

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Recovery Community Subcommittee Wednesday July 2, 2025, Approved

Attendees:

Attending: Amber Blankenship (co-chair), Ardella Cottrill, Joe Deegan, Elly Donahue, Rajan Masih, Paul Shimer

Invited, Not Attending: Brandy Blatt, Trenton Clem, Francisca Gray, Heather Gregory, Ann Hammond, Dan McCawley (co-chair), William Long, Lou Ortenzio, Stephanie Stout, Destini Williams, JoAnna Vance

Marshall University Staff: Rachel Bledsoe and Bradley McCoy

Opening:

Amber Blankenship (co-chair) provided welcome and opening remarks of this meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Recovery Community Subcommittee. The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, July 2, 2025, and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was not present to approve the March, April, May, or June 2025 meeting minutes. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss key performance indicator (KPI) updates.

Agenda Items:

Key Performance Indicator Updates and Q2 Progress

Amber Blankenship and Bradley McCoy gave a brief overview of the percentages of completion for each KPI as submitted by Amber and Dan McCawley for the Quarter 2 Progress Report. The Subcommittee contributed discussion around some KPIs with additional updates.

- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** 60% complete. Rick Dempsey, new Assistant Director at ODCP, is reaching out to the Office of Health Facility Licensure & Certification (OHFLAC) about their existing informed consent documents.
- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** 25% complete.
- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 3:** 0% complete.
- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 4:** 0% complete.
- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 5:** 0% complete.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** 100% complete, The National Federation of Families (NFF) has a national curriculum and certification for family peer support specialists. Amber and Dan have discussed this and what the curriculum may look like pertaining specifically to West Virginia. They will reach out to the state certification board to discuss how the national certification would be recognized in West Virginia. They will also reach out to other states that have gone through this process to discuss the difference in national and localized certification. The Subcommittee additionally discussed how Family Strong is only an eight-week program, and they need something longer term to provide support and connections to resources.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** 10% complete.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 3:** 20% complete.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** 100% complete. Stephanie Thornton attended the April meeting to discuss opportunities to collaborate and plans to attend again later in the year.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** 50% complete. Stephanie Thornton attended the April meeting and now they will need to develop a letter of support.

- **Goal 3, Strategy 2, KPI 1:** 100% complete. Misty Adams with the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) attended the April meeting. ODCP representative, Laura McGuire, was also present.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 2, KPI 2:** 100% complete. This KPI was completed in Q1.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 2, KPI 3:** 25% complete. A written plan must be developed in collaboration with various stakeholders.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 2, KPI 4:** 0% complete.

Town Hall Meetings/Community Conversations

Bradley McCoy provided an overview of the Town Hall Meetings (using the new term of Community Conversations this year) and the schedule. Town Hall Meetings will also be held in-person throughout a two-week period in Logan, Wheeling, the Eastern panhandle, and Charleston with more details about the dates and locations to come. The virtual format will be the same as in previous years. The Town Hall Meetings are scheduled for:

- Wednesday August 27th 10:00-12:00 (Virtual)
- Wednesday September 3rd 1:00-3:00 (Virtual)
- Friday September 5th 1:00-3:00 (Virtual)
- Tuesday September 9th 3:45-5:15 (Charleston, WV)
- Thursday September 11th 6:00-8:00 (Logan, WV)
- Monday September 15th 4:00-6:00 (Moorefield, WV)
- Tuesday September 16th (4:00-6:00) Wheeling (WV)

In-Person Meeting of Subcommittee Chairs

Amber Blankenship, Raj Masih, Joe Deegan, and Phil Shimer provided an overview of the in-person meeting of the Subcommittee Chairs held by Dr. Stephen Loyd in Charleston on June 26, 2025. They discussed the Recovery Ecosystem model described by Dr. Loyd. Amber explained how she has similar information in a model for her seven-county region through a grant. The Subcommittee Chairs will be meeting again soon to discuss how to measure indicators of the Recovery Ecosystem, how to represent their existing work in the model and identify areas for collaboration.

Additional Discussion:

- The Subcommittee discussed recruitment and potential new members to invite for future meetings. Any new suggestions will be vetted by the Subcommittee chairs and sent to Bradley McCoy to include in future notices and invites.
- The West Virginia Association of Addiction and Prevention Professionals (WVAAPP) conference is from July 22-24, 2025 at Canaan Valley Resort. There will also be a Mental Health First Aid Training provided on July 21, 2025.
- The Color Dash For Hope will be at Ace Adventure Resort on August 2, 2025.

Adjournment

Amber closed the meeting by thanking all Subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. The full Subcommittee will meet again on August 6, 2025, at 2:00 PM.