

# VIRGINIA OFFICE FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION (VOSAP) COLLABORATIVE

MARCH 5, 2015 - 9:00-11:00 A.M.

NATIONAL GUARD WALLER DEPOT, RICHMOND VA

## **VOSAP Collaborative Members in attendance:**

Vivian Stith-Williams, Ph.D., Dept. of Education

Sarah Westphal, Virginia State Police/YOVASO\*

Jennifer Smith Slaybaugh, Ph.D., VCU Center for School-Community Collaboration

Tracey Jenkins, Dept. of Criminal Justice Services\*\*

Gail Taylor, Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

Jennifer Farinholt, Dept. of Alcoholic Beverage Control

Marty Kilgore, Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth

Major Jon Chapman, Counterdrug Task Force Virginia National Guard

## **VOSAP Collaborative Members not present:**

Jo Ann Burkholder, Dept. of Education

Ann Childress, Dept. of Social Services

Art Mayer, Dept. of Juvenile Justice

Butch Letteer, Dept. of Motor Vehicles

Heather Board, Dept. of Health

Michelle Schmitt, VCU Center for School Community Collaboration

Mark Buff, Dept. of Fire Programs

\*Other VSP/YOVASO representative is Mary King

\*\*Other DCJS representatives include Donna Michaelis and Shellie Mackenzie

**Key: Passages in red are action items that require follow-up.**

## **Welcome**

We opened by introducing ourselves and welcomed new participants Vivian Stith-Williams, Ph.D., Dept. of Education; Sarah Westphal, Virginia State Police/YOVASO; and Jennifer Smith Slaybaugh, Ph.D., VCU Center for School-Community Collaboration (CSCC).

**Note:** Our former Virginia State Police (VSP) VOSAP Collaborative representative, Gene Ayers, retired several months ago. D.A.R.E. is now a part of the Virginia State Police Association (VSPA). Youth of Virginia Speak Out About Traffic Safety ([YOVASO](#)) was previously administered by VSPA and is now under the direction of VSP. VSP Deputy Superintendent Lt. Colonel Northern notified VOSAP on January 29, 2015 that YOVASO Program Administrator Mary King is our new VSP representative. Sarah, YOVASO Marketing & Training Specialist, will also attend meetings.

In the course of our introductions, Gail shared the exciting development that her DBHDS section (Gail is Director, Office of Behavioral Health Wellness) has been elevated organizationally and will now benefit from higher visibility.

We also noted that JoAnn Burkholder is now the Director of DOE's Office of Student Services. Segueing from a discussion of changes at DOE, Vivian expressed concern that Virginia ABC's College Tour did not include any conferences at HBCUs. Jennifer agreed participation with HBCUs is very important. She shared that there are several representatives from HBCUs with whom ABC staff members are regularly in contact to plan programming—including encouragement of College Tour hosting and attendance. (Each cycle of College Tour is different. Norfolk State, George Mason and Longwood hosted the first cycle. The next cycle stops were

hosted by Tidewater Community College and Northern Virginia Community College. The 2014/2015 cycle included James Madison, University of Richmond, William & Mary, Virginia Tech and George Mason.) Vivian offered to help develop additional contacts with HBCUs. **Jennifer will follow-up. On March 5, 2015 Jennifer provided contact/status updates for representatives from: Norfolk State University, Virginia State University, Virginia Union University and Hampton University. She also shared Danielle Luster's contact information. (Danielle is the lead ABC Education and Prevention Coordinator for Higher Ed. initiatives.)**

Gail and Jon discussed efforts to provide greater access/referral to treatment services. Veterans Affairs services are available to National Guard personnel.

### **Review of Meeting Summary from November 11, 2014**

There were no revisions to the November 11, 2014 Meeting Summary.

### **VOSAP Standards of Learning project**

On November 21, 2014, on behalf of VOSAP, Jennifer submitted (via the web public comment collection tool) three general recommendations for revisions to the health SOLs:

- Wherever “drugs” are referenced, specifically identify three categories that are most commonly misused/abused: illicit, prescription and over-the-counter.
- Wherever “tobacco” is referenced, include “other tobacco products (OTP).” (This would capture products such as: e-cigarettes, hookah, flavored products, etc.)
- In every grade level include physical activity as it relates to overall health. (This is currently omitted from grades 2 and 6.)

On December 16-17, 2014, Jennifer attended the Leadership Summit on Impaired Driving hosted by DMV. DOE's Principal Specialist for Health, Physical and Driver Education, Office of Science and Health Education Vanessa Wigand and Collective Health Impact, LLC Executive Director Erima S. Fobbs, MPH also attended the summit. Jennifer took the opportunity to note our SOL recommendations to Vanessa. Jennifer, Vanessa and Erima (among others) also briefly discussed future partnership opportunities for underage and high-risk drinking prevention activities.

Marty shared that Vanessa reached out to VFHY for supplemental resources regarding e-cigarettes. **Jennifer will follow up with Marty for more information to share with the group.**

### **Epidemiological data report**

Gail said that DBHDS is in the procurement phase of an epi report that will be put out to bid shortly. This will include a Social Indicator (SI) Study at the state and community level. DBHDS has shifted away from Requests for Applications and providing grants. They now apply a needs-based, data-driven approach. In the future data for the SI study will be available online. The new system will help project future needs and identify interconnected issues.

### **VCU Center for School Community Collaboration (CSCC)/SAMHSA SPF SIG>SPF PFS**

Jen's work at CSCC has transitioned from working intensively with the State Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG) cohort (nine coalitions using evidence-based practices to reduce drunk driving

among individuals age 18-24) to spending more time now on SAMHSA's "Now Is the Time" Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resilience Education) grant program that builds and expands the capacity of state and local educational agencies to increase awareness of mental health and substance abuse issues among school-age (K-12) youth. The program is based on SAMHSA's Safe Schools Healthy Students model.

There are three public school division pilots in Virginia: Montgomery, Pulaski and part of Fairfax County Public Schools. Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) and Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) will be provided to at least 750 people. There are 18,000+ students at the pilot schools.

There are three goals:

- Develop a multi-tiered model that integrates a comprehensive systems approach for addressing the mental health needs of children and youth that can be piloted with the three selected school divisions.
- Integrate a multi-tiered systems framework for the delivery of mental health services that will increase the efficiency of systems (policies, regulations, and procedures) at the state and local levels to advance collaboration, capacity integration and coordination of services by piloting the project at the three selected school divisions and with state agencies.
- Expand the availability and delivery of MHFA and YMHFA throughout the Commonwealth to increase early identification and intervention in cases of mental health distress in Virginia's youth.

Jen and Vivian are now certified YMHFA instructors.

Gail and Jen also discussed the transition from SPF SIG to maintaining the SPF model and implementing SAMSHA's Strategic Prevention Framework Partnerships for Success (PFS) state grant. It is now the expectation that the SPF model is the foundation for everything/all prevention work.

SPF PFS is designed to address two of the nation's top substance abuse prevention priorities: 1) underage drinking among persons aged 12 to 20; and 2) prescription drug misuse and abuse among persons aged 12 to 25. States were directed to identify one of the priorities; Virginia identified prescription drug misuse and abuse. Virginia is one of 36 states eligible to apply for PFS. (**Jennifer will follow up with Gail for more information.**) For this effort CSBs would be funded versus coalitions. In the Commonwealth, the Southwest region has the biggest problem with Rx drug abuse but there are numerous other regions with high misuse/abuse.

Vivian commented that it is crucial to consider the varying cultures of the affected communities. We all agreed and Gail shared that it is a SPF requirement that grantees demonstrate cultural competency.

### **Community Coalitions of Virginia (CCoVA) and Needs Assessment survey brainstorm; funding for regional marijuana needs assessments**

Jennifer shared that when she approached CCoVA Chair Nancy Hans about the possibility of partnering for the VOSAP Schools and Communities Recognition Program (as proposed in our November 2014 meeting), Nancy Hans said CCoVA members are very busy with various efforts/coaching/mentoring *and* trying to get ahead on marijuana issues (increased use by Virginia youth and decreased perception of harm among Virginia youth). Jointly with CCoVA, three coalitions are taking the lead:

- [Prevention Council of Roanoke County](#) (Nancy Hans is the Executive Director and Brittany Sandidge is Director of Development) with CCoVA

- [Substance Abuse Free Environment, Inc.](#) formed the Central Virginia Marijuana Taskforce; Regina Whitsett is Executive Director
- [Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County](#) formed the NOVA Marijuana Prevention Taskforce; Sara Freund, is Executive Director and Diane Eckert is Deputy Executive Director

On March 3, 2015, Jennifer met with Nancy Hans and Regina Whitsett to discuss a request for VOSAP to fund regional marijuana needs assessments. Jennifer shared this information with the group. The funding request included:

**Goal 1:** Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment through CCoVA and regional marijuana prevention task forces to identify the root causes, regional and state conditions of youth marijuana use as measured by 2016 youth survey data compared to 2014 youth survey data.

**Strategies:**

1. Create and implement youth, parent and community surveys
2. Hold focus groups, key informant interviews, Town Hall Meetings, Observation sessions, and environmental scans
3. Collect data from Education, Law Enforcement, Health Care, Commerce and Census databases
4. Analyze collected data to prepare state and regional logic models and strategic plans

**Goal 2:** Develop state and regional comprehensive Strategic Plans based on analyzed needs assessment data to determine strategies for implementation that will reduce youth marijuana use as measured by 2016 youth survey data compared to 2014 youth survey data.

**Strategies:**

1. Prepare state and regional logic models based on problem statements, root causes and local conditions
2. Select appropriate evidenced based environmental strategies from CADCA’s 7 strategies for Community Change that address logic models
3. Create state and regional strategic plans that include evaluation components

**Note:** Ms. Whitsett stressed that this request was in preliminary form.

We discussed the request outlined by CCoVA and whether it was allowable through state procurement rules. Ultimately, Jennifer said she would take the request to Virginia ABC leadership. **Update: After presenting the request, Jennifer sent the following reply to Nancy Hans and Regina Whitsett on April 1, 2015:**

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me on March 3, 2015. I shared your proposal (to fund regional needs assessments for marijuana) during the March 5, 2015 Virginia Office for Substance Abuse Prevention (VOSAP) Collaborative meeting and on March 16, 2015 during an Education and Prevention Section (EPS) staff meeting attended by the EPS team and Chief Communications and Research Officer Eddie Wirt.

ABC is currently limited in its ability to provide grant funds beyond what is currently available through annual Education and Prevention grants and mini grants distributed as part of existing agency programs. While the agency would like to expand the amount of funds available to prospective grantees, current funding levels and strict oversight of “state agency grants” have limited ABC’s ability to increase funding levels.

We very much appreciate your partnership and look forward to continuing discussions of how we can work together to prevent substance abuse among youth.

Many thanks,  
Jennifer

### **Agency news & updates**

- Wellness: Broadening Prevention conference is May 3-5, 2015 at the Doubletree by Hilton in Williamsburg.
- Gail received a very comprehensive project proposal focused on underage drinking including outreach to parents. (This involves the potential partnership, previously cited in these notes, with Vanessa Wigand and Erima Fobbs.) Gail will share more information if this moves forward.
- VFHY and Prevention Connections hosted Weight of the State on April 20-21, 2015.
- DSS and Prevent Child Abuse Virginia hosted statewide Child Abuse Prevention Conference on April 13, 2015.
- YOVASO Summer Leadership Retreat is June 22-25, 2015 at James Madison University.

### **Next meeting date**

We will meet informally during the Wellness: Broadening Prevention conference. We also discussed using technology to make our meetings more convenient. Jennifer recently used Google Hangout and Go To Meeting. Sarah said OOVOO is also a good tool for video chats with up to 12 callers.

**Jennifer will send an update by the end of May.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Farinholt  
VOSAP Facilitator