

# Advancing Prevention Policy Work in Communities

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Mt. Ascutney Prevention Partnership

March 2, 2016

# Example 1 of Proactive Policy

- TOWN OF HARTLAND
- SMOKE FREE RECREATION AREAS POLICY
- **Section 1: Findings and Purpose**
- The Town of Hartland, Vermont finds that, based on determinations and studies by various government agencies the use of tobacco products is a significant public health hazard. The use of tobacco, marijuana and nicotine delivery systems in a public place poses potential health risks to all members of the public.
- The purpose of this policy is to protect the health and well-being of all members of the public who have occasion to attend activities at Town recreational parks and facilities, by restricting the use and disposal of tobacco and marijuana products as outlined herein. Although this policy covers all Town-owned property, State law specifically prohibits tobacco use on school grounds.

# Example 2 of Proactive Policy

- **TOWN OF WEATHERSFIELD**
- **Approved Zoning Bylaw**
- **Section 7: Special Provisions**
- Drug and tobacco retail establishments are not permitted within a 1/2 mile radius of schools, libraries, recreational fields, and licensed childcare centers. The 1/2 mile radius is defined as the shortest distance from a retail establishment's point of sale to the parcel boundary of the school, library, recreation field, or licensed childcare center. These retailers may also not operate within a 1000 foot radius of a location occupied by another drug and tobacco paraphernalia establishment.

# What it took to do this work

- TIME – Policies were 2-3 years in the making
- FLEXIBILITY – Language didn't resonate until town did their own visioning process  
YOUTH → RURAL NATURE
- CHAMPIONS – Citizens who said “Wait a minute...” (It's their cause, not ours)

# Steps in the Planning/Zoning Process

- Bylaw is better supported if there is supporting or “foundational” language in the town plan
- Economic Development chapter added:  
*“The town shall protect the village character by limiting the location and density of businesses that sell products that cannot be sold to minors.”*
- Bylaw was drafted with help from VLCT; town sought ways to implement bylaw with least chance of being contested in court.

# What can towns do?

- Prioritize discussions on \_\_\_\_\_ at Citizen and Planning Commissions/Select Board levels.
- Engage in visioning process on how much or how little \_\_\_\_\_ will be prevalent in the town.
- Use town planning process to lay a foundation that maintains town culture and values.
- Contact Prevention Coalitions\* as a resource for more information and effective policy solutions.

- Mt. Ascutney Prevention Partnership (MAPP) ~ [cho@mahhc.org](mailto:cho@mahhc.org)  
674-2900 ext. 23
- Windsor County Prevention Partners (WCPP)~ [coalition # ]