

NORTHWEST + CENTRAL VT PREVENTION NETWORK

MEETING NOTES

February 12th, 2026

10:00 – 11:30am

Meeting Goal

Providing an opportunity for people and organizations across Northwest and Central Vermont to come together to share information, make connections, and explore opportunities related to prevention of substance misuse and promoting wellbeing in our communities.

Welcome & Agenda Overview

Agenda:

Prevention Partner Updates

Backbone Updates

Partner Highlight: Hilary Denton, Prevention Consultant for the Barre Health District

Partner Highlight: Heather Moore, Board President for Empowering the Youth: The Café

Prevention Partner Updates

Nick Tatakis (PC, Burlington): The UVM Health Network is accepting proposals for the [2026 Health Equity Summit](#)! Proposal submissions are open through April 10. Visit the website to review proposal guidance! **Interested in attending?** The event will be held on 9/24 and 9/25/26. Everyone is welcome. Registration is required to participate, and there is no charge to attendees.

Matt Wolf (VT Afterschool): VT Junior Iron Chef on March 14th. This is an all-day event held at the Champlain Valley Exposition Blue Pavilion. There is a suggested admission fee of \$3 per person and \$5 per family to attend the event. More info [here](#)

Rebecca Majoya (Spectrum VT): I have youth that would love a mentor in remote areas (Franklin/Grand Isle Counties). Please contact me if you have any events where I could recruit mentors!

Zoey Quigley (UWNWVT): I'm co-lead for this year's Volunteering Fair at Collins Perley on 4/16 3-6PM, please feel free to contact me Re the fair and/or mentor recruitment! My email is zoey@unitedwaynwvt.org

Christine Hughes (Richard Kemp Center):

- Youth Movie Night 2nd+4th Friday of every month
- Community Dinner 2nd Sat of the month
- Community Meal in partnership with Howard Center 2/20
- Media Tools for Youth Winter Break Session in partnership with CCTV



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- Cultural Empowerment Week in April during the Spring Break for more information reach out or visit 372 North Winooski Ave Burlington info@Richardkempcenter.org or Christine@Richardkempcenter.org www.richardkempcenter.org
- Richard Kemp Center's Race, Identity, Culture & History - R.I.C.H. monthly zoom call for navigating these topics Registration link for 2.6 meeting at 6:00pm **Registration Link** https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/N_8REu8dTIKtAaDRZtiHqw

Backbone Updates

Welcome Beth Whitlock, our new Operations Manager! Beth will be managing systems and processes to support both the internal team, subgrantees, and the broader network. She previously worked for the City of Burlington's Community & Economic Development Office, where she worked primarily on federal housing and homelessness grants. Beth really enjoyed working with community partners to support them in delivering funded projects in her former position and will continue to do so here at United Way!

The April Network Meeting is canceled due to Prevention Day in Montpelier at the State House. More information can be found here: [Vermont Prevention Day 2026 | Vermont Department of Health](#)

The June Network Meeting will be held in person at United Way (412 Farrell St., Suite 200, South Burlington). Food will be provided and there will be time for networking in the half an hour after the meeting. More details will be sent out soon!

Our annual report for the second year of LPO funding (July 2024-June 2025) is out! This can be found on our website [here](#) under Lead Prevention Organization Annual Reports, in the special newsletter sent on 2/11/26, or in the February newsletter (to be sent out soon).

Partner Highlight: Hilary Denton, PC for the Barre Health District, SAPs & School-Based Prevention Networking

Presentation is attached to the meeting follow-up email.

This meeting is open to everyone! The goal is to come together and collaborate by providing a regular space for school staff and prevention folks. Our strongest resource is each other! Relationships survive when grant money is gone.

Rob Hopkins - [How to Fall in Love with the Future](#). "What would the world look like if we all got to work imagining—and then building—a world we were deeply in love with?" Quitting vaping as an



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example: I want to stop vaping it makes me feel bad, I must visualize what life will be like without it.

We are in a great position to co create our new future.

Sultana Khan (YWCA): shoutout to Hilary for keeping this group going. This group started w Anne Gilbert more than 5 years ago. I used to run it and now Hilary does. The investment of more than 5 years builds trust and relationships

Beth Shrader (PW!VT): so proud of you Hilary! Getting people to work in the schools is very hard, something to think about. Want to expand school based prevention but remind ourselves that there is a gap between people qualified. Hard to get the perfect fit. Give grace around hiring staff. Resource from PW!VT for school-based staff [here](#).

Eva Zaret (CVPC): Hilary's group has been extremely important in our region. We are very grateful for her support and keeping community partners connected. Hilary doesn't come from a prevention background; she comes from a recovery background where you lead groups. She brought some of the facilitation skills into this which is cool cause she makes space for the group to identify topics that they want to discuss in a safe space. Agree with Beth around how difficult it has been for school-based prevention. People aren't exactly qualified now that there is funding for it. Will be trying to develop some sort of pathway through UVM Health. Don't need an LDAC (licensed drug and alcohol counselor) to be a successful SAP.

Beth Shrader (PW!VT): For a while it took a long time to be licensed because of a variety of reasons. People gave up.

Partner Highlight: Heather Moore, Board President of Community Empowering Youth: The Café

Café Youth Center serves grades 6-12. Went by grades so student groups could just come in together

New space: 3d printing, state representative coming in 2 weeks, Amy Brewer coming to present, trying to do this once a week

Cooking classes: homemade tofu, homemade pasta

Programming: open ended activities and planned events, community partners share the events too so that they can get the word out

Larger events: dance in Richford (45 people, planned by students), kids wanted to do a red-carpet event, funds from VT Afterschool, popup events at Richford library, hoping to expand



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Starting day camps for 3-5 graders during February break, doing it for 3 days, themed to attract interest

Bernie sanders did a [Youth Town Hall](#): social isolation came up a lot, identified by teens throughout the state. Youth encouraged to go out and volunteer

Hopes and goals:

- Hearing about youth expansion grant in two weeks.
- Want to rekindle youth council
- Create funding group
- Start dad parent group (in communication with dad guild)
- Make space for youth to explore difficult topics

Bruce Wilson (Vermont HRC): all youth being a part of your center is incredible, thank you for the work you do, I'm feeling excited about it. New youth center in Winooski (1 year old ish), have anyone come and partner and use the space. Will support you in any way I can!

Brucewilson817@gmail.com

Amy Brewer (FGI To: super proud of you!

Matt Wolf (VT Afterschool): if you hadn't been so stubborn and insistent, there would be no center. No funding for teen centers. Youth driven community spaces are critical to prevention. Vermont Youth Center Alliance (VYCA), reach out if you know anyone looking to start a youth center or anyone who should be connected. matt@vermontafterschool.org

Looking Ahead

Next month's meeting: March 12th, 2026
10-11:30am

