

NORTHWEST + CENTRAL VT PREVENTION NETWORK

MEETING NOTES

May 14th, 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: Emma Paradis and Andy Cao from Common Good VT

Partner Highlight: Katie Niebuhr, Prevention Consultant from the Bennington Health District

Looking ahead

Prevention Partner Updates

Adrienne (UWNWVT): Shoutout to Nick Tatakis! Nick does photos for grads!

Amy Brewer (FGI Tobacco Prevention Coalition): Sierra graduates this weekend with her MPH!!



Sierra Cramer (NMC): NMC with Amy Brewer, primary prevention work for youth cannabis and alcohol prevention in Franklin and Grand Isle

Catherine Johnston (FHK): field organizer for Flavors Hook Kids, primarily focusing on bill in legislature now (S. 198). Wanted to make sure that everyone had the current update on the bill: today is at the full house today for vote. Do outreach and education for your legislators! Email catherinejohnston5713@gmail.com

[Vote Yes on S.198](#)

[Join the FHK mailing list here](#)

Amy Brewer: if you have funding that you cannot lobby with, you can reach out to your legislators and say that you are a resource and they can reach out with any questions.

Nick Tatakis (PC, Burlington): Register for the [SPF Application for Prevention Success Training \(SAPST\)](#) July 27-30, 2026 at the VDH White River Junction District Office! Facilitated by three fabulous Prevention Consultants and free to attend!



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Amy Brewer: Shoutout to Reverend Hughes, been in the news recently for great work he's doing for Vermonters. [Article Proposal 4](#)

Rev. Hughes (VRJA): Raise Up Justice campaign addresses upending of civil rights nationally, will be a meeting third Thursday of every month at RKC. What does multiracial fusion look like? Truth and justice series on the 26th. There's a peer support group every first Thursday of the month.

Paul McNeil (NEHIDTA): New England HIDTA is hosting a regional webinar on Wednesday, June 3rd (1:00–2:00 PM) introducing Substance-Free Athletics® (SFA) and Protect Your Game® – an evidence-informed approach using athletics to help prevent underage substance use. Hear practical strategies and real-world perspectives from coaches, student-athletes, prevention leaders, and public safety professionals working to create positive team culture. Athletic Directors, school leaders, prevention professionals, and coalition partners are encouraged to attend. Register here: [Zoom Registration](#)

Mariah Flynn (BPHC): hosting Burlington Smoke-free Multi-unit Housing Roundtable - June 4th from 8:30am-12pm. Registration: [ACHIEVING SMOKE-FREE MULTI-UNIT HOUSING: Morning roundtable, Downtown Burlington](#). If you want a flyer to put up reach out to mariah@burlingtonpartnership.org

Christine Hughes (Richard Kemp Center): Juneteenth block party and open house on Juneteenth. Also enrolling youth in the summer activities and free lunch. 12-4:30. Will be a swim day at the Y!

Backbone Updates

The June Network Meeting will be hybrid and held at United Way of Northwest Vermont in South Burlington! Hoping to launch a rotating meeting next year. Megan Stearns will be giving a presentation on updates to the Alcohol Policy.

Annual Summit will be on October 15th!

VISTA positions open in the Prevention Network! One of them will be on the backbone team working at United Way, and the other two will be embedded into partner organizations to work on the Alcohol Policy project and the Flavors Hook Kids Campaign.

[Prevention Network Coordinator - AmeriCorps VISTA](#)

[Prevention Initiative Coordinator - AmeriCorps VISTA](#)



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Partner Highlight: Emma Paradis and Andy Cao, Common Good VT

Presentation slides are in the email

Reach out to emma@commongoodvt.org or andy@commongoodvt.org with any questions

Beth Shrader: PW!VT joined CGVT with The Collaborative, love that everyone who works for the organization can access the benefits. Would encourage everyone to take advantage of everything Common Good has to offer.

For members and prospective members on June 18th in Montpelier.

<https://commongoodvt.org/events/2026-common-good-vermont-member-convening/>

2026 Common Good Vermont Member Convening - Common Good Vermont

June 18, 2026 @ 2:30 pm - 6:00 pm - **Common Good Vermont invites members and prospective members to a celebration of our nonprofit network!** Join us on **June 18th at the Montpelier Performing Arts Hub Chapel** for an afternoon workshop followed by an evening reception, featuring National Council of Nonprofits President & CEO, [Diane Yentel](#). Yentel is a nationally recognized leader and advocate advancing policies that strengthen and protect the nonprofit sector nationwide, with a focus on federal impact

Partner Highlight: Katie Niebuhr, Prevention Consultant from Bennington Health District

Slides are included in the email!

Reach out to katie.niebuhr@vermont.gov with any questions

Looking Ahead

Next month's meeting: June 11th, 2026

10-11:30am HYBRID, [register here for in person or virtual attendance](#).

