

Town of Sharon
Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee Meeting – DRAFT minutes
15 School Street, Sharon, VT 05065

Wednesday, August 21, 2024, 5:15 pm
Town Offices' Conference Room

Attending: Dee Gish, Eileen Lanza, Deb Jones, Facilitator

Guest: Ella Harper-Schiel, Agency of Human Services, VT Department of Health

1. Call meeting to order 5:17 pm
2. Review/Approve agenda
3. Approve minutes from July 16th meeting. Motion made by Dee, seconded by Eileen. All approved.
4. Settlement funds available: \$7,450 as reported by Deb
5. Ella Harper-Schiel introduction
 - a. Prevention Consultant – supports town from the district office in White River Junction for issues related to substance misuse prevention.
 - b. Can provide print resources, technical assistance, grant writing and funding resources, and help with community events such as documentary screenings and community discussions.
 - c. Uses the VT Prevention Model to focus prevention at every level: individuals, communities and policies
6. Backpacks update
 - a. Eileen met with Shana (Baxter Library) and Dena (SHI)
 - b. Came up with a list of essential things to put in the backpacks.
 - c. Start with creating 10 backpacks – 5 for library and 5 for food shelf.
7. Opioid funding options
 - a. Could settlement funds be used for an hour/week of Dena's time and/or substance use prevention trainings?
 - i. Deb notes that the Church serves as the fiscal agent for SHI, so easiest to donate \$ to SHI and label it with a restricted purpose to fund opioid prevention time for Dena. A clear proposal including the purpose, and an hourly rate would need to go before the Selectboard.
8. Library need conversation
 - a. Shana would like to be able call someone for help with social services when a library patron is in need of services and/or requests a backpack.
 - b. A panic button is being installed in the library so emergency services can be called. The Selectboard has approved funding.
9. Training ideas/opportunities
 - a. De-escalation training for library and food shelf volunteers, and town office staff. Perhaps include Maplefields employees.
 - b. Ella suggests evidenced-based practices.

- c. Deb mentioned Fallon had recommended DBT. Halo can help with this training.
 - d. Ella can help facilitate trainings and help with marketing and framing an event and call it Life Skills Training. Ella can provide supplies to teach about social/emotional learning.
10. Narcan distribution box
- a. Laura from HIV HCV Resource Center provided Sharon with a Narcan distribution box and will keep it stocked when requested. The town needs to find a space for it. Test strips for xylazine and fentanyl can be added to the distribution box and also put in backpacks.
 - b. Ella suggests a space that is acceptable to the community while also being visible. May start by having it at the library. Deb suggests town land near the horseshoe pit but worries about where snow will be plowed from the park and ride.
 - c. Ella notes that contrary to public perception, people do not use drugs right near a Narcan box. They will take the Narcan provided but use at home.
 - d. HIV HCV center has a needle exchange service.
11. Petition for cannabis retail
- a. A petition for a cannabis retail establishment in the former Sandy's building has been filed. An Australian ballot vote is required to be held on or before October 19th.
 - b. Ella can facilitate a Community Conversation about retail cannabis. Wednesday, October 9th at 7:00 pm was decided on for a potential time for the Community Conversation. Dee will check with the Sharon Elementary School to see if the gym could be used. Snacks will be provided.
12. Resource binders
- a. Shana has binders at the library with resources related to housing and homelessness. We would like to organize a similar binder with resources relating to substance use prevention.
 - b. Ella has put together a resource package for Shana and can also provide resources to our group. We can put a binder at the food shelf.
13. COVID tests – Ella provided a box of COVID tests to Deb to put in the town office for distribution as people come in to pay their property taxes.

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 19th at 5:15.

Motion to adjourn was made by Dee and seconded by Eileen. Ella will join future meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10.