In attendance: Heather Holter, Kiona Heath, Susan Ide, Martha McLafferty, Kris Lukens, Carolyn Hanson, Beth Reagle, Julie Ryley, Kim Jordon, Melissa Deas, Bianca Zanella, Anne Damone, Tari Scott, Amy Messina, Diane Kinney, Kerrie Johnson, Gary Marvel, Jessica Barquist, Rebecca Lalanne, Ellie Lane, Roxie Rivard, Jena Santa Maria, Becky Gonyea, Elizabeth Fox, Jen Firpo, Jeannie MacLeod, Michelle Donnelly, Darren Mitchell, Laura Savall, Michelle Scully, Christine Williams, Sara Jacobsen, Tiffanie Granger, Yvonne Byrd, Linda Ingold, Karen Tronsgard-Scott, Judge Sue Carbon, Gene Nelson

Full Council Meeting Agenda

Consent Agenda Accept December Council Meeting Minutes
- Minutes Accepted

10:00 Full Council Meeting Begins - Introductions (in chat box), Welcome New and Returning Members, Review Agenda, Opening Thoughts
- The last couple months have been defined by the process of supporting the Domestic Violence Accountability Program (DVAP) providers in recertification under Vermont’s new Values-Based Standards for DV Accountability Programs.
- We will review and certify 3 today.
- The process in communities across the state of assessing the programs for alignment with the Standards has been wonderful, as have been conversations generated about the Coordinated Community Response in each community.

10:05 Warned Item: ~ DV Accountability Committee
- We reviewed the process by which programs are moved through the certification process by the DVAC. The DVAC has met monthly since the December to support the recertification process.
- The DVAC recommends the 3 programs below for certification by the Council.

Action/Warned Item: The DV Accountability Committee recommends that the Council support the Certification of the following Domestic Violence Accountability Programs, finding them to be operating in alignment with the Values-Based Standards:

1. Revisions Program
2. Circles of Peace Program
3. DAEP Of Bennington Program

- Members reached consensus on warned Items and accepted the recommendation for these programs to be Certified. Caring Dads program
certification was moved to the June meeting, to give their review team more time to complete its work.
  o Stand Aside: Anne Damone

Reflections on the process:
  o The tech and logistics of getting all the information to all stakeholders has been a learning curve.
  o The new review process encouraged very fruitful and important conversations in our local Community Coordinated Response groups.
  o The Domestic Violence Specialists from the Dept. of Children and Families also reflect that participating in the community assessments of the DVAPs has been quite valuable.

10:30 Vermont Firearms Technical Assistance Project Update ~ Darren Mitchell and Hon. Sue Carbon, National Council for Juvenile and Family Court Judges & Carolyn Hansen

- Project to improve the systems responses to folks who are prohibited from using firearms in Vermont
- Highlights [see attached document]:
  o The project sites receive intensive technical assistance on both civil and criminal DV cases to address challenges relates to firearms.
  o In Vermont we're looking mostly at the civil process related to protection orders and firearms removal (forms and law enforcement protocols). We're also examining the flow of criminal cases.
  o Stand out challenge: taking on compliance review hearing – what is the role of the court in verifying the adequate implementation of firearms removal?
  o Stand our challenge: there is no funding attached to the project as of yet.

- We reviewed the most significant outcome of this project so far in detail: form changes.
  o Rooted in the challenge of not knowing that a defendant had a firearm before a serious injury or fatality occurred.
  o Began with the RFA forms to draw attention to how important information about firearms is to the courts.
    ▪ Complaint form: Added new check boxes for use, display, threat, intimidation with firearms, as well as clarifying the request of the plaintiff to have the firearms removed.
    ▪ Affidavit: expanded options and more room for explaining the access and use of firearms to the judges.
  o From question in the chat: In VT law, at the temporary order phase the judge has the discretion to order the removal firearms if the court can articulate a link between the firearm and the threat – the courts discretion on the removal remains the same now as it has before.
    ▪ What is being looked at now is increasing the capacity of the court to utilize that discretion with additional information and creating a pathway to ‘check in’ on compliance to this order.
- Opportunities for Participation:
  o Workgroups: Information Gathering and Law Enforcement Workgroups meet every other week. Contact Darren or Carolyn to join these groups.
  o All-sites meeting: April 5-7, 2022 from 12-4p ET

11:15 VT Network 2022 Legislative Update~ Jessica Barquist, Director of Public Policy & Organizing

- Last week was crossover: policy bills need to make it through this year since this is the end of the biennium. Highlights below:
- Appropriations:
  o Budget adjustment act
    ▪ focus on bridge funding for Legal Clinic at the Vermont Network
    ▪ piece on general and emergency assistance (motel stay timelines extended, and new transitional housing program offered) – resource for up to 18 months of housing supported by the state
  o FY 23 budget ask to make the DV/SV Special Fund, fully funding requests for DVAPS
- Judiciary Bills:
  o Firearms Protections Bill – S.30 passed by House and Senate but vetoed by Governor (due to Charleston Loophole) – new bill is S.4 that addresses this loophole. Hoping it will pass through quickly and Gov will sign S.4 in to law.
  o Juvenile Proceeding - S.224 – related to expansion on Raise the Age – passing in Senate, House Judiciary takes it up this week
    ▪ Changes made to ensure that victims’ rights, increased access to victims information in juvenile court, access to victims compensation, some court proceeding modifications, etc.
  o H.475 – related to creating a classification system for criminal offenses – attempt to create a consistent structure for crimes (including SV and DV crimes) that would clarify and firm up sentence lengths based on classification.
  o H.505 – reclassification on penalties related to possession and dispensing illegal drug – Network working with Decriminalize Vermont to pivot these policies in a public health direction
    ▪ Would create a drug use advisory board to determine benchmarks for use and supply that move toward laws that reflect harm reduction and substance use recovery realities.
- General:
  o H.329 – updates to discrimination statues – clarifies that discrimination does not have to be severe or pervasive to constitute discrimination (housing and employment). Did not make crossover but looking for other vehicles/strategies.
  o Prop 5 – headed to general election ballot in November – codifying reproductive liberty rights in VT Constitution.
- Housing:
- S.210 – includes language related to health and safety of rental units, as well as language on VT Housing Investment Program (loans to rehab rental units)
- S.226 – includes permitting reform, housing tax credits, accessory units, etc - details making it easier to build housing. Expected to pass out of Senate Finance and lots of activity in the House

11:50 Updates ~ Members, Collaborations, or Committees

- This is Kiona’s last Council meeting. Moving to a position at the Network as Director or Trauma Informed Care.
- Will welcome new Council Coordinate in June!
- Vermont Network is moving its office! Leaving Montpelier for the first time since 1986. New office is located in Waterbury – will take a couple months to make the complete transition.

11:55 Closing Thoughts & Wrap-up ~ Heather

12:00 Adjourn