

# VIRGINIA OFFICE FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION (VOSAP) COLLABORATIVE

NOVEMBER 5, 2014 - 9:30-11:30 A.M.

VIRGINIA ABC 2901 HERMITAGE ROAD, RICHMOND VA

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

Ann Childress, Dept. of Social Services

Donna Michaelis, Dept. of Criminal Justice Services\*

Butch Letteer, Dept. of Motor Vehicles

Gail Taylor, Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

Jennifer Farinholt, Dept. of Alcoholic Beverage Control

Jo Ann Burkholder, Dept. of Education

Marty Kilgore, Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth

Major Jon Chapman, Counterdrug Task Force Virginia National Guard

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

Art Mayer, Dept. of Juvenile Justice

Gene Ayers, Virginia State Police/D.A.R.E. **(Gene is retiring on January or February 1, 2015. Jennifer will inquire who the new State Police VOSAP Collaborative representative will be.)**

Heather Board, Dept. of Health

Michelle Schmitt, VCU Center for School Community Collaboration

Mark Buff, Dept. of Fire Programs

(\*Other DCJS representatives include Tracey Jenkins and Shellie Mackenzie)

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

## **Welcome**

Jennifer opened the meeting at 9:40 a.m. She introduced Major Jon Chapman—the new Virginia National Guard Counterdrug Task Force representative. Jon (we inquired, and this is how he prefers we address him) operates out of the Waller Depot on 5001 Waller Road. He is learning about how his organization fits into the VOSAP Collaborative. Members explained that first and foremost we support one another; our agencies often have common goals. Our primary focus is substance abuse prevention, however, we work together to provide connections for any issue. We quickly identified a beneficial tie, when Gail offered to assist Jon with a data request he recently received. Also, to avoid the parking challenges at ABC, Jon offered to host future VOSAP Collaborative meetings at Waller Depot. **Jennifer will work with Jon to schedule the next meeting at Waller Depot.**

## **Review of Meeting Summary from August 28, 2014**

We briefly reviewed the meeting summary including clarification of a reference to DOE/DCJS. Jo Ann and Donna said they thought this was probably a mention of the upcoming *Strengthening Connections: Fostering a Positive School Climate* on December 2 and 3, 2014 at the *DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Richmond-Midlothian*. Jennifer made the correction to the 8/28/14 Meeting Summary and reminded the group that all meeting summaries are in the VOSAP Dropbox files. **Jennifer will send a Dropbox invitation to Jon and resend the link to others. Please contact Jennifer if you have questions about your Dropbox status.**

## **2014 VOSAP Annual Report**

Jennifer shared sections of the VOSAP Annual Report at the meeting and later emailed the DRAFT report to all Collaborative members. There was a lively discussion about the difficulty identifying what was appropriate to include in the report since most projects/programs are not tagged exclusively for substance abuse prevention (SAP). Also, as Tracey mentioned in the last meeting it is very difficult, sometimes impossible, to tease out

specific dollars spent on SAP programming. We talked about the statutory requirement to estimate dollars spent on SAP. Donna recommended changing the statute. Gail mentioned that the language was originally included because the Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention needed it in order to receive (and distribute through grant awards) Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act funds. Anne, Marty and Butch expressed some uncertainty about what to report—ultimately everyone provided their respective sections and caveats. Jennifer acknowledged the challenge and frustration expressed by the group. She thanked Collaborative members for providing responses for the annual report.

### **Continuation of Schools and Communities Recognition Program**

Jennifer updated the group regarding the proposal to adopt the 2012/2013 SAVVY (Substance Abuse Awareness Vital for Virginia Youth) Schools and Communities Recognition Program as the VOSAP Schools and Communities Recognition Program. (See page 5 for a summary regarding the Recognition Program.) She reported that she received approval from ABC leadership to roll out the program. The methodology for how to use VOSAP-budgeted funds for awards remains undecided. (The challenge is: we want to acknowledge those doing good work but also want to provide assistance to those that are striving to implement more robust prevention efforts.)

We briefly discussed the application. Each school division is required to apply with a community partner—in most cases this is a community coalition. The strength of the coalition really makes a difference in how the school divisions approach substance abuse prevention.

Initially, Donna recommended providing money for regional honorees and requiring them, through a Memorandum of Understanding, to host an event to: build capacity, encourage collaboration and share successes and best practices. These regional events would help to promote mentorship. After lengthy discussion about the benefits and challenges associated with this suggestion, we agreed CCOVA could be an excellent partner. They have a great track record working with modest budgets. **Jennifer will work with CCOVA, Gail and others to assess how we can best assist school divisions and their community partners. She will report back to the group with their findings.**

### **Epidemiological data report**

Gail has been exploring epi data solutions. The goal is a social indicator study and resulting database that would allow users to pull data for any city/county and the ability to do relational analysis. She circulated a North Carolina study conducted by RTI. As Gail pursues this project at DBHDS, they will request a contact person at each agency who collects/maintains data. Marty asked whether this project would intersect with Governor McAuliffe's data.gov initiative. (The data.gov news release was shared with Collaborative members on 11/6/14 and is pasted at the end of this meeting summary.) Gail said the Virginia study will include approximately 66 substance abuse indicators.

Jo Ann mentioned that DOE has the [“Now Is the Time” Project Aware](#) grant. For the next five years efforts/data with this grant must be interwoven with the [School Climate Transformation](#) grant requirements. To help with the associated work, including data collection and tracking, they will be hiring a part-time person.

Gail mentioned that a tracking system is also needed for retailers of e-cigs, hookah, etc. There is currently no license required so it is difficult to conduct education and compliance. One piece of good news is that the 40 CSBs conducted education to inform merchants about the penalty of selling tobacco to minors. With this effort, the Synar Retailer Violation Rate (RVR) dropped from 13.5% to 4.5% - the lowest ever in the state. (Synar background, copied from <http://www.samhsa.gov/synar/about>)

“In July 1992, Congress enacted the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration Reorganization Act (PL 102-321), which includes an amendment (section 1926) aimed at decreasing youth access to tobacco.

This amendment, named for its sponsor, Congressman Mike Synar of Oklahoma, requires states (that is, all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and six Pacific jurisdictions) to enact and enforce laws prohibiting the sale or distribution of tobacco products to individuals under the age of 18. States must comply with the Synar Amendment in order to receive their full Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) awards.

The Synar Amendment was developed in the context of a growing body of evidence about the health problems related to tobacco use by youth, as well as evidence about the ease with which youth could purchase tobacco products through retail sources. The Synar program has been successful in preventing youth tobacco use.”

Gail said SAMHSA has been talking about possibly changing the RVR rate to under 10%. During the next legislative session, it is anticipated/suggested that there will be a bill to require registration of e-cigarette vendors.

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

Jennifer shared: the VOSAP Collaborative elected to form a workgroup to provide input during the SOL review period. The VOSAP SOL workgroup (members listed below) met on October 15, 2014.

Heather Funkhouser Board, MPH  
Injury, Violence & Tobacco Prevention Programs Manager  
Division of Prevention and Health Promotion, Virginia Department of Health

Sheree A. Slater,  
Behavioral Health Wellness Program Specialist  
Mental Health First Aid Instructor, Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

Heidi L. Hertz MS, RD  
Obesity Prevention Coordinator, Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth

Mary Sisson  
Substance Abuse and Prevention Counselor, Hanover County Public Schools

Jennifer Farinholt  
Education & Prevention Coordinator/VOSAP Facilitator, Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control

The workgroup was very impressed with the thoroughness of the SOLs; they offered three general recommendations:

- 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.)

Additionally, Sheree Slater compiled an extensive resource guide to aid in bullying prevention.

Jo Ann suggested that we also recommend adding to the resource section of the SOLs using the [NREPP](#) to list under each grade level, specific evidence-based, research-based programs. Marty/VFHY does this in the [compendium](#) of tobacco-use prevention programs. **Marty will follow up with Heidi to assess how she can assist in this regard. Jo Ann suggested that we provide our comments during the public comment period. (On 11/18/14, Jo Ann received notification from Vanessa Wigand that the public comment period would be open until 11/24/14. To meet the deadline Jennifer submitted the workgroup's three recommendations via the web collection tool and referenced that we may have additional resource suggestions.)**

**Also, Jennifer will forward the bullying prevention resource guide to the group, as requested in the meeting.**

#### **Agency news & updates**

- Gail and Heather will keep us updated regarding the Governor's Taskforce on Prescription Drug Abuse. Summit conducted on October 2. Taskforce is divided into five workgroups established under the Executive Order, focusing on the areas of Education, Treatment, Storage and Disposal, Data, and Monitoring and Enforcement.
- Jennifer shared information about the ABC [College Tour](#). Donna is serving on a panel for the professional track during the University of Richmond College Tour stop on 11/7/14. Donna expressed interest in collaborating with ABC to promote cultural change on campuses. She is on the Governor's Taskforce on Combating Campus Sexual Violence. **Jennifer will schedule a meeting to further explore how DCJS and ABC can partner to address these issues in the higher ed environment.**

#### **VOSAP website**

Please share your agency news and events with Jennifer. The aim is to update the website quarterly but it is helpful to have as much information, as far in advance as possible.

#### **Next meeting date**

**Jennifer will send a Meeting Wizard request soon to select the date for our next meeting (approx. early February.)**

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Farinholt  
VOSAP Facilitator

[Attachment—Summary of VOSAP Schools and Communities Recognition Program \(adapted from Substance Abuse Awareness Vital for Virginia Youth Schools and Communities Recognition Program\)](#)

**Summary:** The Recognition Program is intended to promote best practices and community responsiveness that lead to enhanced student health, school engagement, and academic and personal achievement.

In 2013, the Recognition Program’s application development and evaluation team included:

- Jo Ann Burkholder, Coordinator  
Student Assistance Systems, Office of School Improvement  
Virginia Department of Education
- Cynthia Cave, Ph.D., Director  
Office of Student Services  
Virginia Department of Education
- Dewey Cornell, Ph.D., Professor of Education  
Curry School of Education and Youth-Nex Center to Promote Effective Youth Development  
University of Virginia
- Andrew Molloy, Chief Deputy Director  
Department of Criminal Justice Services
- Mike Olsen, Prevention Consultant  
Prevention Services, Office of Mental Health  
Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services
- Michelle Schmitt, Ph.D., Assistant Professor & Acting Director  
Center for School Community Collaboration  
Department of Counselor Education  
School of Education  
Virginia Commonwealth University
- Patrick Tolan, Ph.D., Professor of Education and Psychiatry and Neurobehavioral Sciences  
Director, Youth-Nex Center to Promote Effective Youth Development  
University of Virginia

This team evaluated applications using the following seven program elements:

- Strength of Organization
- Evidence-based Programming and Quality of Implementation
- Professional Development
- Community Connection and Engagement
- Parent Connection and Engagement
- Assessment and Evaluation
- Sustainability

Fourteen school divisions applied. They were recognized as:

**Model Programs**

Portsmouth Public Schools

Roanoke County Public Schools

**Effective Programs**

Albemarle County Public Schools  
Loudoun County Public Schools  
Orange County Public Schools

**Promising Programs**

Bristol Public Schools  
Charlottesville Public Schools  
Chesterfield County Public Schools  
Henrico County Public Schools  
Montgomery County Public Schools  
Roanoke City Public Schools

**Honorable Mentions**

Arlington Public Schools  
Newport News Public Schools  
Pittsylvania County Public Schools

A news release from the Governor’s press office announced the results. Applicants/honorees were invited to a reception at the Governor’s Mansion. Each school division/community partner received a plaque.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SAVVY>

The rough timeline to roll out the **VOSAP Schools and Communities Recognition Program** was previously proposed:

- October-December>planning (application refinement, marketing strategy, associated training, budget approval, award announcement, etc.)
- January>announce the program and release the application
- March 1>application due
- April>complete review of applications
- May>announce results during the statewide prevention/wellness conference; include a “track” or workshop(s) that align with the elements of the Recognition Program application

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**[News release mentioned/shared by Marty:](#)**

**For Immediate Release**

April 18, 2014

Contact: Brian Coy  
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**Governor McAuliffe Announces Launch of Data.Virginia**

*~ New portal will increase transparency, encourage innovation and enhance state operations*

~

**RICHMOND** - Governor McAuliffe today announced the launch of Data.Virginia, a new online portal that will provide easy access to Virginia's open data and keep Virginians informed of major initiatives that take advantage of big data.

Speaking on the new initiative, Governor McAuliffe said: "Virginia is generating more data on a daily basis than ever before. Much of that information is intended for public access, but is often buried and hard to find. With this new initiative, Virginians will have a one stop shop to get access to data from a variety of sources. That's empowering data that can be used by citizens to make more informed decisions, by innovators to build cutting-edge applications, and by community stakeholders to plan smarter projects."

Examples of open datasets that will be available through the Data.Virginia portal include the Department of Education's State Report Card on school performances, the Secretary of the Commonwealth's database of board and commission openings, and the Department of Transportation's traffic data from across Virginia.

In addition to serving as a central repository for open data, Data.Virginia will also serve as an information clearinghouse for the Commonwealth's big data initiatives. Big data, with the common characteristics of volume, variety and velocity, refers to the collection and analysis of huge amounts of electronic information. Commonwealth initiatives that make use of big data include the new Virginia Longitudinal Data System, a project which makes use of a variety of education and workforce development datasets and applies analytics to produce data-driven solutions that improve student outcomes.

Speaking on the importance of big data, Governor McAuliffe said:

"Traditionally, data has been used to solve a single problem. Now, through big data and analytics, we can analyze large quantities of information from a variety of sources more efficiently and develop better insights and solutions to our challenges. Several Virginia universities have established big data initiatives, and we need to expand and institutionalize the use of data analytics across the Commonwealth."

The security of personal information will remain a priority. Electronic data held by the state is subject to federal and state laws, protecting especially sensitive data. The Commonwealth also has an extremely high-level of security in a top-rated data center with security operations that monitor network traffic 24 hours a day, every day. Tax identification, Social Security and credit card numbers and health and other personal records are protected by even more stringent security standards.

In closing, Governor McAuliffe re-emphasized the importance of Data.Virginia:

"By adopting a two-pronged approach for harnessing Commonwealth data, we will not only enhance the way we use big data internally, but we will also make it easier for our citizens to access information. It is through initiatives such as Data.Virginia that Virginia will continue to be a nationwide leader in innovation, smarter government, and increased transparency."

The new portal can be accessed at [Data.Virginia.gov](http://Data.Virginia.gov)

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