAIDs, yoga, physical therapy, home exercise programs, meditation/mindfulness., and is exploring the use of acupuncture, cryotherapy, and any other evidence-based intervention. Numerous Vermont Treatment Providers and Recovery Centers offer non-pharmacological supports for pain management.

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www.healthvermont.gov/response/alcohol-drugs/governors-opioid-coordination-council

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead

From: James Harrison [<mailto:JHarrison@leg.state.vt.us>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2018 11:05 AM
To: LaClair, Jolinda <Jolinda.LaClair@vermont.gov>
Subject: FW: Letters of support for acudetox accessibility from Seniors at the Bugbee Senior Center in WRJ

Jolinda,
Our committee is reviewing removing the licensing provision of detox acupuncture (ears) because there are only 7 in the state. Do you have any thoughts on their effectiveness?
Thanks.
Jim

Rep. Jim Harrison
Representing Bridgewater, Chittenden, Killington & Mendon