

**From:** Cimaglio, Barbara [Barbara.Cimaglio@vermont.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 25, 2016 8:27 PM  
**To:** Allen, Susan  
**CC:** Cimaglio, Barbara  
**Subject:** RE: FYI. Outline of Gov. Shumlin's testimony on Wednesday:  
**Attachments:** Notes for Gov's testimony.v2..docx

Sue,  
I added a paragraph about the DCF program. Hope that's enough. Let me know if you have any questions.

Barbara

***Barbara Cimaglio  
Deputy Commissioner  
Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs***

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**From:** Allen, Susan  
**Sent:** Monday, January 25, 2016 10:59 AM  
**To:** Park, Chan (Judiciary-Dem)  
**Cc:** Diane\_Derby@leahy.senate.gov; Cimaglio, Barbara  
**Subject:** FYI. Outline of Gov. Shumlin's testimony on Wednesday:

Chan,

Attached is an outline of what the Governor plans to say to the Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday morning. Barbara came up with the outline, and I will work on a final version for you by this afternoon.

That said, *I welcome your input*. Have we hit the points you hoped? And in the way you hoped? Would you like something else covered in the Governor's testimony?

We want to be as helpful as possible.

Feel free to call if you have questions.

Sue

*Susan Allen  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
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Following my State of the State speech in 2014, I brought representatives together at the Statehouse from communities across Vermont to hear firsthand how the opiate epidemic was affecting our families. We heard from people in recovery, parents, police officers and health professionals, business people, teachers and others – all sharing how they are touched by addiction, and all committed to the effort to combat substance abuse in Vermont.

Teams went home with action plans containing steps they would take to address the problems. We are using funds from the SAMHSA Regional Prevention Partnership grant to support some of those activities.

We received a SAMHSA MAT (medication assisted treatment) grant that is helping us bring down our waiting list for high risk populations – people leaving prison and families involved with the child welfare system. With those Federal funds we will be able to reach 350 more patients with long-term treatment over the next three years.

Recognizing the risk to children when their parent struggles with addiction, our Department for Children and Families has established a contract with a local treatment program to provide in home substance abuse screening for families during the child welfare investigation. If indicated, the parent receives an immediate referral to treatment so that they can get help to start addressing their addiction. Since we are seeing approximately 80% of new child welfare families struggling with addiction, this program aims to remove a substantial barrier to connecting them to treatment.

Our state legislature has also made a change in the way we manage people who are arrested because they are feeding an addiction through petty crimes: they are being offered an assessment to go to treatment – not to jail -- so that they can receive help to end their opiate use. Our pre-trial services program allows States Attorneys in every county to partner with treatment programs to offer people help, if their criminal activity is fueled by addiction.

I appreciate the Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, which will give Governors \$600 million in emergency funding for law enforcement, prevention and treatment programs, and public health programs that will help us continue important work like what we have started in Vermont.

I also hope Congress will give strong support to one of the items in the Supplemental Appropriations Act. The Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant would provide \$225 million in additional funds to distribute to states for programs related to prevention, treatment, recovery support and other services. For many states, this is the primary source of federal programs to address the misuse of alcohol and drugs. (In particular we support additional funds in the SAPT Block Grant. This is the foundational money that supports our state prevention and treatment resources. Comes from SAMHSA.)

In addition, I hope you will support The CARA (Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act), which will:

- Expand prevention and educational efforts—particularly aimed at teens, parents and other caretakers, and aging populations—to prevent the abuse of opioids and heroin and to promote treatment and recovery.
- Expand the availability of naloxone to law enforcement agencies and other first responders to help in the reversal of overdoses to save lives.
- Expand resources to identify and treat incarcerated individuals suffering from addiction disorders promptly by collaborating with criminal justice stakeholders and by providing evidence-based treatment.
- Expand disposal sites for unwanted prescription medications to keep them out of the hands of our children and adolescents.
- Launch an evidence-based opioid and heroin treatment and intervention program to expand best practices throughout the country.
- Launch a medication assisted treatment and intervention demonstration program
- Strengthen prescription drug monitoring programs to help states monitor and track prescription drug diversion and to help at-risk individuals access services.

All of these are things that we support and could benefit from.

It's about time that Congress passes meaningful and comprehensive legislation to address the pervasive damage that opiates are causing in our communities.