

TOWN OF SHARON, VT

Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee (OSAC) Meeting

15 School Street, Sharon, VT 05065

Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025, 5:15 pm

Conference Room at Town Office Town Office

Attending: Deb, Dee, Ella (Eileen absent)

MEETING AGENDA

1. Call meeting to order – 5:30
2. New Opioid Settlement funding from the Sackler family was reported in the news. Will the towns get more \$? Ella – opioid settlement advisory committee at state level decides where funds are spent.
3. Deb distributed a write up for the Town Report. We have obligated \$1,300 to the emergency backpack project, so have around \$7,200 for other projects. Project ideas:
 - a. Getting to Y program – Up For Learning nonprofit runs it. Empowers students to understand that taking the Youth Risk survey matters. Could hold a data analysis retreat at schools. Then conduct a community dialog night and decide what to do with the information. Could include suicide prevention workshops, gay/straight alliance, etc. Youth Risk Survey conducted bi-annually. Supervisory Union reports results. Ella is not sure about Independent School data. Dept. of Health breaks down the data. Maybe Fallon at TSA would be interested in organizing? This could be funded by the OSAC. Ella would look into whether TSA participates in the survey. Maybe we could use supervisory union data or county data for a presentation. Up For Learning trains students to review the data and give presentations. There are presentations at Thetford Academy.
 - b. Screenagers film series – impact of phones on youth. Hartford MS is showing all 4 in the series over the year. Geared toward parents, shown during school dances. Ella will reach out to TSA.
 - c. Luncheons at Steele Chapel with SHI. Thursdays. Ella will try to come to the next one with resources.
4. Approve minutes from 11/20/24 meeting. Deb made a motion to accept minutes. Dee seconded. Approved.
5. Updates on trainings, resource binder project, Narcan box placement.

- a. Deb and Laura Byrne had a conversation about a Narcan box outside town hall on route 14 side. Sensitive to hot weather, so needs a shady spot. Do test strips hold up in weather? Jack will help put post in the ground in a shady spot. Also recommended to have Narcan near each AED location (town hall, library, town garage and Maplefields). Her opinion of retail cannabis in town – if people can move from opioids to cannabis, it is helpful.
 - b. Ella wants people to be informed about cannabis. Cannabis Control Board is proposing several new rules to the legislature, especially about advertising (no children) and increasing the distance of retailers from schools. Ella planning on meeting with the Sharon cannabis retailer when they open to support them from a prevention perspective.
 - c. Ella can also do presentations at the Law School.
 - d. Church news: sanctuary will be open to community use. The back 2/3 of pews will be removed so there can be tables and chairs for community use.
 - e. Vershire substance abuse support group is expanding to do programs in other towns. Pastoral clinician leads sessions for adults. Outreach through health clinics, social media and list serves and social services (SHI, Food Shelf). Could maybe do a Saturday introductory class. Ella can reach out if we would like.
 - f. Upper Valley Turning Point (part of a state network) – two staff members with location in WRJ. They do 12-step like programs for recovery. And family support group, facilitated by someone that is in recovery.
 - g. Fallon talks about DBT and is not as big a fan of traditional 12-step programs. DBT would be administered by a licensed clinician. Ella: there are a number of national online groups that support families of people in recovery.
6. Next steps
- a. Ella will follow up with us about YRBS data and then reach out to Fallon regarding Getting to Y presentation at TSA.
 - b. Backpacks – Deb bought hats and gloves. Three backpacks are out there. Conversation with Windsor County Sheriff – ask what they need, so we can help supply them. Ex: handwarmers, sleeping bags. Maplefield’s card? Deb will talk with Jim Beraldi to see what supplies are needed. Could the Windsor County Sheriff Social Worker make contact with person under the bridge?
7. Next Meeting – Tuesday, February 25, 5:15 (maybe at the library with Shana)

Contact Person: Deb Jones, Facilitator at treasurer@sharonvt.net or 468_629_4324x9