

# ORANGE COUNTY COURT DIVERSION PROGRAM

AUGUST, 2015 NEWSLETTER

## CHANGES AT THE OCCDP OFFICE:

### New YSASP Protocol and New Case Manager

Minors who have been caught and "ticketed" for a civil violation of underage drinking and/or possession of marijuana are required to complete the Youth Substance Abuse Safety Program (YSASP) administered by the diversion program in the county where the violation occurred.

In an effort to provide more equitable & streamlined services, the Vermont Association of Court Diversion Programs (VACDP) has issued a new statewide

YSASP protocol. It includes an online substance use screening tool for county YSASPs to use with clients. Jessie Schmidt has joined OCCD as the YSASP case manager, charged with implementing the protocol.

For the past several years, the YSASP required minors to complete a substance use screening with a licensed substance abuse counselor, pay a \$175 diversion fee, and allowed local diversion programs to impose other contract conditions as deemed

appropriate. This flexible option created inconsistencies throughout the state.

OCCD was the only program that required YSASP participants to personally appear before a community board. Some

diversion programs routinely imposed community service as a required contract condition. Other programs required a reflective paper.

Additionally, access to services for substance use

The overall purpose of VACDP's YSASP is to "help young people understand the impact on themselves and others of using substances and to lower their risk of future use, while connecting those identified as using at high-risk levels to professional substance use clinicians."

## Greetings OCCDP Board Members & Community Stakeholders:

In this newsletter, we're bringing you up-to-date on the new protocol for processing cases involving minors "ticketed" for a civil violation of underage drinking and/or possession of marijuana. Please take a look, and feel free to call us at 685-3172 with questions.

Respectively,  
—David Savidge

*Executive Director*

—Jessie Schmidt

*Case Manager*

screenings is limited in some parts of the state. Program participants in some regions found it difficult to access screenings, and in some cases, the cost of the screening was a barrier to their successful completion of the program.

Research also influenced the new YSASP protocol. Experts in the field of adolescent substance abuse studied the impacts of different methods and levels of early intervention.

Studies showed that intensive intervention for low risk offenders was ineffective at bringing about positive behavior change and sometimes harmful.

With these issues in mind, VACDP implemented its new protocol. Effective July 1, 2015, the new protocol standardizes YSASP administration, right-sizes its intervention and focuses on the health of young people, tailoring recommendations to

the individual needs of participants.

## THE NEW YSASP PROTOCOL-- IMPACT ON OCCD

The implementation of VACDP's YSASP Protocol will result in cases involving civil violations of minors caught for underage drinking and/or possession of marijuana being processed by a trained, diversion case manager. They will no longer be "heard" by a diversion Hearing Board.

This is a major change for Orange County Court Diversion, considering it has always been our option to require the minor to personally appear before our diversion Hearing Board.

Effective July 1, 2015, only clients charged in court for a criminal offense or delinquent act will be required to personally appear before the diversion Hearing Board. For OCCD, this will result in fewer Hearing Board meetings throughout the year.

## SBIRT-- VACDP'S NEW YSASP PROTOCOL

Screening, Brief Intervention, Refer to Treatment

**SCREENING:** All participants will complete an online questionnaire of evidence-based, substance use screening questions. The questionnaire is administered at the diversion office by a trained case manager. The questionnaire is based on research by the University of Washington. When completed, the questionnaire

generates a report, indicating a risk level (low, moderate, high) for a substance use issue, as well as additional information relative to the participant's use of substances.

**BRIEF INTERVENTION:** The report is used by the diversion case manager to engage the participant in a brief educational discussion designed to raise the participant's awareness of substance use and reduce risk of harm.

**REFER TO TREATMENT:** Participants who are found to be at high risk for substance use issues will be required to meet with a licensed substance abuse

clinician for an assessment and to complete the counselor's recommendations for counseling and/or treatment.

This approach, known as SBIRT, is supported by research and the Vermont Department of Health's Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs.

## WELCOME JESSIE SCHMIDT, NEW OCCD CASE MANAGER

This past May, Jessie Schmidt, a resident of Chelsea, was hired to replace long-time OCCDP case manager, Charlene Bohl. Jessie will be working two days a week, implementing the YSASP and Driving with License Suspended (DLS) Programs.

After almost 20 years soliciting funding, coordinating education and administering programming for farm business owners, Jessie joined the Chelsea School Board and began learning about Restorative Justice. Looking to change careers, she leapt at the chance to work for the Orange County Court Diversion Program. She brings her strong administrative skills, experience with youth, and a passion for community and social justice to the OCCD office.

Since she started, Jessie has received training in administering the substance use screening questionnaire and is receiving on-going training in motivational interviewing. This is a key strategy for discussing reported substance use patterns with clients. Over the next few months, Jessie will also visit other county diversion programs to learn and bring their best practices back to our programs.

Jessie is a mother of three, an active volunteer at the Chelsea School and an avid homesteader. If you happen to be in Chelsea on Thursday or Friday, please stop by and say hello to her!

## ORANGE COUNTY COURT DIVERSION REVIEW BOARD MEMBERS

### Bradford

Phil Boudreau  
Rose Duffy  
Luke Knapp  
Janice Larabee  
Robert Nutting  
Carole Taylor

### Braintree

Paul Kendall

### Brookfield

Pat Mercier  
Jaclin Wilder

### Chelsea

Susan Elder  
Mark Lembke

### Newbury

Walter Fischer  
Steve Gale  
Martin Smit

### Orange

Sanford Johnson  
Sue Perreault

### Randolph

Betty Edson  
Hildegard Jones  
Nancy Reid

### Randolph Center

Ginny Burnham  
Abbe Meiling

### Strafford

Guy Denechaud  
Rosalind Finn

### Tunbridge

Jim Ludwig

### Washington

Joanne Liddell  
Jay Spiegel

### Wells River

Lisa Eastman

### Williamstown

Jennifer Cummings  
Kim Siner

OCDDP  
PO Box 58  
Chelsea VT 05038

**Addison County Court Diversion**

PO Box 881, Middlebury, VT  
802-388-3888

[courtdiversion.com](http://courtdiversion.com)

**Bennington County Center for Restorative Justice**

439 Main St., Bennington, VT  
802-447-1595, [bcrrj.org](http://bcrrj.org)

**Caledonia & Essex County Court Diversion**

NE Kingdom Youth Services  
24 Bagley St., St. Johnsbury, VT  
802-748-8732, [nekys.org](http://nekys.org)

**Chittenden County Court Diversion**

184 King St., Burlington, VT  
802-864-1585, [chitccd.org](http://chitccd.org)

**Franklin Grand Isle Court Diversion**

5 Lemnah Dr., St. Albans, VT  
802-527-5560

[fgjicourtdiversion.org](http://fgjicourtdiversion.org)

**Lamoille Restorative Center**

PO Box 148, Hyde Park, VT  
802-888-5871, [lrcvt.org](http://lrcvt.org)

**Orange County Court Diversion**

PO Box 58, Chelsea, VT  
802-685-3172

**Orleans County Court Diversion**

NE Kingdom Community Action  
71 Seymour Ln Newport VT  
802-334-8224, [nekcavt.org](http://nekcavt.org)

**Rutland County Court Diversion**

50 Center St., Rutland, VT  
802-775-2479

TASP: 802-786-3840

[rutlandcountycourtdiversion.org](http://rutlandcountycourtdiversion.org)

**Washington County Court Diversion**

322 No. Main St., Ste 5, Barre, VT  
802-479-1900, [wcdp-vt.org](http://wcdp-vt.org)

**Windham County Court Diversion**

PO Box 6008, Brattleboro VT  
802-257-0361

[youthservicesinc.org](http://youthservicesinc.org)

**Valley Court Diversion Programs**

PO Box 474, White River Junction, VT  
802-295-5078, [vcdbp.org](http://vcdbp.org)

**Vermont Association of Court Diversion Programs**

Willa Farrell, Director

Office of the Attorney General: Court Diversion Office

109 State Street, Montpelier VT 05601

802-282-1360, [vtcourtdiversion.org](http://vtcourtdiversion.org)