

Opioid Epidemic Addressed by Columbine High School Shooting Survivor

The Vermont State Dental Society (VSDS) and Vermont Dental Foundation are proud to have hosted a continuing education event titled “Spotlight on Opioid Addiction” featuring acclaimed TEDx speaker and Columbine High School shooting survivor, Austin Eubanks. This event was held on Monday, February 4, 2019 at the DoubleTree in South Burlington. We were honored to have Governor Phil Scott in attendance, along with Dr. Stephen Leffler, Interim President of UVMHC, the Vermont Department of Health Commissioner Dr. Mark Levine, and Hannah Mason Hauser, Program Manager of Vermont Prescription Monitoring System. Other elected officials and policy makers also attended. These healthcare professionals focused on how the Vermont healthcare community is helping to manage the opioid crisis and ensure patient safety.

This event was very well attended by over 100 Vermont dentist and featured a dramatic story of trauma, addiction, and the road to recovery told by Austin Eubanks, an injured survivor of the 1999 Columbine High School shooting. As Austin makes clear, “I survived the Columbine Shooting but addiction almost killed me.” His personal, professional, and parental expertise offered a poignant perspective on how our culture has manufactured what is now one of the worst public health crisis we’ve ever known.

This special event provided an amazing opportunity to re-examine how we look at drug addiction and to build awareness around strategies to address substance abuse issues in Vermont. The combination of national and local expertise offered an insightful and timely approach to help advance the conversation and provide an opportunity to engage with the Vermont healthcare community on this pressing issue.

Thank you to the following providers for additional financial support of this event:

- UVM Medical Center
- Northeast Delta Dental
- Vermont Medical Society
- UVM College of Medicine
- Primmer Piper Eggleston & Cramer PC

Below are recent links to the news coverage of this event.