

August 10, 2023

I am writing to urge local government and state support for 1) training for mental health stress mitigation and support for library staff who face increasing responsibilities and exposure to the devastating and relentless plight of opiate addiction. In librarians big and small, urban and rural, the multi-faceted burden and toll on library staff is grossly misunderstood and stated, and more funding is needed to hire extra hands-on deck to respond to “the community living room” provisioning of local libraries. Simply calling staff “heroes “ is woefully inadequate.

Also, Vermont needs to establish safe injection sites apart from each town’s local library, so that libraries can remain the safe, welcoming, free information-sharing spaces entire communities need and deserve.

Thank you,

Laura Massell