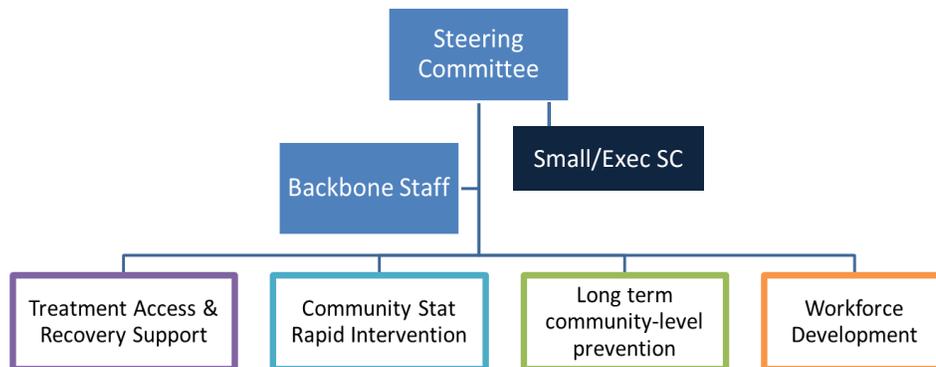


The Chittenden County Opioid Alliance (CCOA) includes representatives from state and local government, law enforcement, businesses, health care, non-profits and residents who have agreed to come together and work on reducing the opioid abuse and the burdens it brings to our community, through a Collective Impact model. This model is based on 5 components. 1. Every person/group that is part of the Alliance will have a common agenda, 2. There are shared outcomes/measurements, 3. Constant communication between Alliance members and 4. Activities performed, by each individual or organization, reinforce and support the common agenda. There are 2 staff members, CCOA Project Director and Data Manager, who facilitate and coordinate the Alliance. They are called the Backbone Staff, the 5th component of the Collective Impact model, and provide structure and oversight of the Alliance.

Background: Recognizing a persistent need and our community readiness, in January of 2016, a group of state and community partners proposed to more effectively organize our Chittenden County response to the opioid crisis. The proposal brought together the existing efforts to address the complex causes and effects of opioid addiction under one strategic umbrella structure- the Chittenden County Opioid Alliance. The Alliance will coordinate and measure the impacts of the work we do together. CCOA is funded by a three-year, \$100,000 per year grant from The UVM Medical Center. This grant has been matched with a donation to the United Way of Northwest Vermont from the Stiller Family Foundation and a State Innovation Model fund grant through the Green Mountain Care Board.

Structure & Roles: The Alliance is organized into four structural components: Steering Committee, Small/Executive Steering Committee, Backbone Staff, and Action Teams. The Steering Committee will act as a decision and policy-making group with the goal of creating solutions identified by the work of Action Teams and is made up of executive leaders from state and city government, business, and community organizations. Committee members include leaders from the State’s Attorney’s Office, VT Department of Health, Agency of Human Services, Chamber of Commerce, Howard Center, and many others. The Small/Executive Steering Committee, is made up of a few of the members of the Larger Steering Committee and help make decisions in the interim of the Large Steering Committee, who meets quarterly.



Action Teams: There are 4 Action Teams and each one has a particular focus based on separate strategies. Each team is made up of many local organizations and community members, and each team will communicate with and be represented on the Steering Committee. The four Action Teams are: 1. Treatment Access and Recovery Support, 2. CommSTAT (Burlington Police Department’s Rapid Response model), 3. Long-term Community-level Prevention and 4. Workforce Development.

Treatment Access and Recovery Support

Led by the Howard Center and UVM Medical Center, this team will identify the systemic barriers that must be overcome to expand access to treatment and recovery services and eliminate the current waitlist in Chittenden County. This work is closely connected with the existing Opioid-Task-Force that meets weekly to address individual case need and supported by the Jeffords Institute.

Co-chairs:

- Bill Keithcart, UVM MC Day One Treatment Program
- Catherine Simonson, Howard Center

Community STAT Rapid Intervention

Led by the City of Burlington, the Burlington Police Department and the Agency of Human Services Burlington District, this Action Team will provide coordination of effort among law enforcement, public health & safety and human service providers to better address the fallout of Opioid Addiction in Chittenden County. This will be accomplished through an adaptation of a “Community Stat” management tool model to share data, information and performance improvement across disciplines. The Community Stat data driven model incorporates four components:

- Timely & accurate intelligence & information
- Effective tactics
- Rapid deployment of resources
- Relentless follow-up & assessment

Key partners include the Department for Children and Families, the judicial systems, probation and parole staff in the Department of Corrections, and treatment partners at UVM Medical Center and the Howard Center. Supported by the City of Burlington Policy Coordinator and the CCOA Data Manager.

Co-chairs:

- Brandon delPozo, Burlington Police Department
- Jane Helmstetter, Agency of Human Services, Burlington

Community-level Prevention

Led by the Department of Health and the Chittenden Prevention Network, this Action Team will enlist the existing Substance Abuse Prevention Coalitions in the county to bring additional evidence-informed, environmental and individual prevention strategies to our area, with an increased focus on opioids. The team will increase awareness of skills and strategies to prevent substance abuse and to reduce the age of onset of first use. Strategies may include training of team partners about best practice to implement evidence-informed environmental and individual prevention strategies, while using and strengthening existing organizations and resources in Chittenden County community to increase the public education.

Co-chairs:

- Heather Danis, VT Department of Health
- Mariah Sanderson, Chittenden Prevention Network & Burlington Partnership for a Healthy Community

Workforce Development

Led by Vocational Rehabilitation and by the Howard Center, this Action Team will assess the current workforce capacity of all relevant agencies to identify the gaps, overlaps and barriers in providing and supporting substance abuse prevention, treatment services and recovery. This team will also offer immediate, mid-term and long-term recommendations and strategies to increase partner organizations' staff capacity to address opioid related challenges. This team will also work with Chittenden County businesses to encourage and facilitate hiring people in recovery, some with felony convictions, so these individuals can become productive members of the community and achieve financial stability for themselves and their families.

Co-chairs:

- Dana Poverman, Chittenden Clinic, Howard Center
- Nicole Clements, Creative Workforce Solutions, Vocational Rehabilitation

For more information, please contact:

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