



HEALTH PLANNING AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE PREVENTION THROUGH MUNICIPAL PLANNING

Bennington County Regional Commission

HEALTH & WELLNESS AS A COMMUNITY GOAL

Bad health and substance misuse can impact:

- Employment
- Health Care Costs
- Public Safety
- Education



2018: HEALTH PLANNING PRIMER

A Primer on Health, Wellness, & Substance Misuse
Prevention Planning in Bennington County



Funded by the Regional Prevention Partnership Grant

In partnership with The Collaborative
Developed by the Bennington County Regional Commission

- Municipal Plan Policies
- Regulation through Bylaws and Ordinances
- Non-regulatory Activities

PLANNING AREA: LAND USE

Policy/Goal

- *Ensure a safe and healthy community environment for all residents.*
- *Develop land use regulations that limit the number of alcohol and tobacco retailers permitted in a given area.*
 - *Establish a maximum density of alcohol/tobacco retailers.*
 - *Establish minimum distances between alcohol/tobacco retailers and sensitive locations.*
- *Support mixed-use and concentrated development that locates residential and commercial uses close together to enhance access to healthy food and employment opportunities.*

PLANNING AREA: COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Policy/Goal

- *Ensure that a comprehensive health care system exists and that the community is aware of the system.*
- *Designate municipal buildings and events as substance-free.*
- *Ex) Manchester – Ordinance prohibiting alcohol use at town parks.*
Ordinance prohibiting use of controlled substances at parks unless prescribed by a physician.
- *Invest in green spaces, multi-use pathways, and recreational facilities that expand access to exercise opportunities and healthy social interactions.*

PLANNING AREA: TRANSPORTATION

Policy/Goal

- *Implement Complete Streets policies.*
- *Include sidewalks, trails, parks, and open space connectivity when considering future development within the community.*
- *Ensure that substance use disorder treatment programs are accessible.*
- *Coordinate with public transportation providers to ensure that residents have access to healthy foods, medical care, and other critical services.*
- *Clean roadsides, sidewalks, and other public areas of litter that can include beer cans and bottles, liquor bottles, syringes, and cigarette butts.*

PLANNING AREA: HOUSING

Policy/Goal

- *Ensure that a range of safe and affordable housing options are available in the community.*
- *Work with local and regional housing organizations to ensure access to quality affordable housing.*
- *Improve existing housing stock through health risk abatement, building rehabilitation and efficiency improvements.*
- *Improve coordination and communication among groups providing prevention or recovery services, including affordable housing organizations.*
- *Explore expanding community self-policing and neighborhood watch programs.*

FINAL THOUGHT



Communities will be most successful when they take an holistic approach to wellness planning



QUESTIONS?

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