



# Building Bridges: 2019 Recommended Strategies

## Opioid Coordination Council

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# Opioid Coordination Council

## Executive Order 02-17; 09-17

- Opioid addiction in Vermont affects “all people, of all ages, in all communities, at all income levels”
- Vermont’s opioid crisis results in increased drug trafficking, mortality, and costs to Vermont’s resources and quality of life

## OCC’s Mission

To lead and strengthen Vermont’s response to the opioid crisis by ensuring full interagency and intra-agency coordination between state and local governments in the areas of prevention, treatment, recovery and law enforcement activities.



# Drivers of Systemic Improvement

Prevention: A “firewall of resilience.”

Intervention: Maximum opportunities to connect for treatment and recovery.

Treatment: Timely, affordable, effective services for all in need.

## Recovery:

- Beyond abstinence: health, relationships, productivity.
- Sustained, wraparound supports: employment, housing, transportation, engagement.

Enforcement: Supply reduction, alternatives to incarceration. Public safety, policing, courts, prosecution practices, corrections. Includes harm reduction.



# 2018 Insights: How the Drivers Interconnect

- A multi-substance approach to prevention is essential. Substances cannot be siloed.
- Vermont needs a coordinated, comprehensive statewide approach to preventing substance use disorder.
- Intervention is all about human connection.
- There can be no wrong door to services – we must weave together Vermont’s many resources.
- The first day of treatment is the first day of recovery.
- Stigma thrives in darkness – telling our stories generates light.



# Pathways to Effect Change

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**Policy:** Review of state laws, legislation, policies for gaps and redundancies, and recommend improvements.

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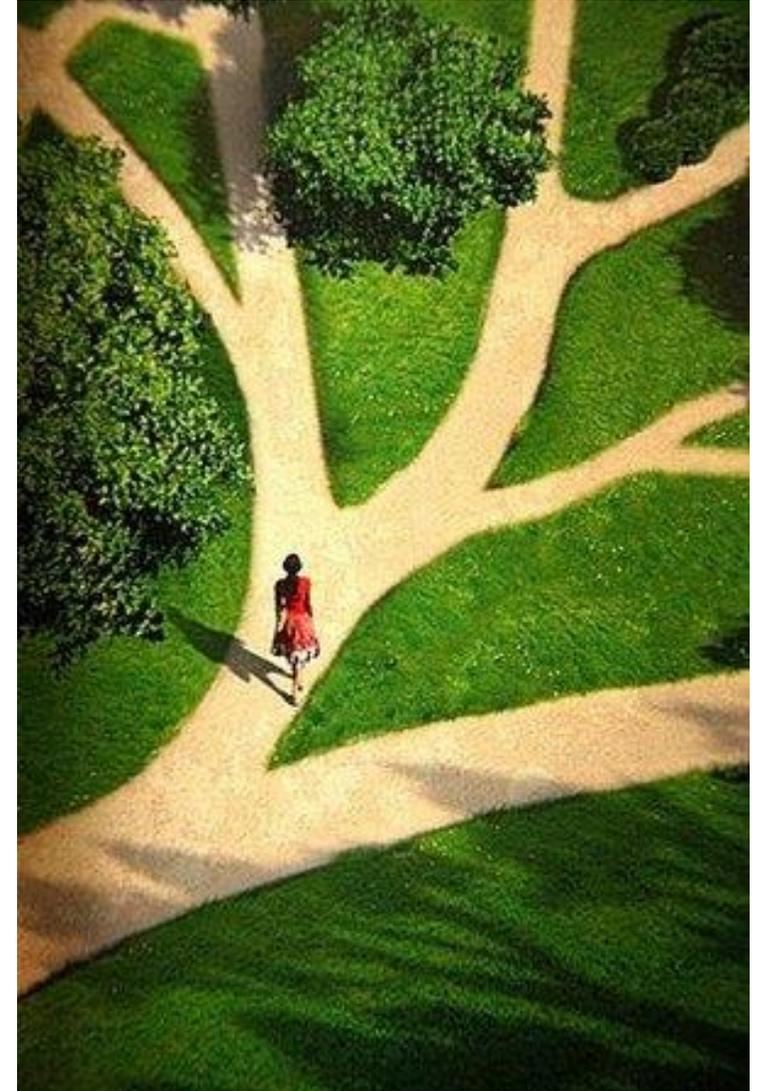
**Programs:** Recommend strategies to replicate successes and best practices, addressing gaps and needs.

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**Infrastructure:** How can improvements in the relationships between programs, departments and agencies result in efficiencies and improved outcomes?

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**Investment:** Leverage available and new funds for greatest impact.



# Measures

## Reduce:

- babies born into addiction
- youth using illegal substances
- total opioid pain relievers dispensed each year
- supply of illicit drugs in Vermont

## Increase:

- community & school-based prevention that build wellness and resilience across all drivers, for individuals and family members of those at risk
- people who transition to treatment through intervention services
- people in treatment
- people in recovery who have housing, jobs, and social supports



# How we'll recognize progress

## Reduced:

- Vermonters with substance use disorders
- opioid-related overdoses and deaths
- children in state custody as a result of SUDs
- frequency and impact of relapse in recovery

## Increased:

- Prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery supports available and accessible to all in need
- Vermonters successful in recovery
- Wellness and resilience for children, families and communities across Vermont



# The OCC:

Cross-section of leaders, geography, perspectives

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**Listening:** Information-gathering in communities, recovery centers, service organizations, coalitions, state agencies and departments

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## Years 1 & 2:

- Understanding the relationship between prevention and enforcement, treatment and recovery, and the role of intervention

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- Strategy development to address initial findings across prevention, intervention, treatment, recovery and enforcement

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# Priority Strategies

## Prevention:

- *Sustainable investment in primary and secondary prevention, in school- & community-based programs, resources and collaborations.*
- *Statewide, multi-generation prevention care continuum, with screening & sustained home visits for pregnant & parenting women & their children.*

**Intervention and harm reduction programs and services statewide** – Meeting people “where they are” with syringe services, MAT\*, SBINS, SUD and mental health professionals, and recovery coaches.

**The Recovery Bridge - A home, a job, and human connection (recovery coaching)**

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## Prevention:

# Build a comprehensive statewide system of primary and secondary prevention.

### Infrastructure for primary & secondary prevention:

- Investment model; statewide committee; leadership position; strong collaboratives
- Statewide, comprehensive school-based
- Afterschool programs and out-of-school activities
- Multigeneration prevention care approach for pregnant & parenting women & their children

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**Intervention:**  
**Expand &  
reinforce  
intervention &  
harm  
reduction  
statewide.**

Meeting people “where they are” is key to transitioning those with SUD into treatment and recovery.

- Syringe services programs
- Human bridge of intervention to engage people at critical moments:
  - Screening, Brief Intervention and Navigation to Services (SBINS)
  - Rapid Access to Medication-Assisted Treatment (RAM)
  - SUD & mental health professionals embedded in state & local police departments
  - recovery coaches for just-in-time transitions to treatment & recovery resources

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**Treatment:  
Support and  
expand a  
statewide system  
of treatment that  
ensures timely  
accessibility to  
comprehensive  
care.**

Evaluate, improve & increase capacity in the Hub and Spoke system:

- outcomes
- capacity and scope of services

Continue implementing expansion of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) in correctional facilities.



**Recovery:  
Build and support  
the Recovery  
Bridge: Integrate  
recovery services  
across Vermont to  
ensure access to  
robust recovery  
supports is  
available to all in  
need.**

- Recovery-Friendly Housing
- Employment in Recovery
- Recovery Coaching & Recovery Coach Academy
- Transportation

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## Enforcement:

Support law enforcement efforts to increase resources to address drug trafficking and roadway safety.

- Support law enforcement's efforts to secure federal and state funding for coordination of and resources for drug trafficking investigations.
- Support improvements in roadway safety - address drug impaired driving:
  - legislation allowing for the collection and testing of oral fluid to determine the presence of drugs in impaired drivers
  - adequate drug recognition experts, & funding.

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