

Preparing/Planning to Address the Opioid Crisis and Substance Use Disorders Vermont Follow-Up

I. ACTION PLAN SUMMARIES

United Children's Services of Bennington Co. Head Start/Early Head Start

Mental Health and Substance Misuse services

Objective/Outcome: Integrating mental health and substance abuse clinicians to connect parents to treatment options as appropriate.

- Internal communication
- Establish a Substance Misuse Work Group to support and monitor the work outlined in the local action plan
- Identify a screening tool for substance misuse

Champlain Valley Head Start/Early Head Start

Family Engagement in Recovery Services

Objective/Outcome: Increase family engagement in support of recovery to strengthen positive parent-child relationships.

- Community Impact Grant
- Expand availability of drop-in services at MAT clinic
 - o Support developmental screening of children
- Recruit facilitators from Mental Health & Recovery for parenting group (Turning Points; Chittenden Clinic; Howard Center; ECFMH)
- Train Early Education, Family Services & Recovery communities in support of parenting curriculum
- Pilot trauma-informed parenting curriculum at trusted locations

Capstone Head Start/Early Head Start

Transportation

Objective/Outcome: Improve family access to transportation to meet families' treatment and recovery needs.

- Meet with local transportation providers to determine what services are offered, potential gaps, and strategies for improving (transportation group, including local taxi services).
- Gather more information about Medicaid rides for children
- Partner with Bigras Auto re: mechanic letter to support families with unusable cars.

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Vermont State Team

Objective/Outcome: Facilitate statewide family access to substance use treatment and recovery services to support positive parent-child relationships.

- Share information from the OHS Opioid Summit with the Governor's Opioid Coordination Council (Prevention Council)
- Convene home visitors (statewide) to focus specifically on the topic of substance abuse – prevalence and impact; resources; reducing stigma – and explore use of Communities of Practice.
- Disseminate information to Family Services and Reach Up/TANF Supervisors
- Develop and/or disseminate universal, anticipatory guidance for families and service providers re: Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS)
- Share information about Head Start/Early Head Start services & resources with law enforcement entities statewide
- Examine policies related to Medicaid transportation and share information with Head Start/Early Head Start programs statewide.

II. NATIONAL CENTER ON EARLY CHILDHOOD HEALTH AND WELLNESS REGIONAL THEMES

Staff Training: the current opioid crisis (prevalence, trends, etc.); trauma-informed care, substance abuse/misuse, motivational interviewing, utilizing sensitive common language, naloxone usage, reducing stigma related to opioid use, housing assistance, staff wellness

Establishing/Utilizing Partnerships: Health departments; Police departments; Doctors/hospitals; Mental health organizations; Social service agencies; Substance abuse treatment facilities; Health Advisory Committees; Automotive shops; Transportation agencies; Taxis; Judges

Information Sharing: Program directors/leadership, community partners, Health Services Advisory Committees, policy councils, and entire agencies; using the conference presentation as a basis and supplementing with local data; share the strategic action plans with program leadership/Boards of Directors

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Using Data/Assessments: initiating new data collection efforts, amending existing assessments, or analyzing data from outside sources; identifying or creating an appropriate screening tool for substance misuse and implementing the tool in assessments or adding questions around pain and pain management (e.g., experiences with surgery, dental work, giving birth) to parent/family needs assessments; develop pre- and post-surveys to assess level of success in achieving objectives; obtain county-/AHS district-level data to provide a local perspective to the conference PowerPoint presentation before disseminating

Engaging in Strategic Discussions: joining existing task forces/meetings or holding community forums/discussion panels; joining local substance use disorder task forces, state task forces or attending Board of Director/senior leadership meetings

Creating Resources: compilation of local prevention, treatment, and recovery resources; “one-pager information sheet” of resources and basic substance misuse information; creating/update existing brochures to include substance misuse and treatment resources

Community Outreach: Engaging and/or educating communities, including parents and families of enrolled children; providing tangible resources/materials to families (e.g., trainings); creating support groups for families affected by substance abuse

III. INFORMING NEXT STEPS

What’s the current status of action steps identified in planning?

How do grantee and state action plans align? Are there any contradictions?

What successes have already been experienced in this work? What contributed to success?

What challenges have been experienced? Why? Have other entities experienced similar challenges? How were they handled? What strategies could be employed to overcome presenting challenges?

What additional resources are needed to complete action steps?

How can the VTHSCO support the work at the state-level?