Meeting called to order at 3:11pm

Board members present: Amy Brewer, Bob Uerz, Barbara Cimaglio (voting), Gary Kessler, Rebecca Thompson, Megan Sault, Rhonda Williams, Helen Wagner, Alex Crimmin (phone), Scott Connolly (phone) Alexi Potter (phone)

Members of the public: Chris Jones, Rebecca Ryan, Tina Zuk (phone), Jill Sudhoff-Guerin (phone)

Approval of Board Minutes
April 5, 2017
Bob moves to approve minutes, Scott seconds, eight in favor, none opposed, Gary abstains

Public Comment
None

Announcements
Results First – Amy Brewer
Amy summarized communications Amy and Erin have been having with Monica Sharma and the Results First team. This contact was made through Erin reaching out to RWJF about their work in ROI of Tobacco Prevention and they suggested VTERB speak with Monica. Here are some background resources:
- Results First factsheet that gives a broad overview of the approach.
- Links to the JFO’s website that contains both a separate report on the program inventory and benefit cost analysis done on Vermont’s adult criminal justice programming
- Colorado’s work, as they specifically did program inventory and benefit cost analysis on some tobacco use prevention programs as part of their behavioral health reports. Here is a quick guide to their behavioral health work, the long form report on their behavioral health program inventory, and the long form report on their benefit cost analysis.

Amy and Erin discussed how it would be best for the request for this work to come from Joint Fiscal Office. VTERB will continue talking with Results First and follow the advice to flesh out any hidden costs. Who will do the footwork that needs to be done? Who will provide the resources and data they need for their model? Chris Jones suggests speaking with his contact at RWJF, Ruby Hearn, about funding challenges. Erin and Chris will follow-up.
Dr. Jones presented his progress in the evaluation project (presentation above) and asked for input on value messages. He also will circulate fact sheet formats in the next few days for the Board to give input.

**VDH Tobacco Draft Budget review - Rhonda Williams**

Rhonda reviewed the proposed VDH budget again this month and VTERB will vote on the budget next month. Discussion: Rhonda highlighted a few changes including an increase in operating budget with several line items that previously would have fallen in the prevention budget including catering/meals is for our youth trainings and for other stakeholder meetings and an increase printing/photo copying to send out more cessation related materials. Also in the grants and contracts line, $20k purposes for materials related to our community grantees. Bob and Rhonda have been talking about making youth and community engagement more streamlined, and they hope to be able to transfer VDH youth engagement funds to AOE. These funds would go to AOE’s contractor Essex Chips versus VDH having their own contractor. CDC reinstated the 3% reduction to each state tobacco program. The good news on the national front is as of 2 days ago the OSH will be reduced by $5mil rather than $100 mil they were suspecting. We don't know how or if that will affect the state programs.

**Legislative Updates – Amy and Rebecca Ryan**

It’s been a hard legislative session for Tobacco Prevention. Tobacco 21 failed last week. It failed in the senate by two votes, two of the “no” votes were an original sponsor and a member who had been previously supportive.

Appropriations approved an earmark for $50k to be spent on smoking cessation for pregnant women. Gov. proposed to eliminate Erin’s position. VTERB has been thinking of how to spend its $25k and is discussing various scenarios. Now it appears the $25k may move from the AHS budget to VDH to help fund the earmark for pregnant women. Rebecca understands it has been moved in conference committee, but not voted on yet. The legislature is planning to adjourn by Sat.

**VTERB Budget and Future – Amy Brewer**

Looking at the budget possibilities, the worst case scenario is that we are a Board with no budget. Alexi and Amy have discussed how serving on a Board with no budget to fulfill its mandate is a tough sell. It is less appealing to be on a Board with little impact or voice.

What happens if VTERB doesn’t function as its legislatively mandated to? Where is the accountability? What happens if the statute isn’t met? The Legislators will have to fix the mandate next session as it is not going to happen this time.

Helen- How is this Board supposed to function and what is its purpose? Could the Board functions be achieved in other ways? VDH already works closely with AG and AOE on tobacco. Amy- We could function as an advisory committee; however, objectivity and independence are at risk - budget decisions could be influenced by political priorities. Barbara - Now that the movement is towards health services providing prevention services we may see bundling areas of need including obesity, alcohol, how those populations can be served for the whole spectrum.
If we have no budget how do we complete the functions of the administration positions? Reviewing handout Erin provided with roles and responsibilities of VTERB and administrator.

It is hard to evaluate without a budget or even with a small budget but no administrator. To play Devil's advocate: Explain how evaluation has really helped? How has the independent Board helped? Alexi - We have those arguments from 2 years ago and it would be helpful to bring them into the discussion. With three days left in the legislature what can we accomplish? We need a statement from the Board.

Statement should include: We have a model program and part of being comprehensive is having a structure to oversee the program. Vermont is lucky to have this model program and an independent Board.

Our argument is we need independent evaluation. We need outside players in the discussion and decisions that aren’t all made at the agency level. VTERB exists to make sure the program is functioning at the most effective, efficient level possible. We cannot predict the future and with administration changes, we may not have people as invested in this program. The Board provides leadership, and we need to preserve this independence.

Barbara - What is the difference between the evaluation we are asking for and the evaluation from the VDH? Many of VDH programs have evaluation. We need to think that piece through. Helen - The answer is VDH has a robust evaluative program, but no guarantee that a different commissioner will feel it should continue. The state will be ensured that the evaluation will happen with an independent Board.

Amy - What would you do for $25k? How should we move forward? Asks for all Board member input. Greg – We don’t have a lot of options. We could give them an ultimatum. Then they would eliminate us instead of us be disbanded.
Kate – Board helps with synergies between agencies.
Scott – Independence and evaluation are two key words for us. This Body was created by the legislature back in 2001. Plans to dissolve the Board will be a great loss for the state. The Board evaluates and creates synergies, and we hope we can keep independence and evaluation with title 18 statute.
Alex – He is willing to help with administrative tasks as needed. In his short time, he has seen the Board do many good things
Alexi – Scott said it.

Amy – I will write a statement. I am not sure I am going to be here if the Board isn’t funded. I am struggling with that. With only 10-13 community grantees and only 19 SU funded, we’ve lost infrastructure.

The stature says AHS needs to provide admin support. Board could make an argument for getting support from AHS. Other scenarios could be use the $25k for 6-9 more months of having an administrator to do a special project, internal assessment of strengths and weaknesses, fight for implementation of sustainability plan, plan for a fight in the next legislative session.

With no admin we could dissolve or try to function. What would an advisory board look like? It would meet and share what is going on in each area. Other advisory boards at VDH put forth a report with recommendations. Staff prepared material and the report is created from the agency.
VTERB will send a memo from the board, what’s been happening is not where we want to go. We will continue the discussion next meeting on what we will do as a Board moving forward once we know our level of funding and before we lose Erin three weeks later. Kate suggests we open it up for public comment. Offer to disseminate through VDH for public comment. Erin will follow-up.

Other Business/Information

None

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm