



# S.261 – Response to Questions

To prevent and address adverse experiences in early childhood there are three primary places that children can be reached:

- Homes
  - ▣ Through evidence based home visiting programs
- Early care and learning environment
- Pediatric medical homes



# Home Visiting

# Governor's Budget and Funding Home Visiting

- Section E.300: Human services – agency of human services – secretary's office
- (a) Of the General Funds appropriated in Section B.300, \$500,000 is dedicated to preventative health measures to include dental sealants for children and new mother visits. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Human Services is authorized to transfer these amounts to other appropriations within the Agency of Human Services in order to implement these initiatives.

## Home visiting prevents ACES by:

- Improving parenting skills and use of positive parenting practices
- Reducing child abuse and neglect
- Increasing family economic sufficiency

### *PLUS*

- Improves child health and development
- Improves maternal health
- Strengthens linkages and referrals to other community services such as mental health

# Substance Use and Abuse Prevention Locally

And how to measure progress

## Above the Influence Student Groups

- ▣ Increased student engagement in regional groups
- ▣ Collaboration between student groups to hold events
- ▣ Student-led substance safety and refusal skills presentations



## Student LGBTQ Gathering and Resource Nights

- ▣ Vermont LGBTQ youth are using alcohol and marijuana at higher rates compared to their heterosexual peers (YRBS, 2013)
- ▣ The first event gathered 41 youth to The Junction Youth Center – a higher attendance than they had seen at their youth center
- ▣ Collaboration between student groups, coalitions, and youth-serving organizations
- ▣ Opportunity to increase connections of LGBTQ youth to one another and support resources



## Community Mobilization to Prevent Substance Misuse

- ▣ In Wells River, 3 overdose deaths over a 6 month period spurred the formation of a Wells River grassroots opioid response group in November 2016
- ▣ Connections have been forged between faith communities, schools, libraries, law enforcement, and local government to:
  - Implement Nurturing Parenting Program at the Blue Mountain School
  - Increase education for youth, parents, and school staff
  - Increase law enforcement engagement in community substance use prevention

# Alcohol and other Drug Use Scorecard

- The Health Department tracks substance use outcomes and performance measures on the dashboard:
  - ▣ <http://www.healthvermont.gov/scorecard-alcohol-drugs>
- There are four performance measures directly connected to maternal and child health, two of which are directly connected to home visiting.
- There is one performance measure regarding screening children in school