

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Recovery Community Subcommittee Wednesday August 6, 2025, Approved

Attendees:

Subcommittee Members Attending: Amber Blankenship (co-chair), Joe Deegan, Dan McCawley (co-chair)
Invited, Not Attending: Brandy Blatt, Trenton Clem, Ardella Cottrill, Elly Donahue, Francisca Gray, Heather Gregory, Ann Hammond, Rajan Masih, William Long, Paul Shimer, Stephanie Stout, Destini Williams, JoAnna Vance
Guests Attending: Lou Ortenzio, Jessica Whitmore
Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) Staff: Dr. Stephen Loyd, Dora Radford
SOR Staff: Mark Lanyon
SOR Regional Coordinators: Greg Puckett
Marshall University Staff: 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, August 6, 2025, and was conducted by Zoom conference. The March, April, May, June, and July 2025 meeting minutes were approved by a quorum via email on July 30, 2025. Heather Gregory made a motion for all meeting minutes, which was seconded by Amber Blankenship and all in in favor and none opposed. A total of four subcommittee members responded to support the motion by email. There was no further discussion. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss key performance indicator (KPI) updates.

Agenda Items:

Meeting Minutes Approval Process

- Bradley McCoy informed the group about the new meeting minutes approval process. If a quorum is not present at the meeting, meeting minutes will be shared via email, and a quorum of Subcommittee members will respond with their edits/motions for approval. All previous meeting minutes have been approved.

Key Performance Indicator Updates

- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** 60% complete.
- **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.
 - All the KPIs in Goal 1, Strategy 1 hinge upon the Informed Consent document being discussed with ODCP. Rick Dempsey, ODCP Assistant Director, has reached out to the Office of Health Facility Licensure & Certification (OHFLAC) about their current policies and procedures to see what is congruent with what exists in the Informed Consent Document created by the Recovery Subcommittee. Amber Blankenship and Dora will reach out to him about updates on this.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** 100% complete

- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** 10% complete.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 3:** 20% complete.
 - All the KPIs in Goal 2 are related to the creation of a Family Peer Support Specialist credential in West Virginia. Amber Blankenship and Dan McCawley have investigated the national credentialing curriculum, and Bradley McCoy will document the link provided. Stephanie Thornton is researching state laws and codes that may prevent the state from using the national credentials and what steps would be required to create a state credential if necessary.
 - The following link is for the national family peer support specialist curriculum.
<https://www.familypeerworkforcetoolkit.org/>
- **Goal 3, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** 100% complete. Stephanie Thornton attended the April meeting to discuss opportunities to collaborate, has met with Amber at various meetings, and Amber is inviting her to the September meeting as well.
- **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. ODCP, DCR, PSIMED, Stephanie Thornton, and Recovery Subcommittee representatives have already met but require a written plan.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 2, KPI 4:** 0% complete, The Subcommittee will have to explore funding opportunities based on the written plan in KPI 3.

Community Conversations

- Bradley McCoy provided an overview of the Town Hall Meetings (using the new term of Community Conversations this year) and the schedule. The virtual format will be the same as in previous years. The three virtual and four-in-person Community Conversations 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 (in person, Charleston, WV)
 - Thursday September 11th 6:00-8:00 (in person, Logan, WV)
 - Monday September 15th 4:00-6:00 (in person, Moorefield, WV)
 - Tuesday September 16th (4:00-6:00) (in person, Wheeling (WV)
- Dora Radford shared the link for volunteers/participants to register:
<https://helpandhopewv.org/odcp/>

Fall Meeting Planning

- The Subcommittee changed the date of the September meeting to September 10, 2025 at 2:00 because the original date conflicted with one of the virtual Community Conversations dates.
- The Subcommittee extended the October 1, 2025 meeting time to last from 2:00-3:30 PM to work on the 2026 State Plan.

Next Steps

- Amber Blankenship and Dora Radford are reaching out to Rick Dempsey about OHFLAC policy updates.
- Amber will reach out to Stephanie Thornton about updates on her research in the legal usage of the national family peer support specialist credentials in West Virginia.
- Bradley McCoy and Amber will invite Stephanie to the September 10th Subcommittee meeting.
- Stephanie Thornton will develop a letter of support to advocate for funding.
- The Recovery Subcommittee will develop a written plan based on meetings with DCR, ODCP, PSIMED, and Subcommittee representatives.
 - The Subcommittee will then have to explore funding opportunities for implementation of what is in their written plan.

Additional Discussion:

- Dr. Stephen Loyd provided an update that he met with Governor Patrick Morrissey on August 4, 2025.

Adjournment

Amber closed the meeting by thanking all Subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. The full Subcommittee will meet again on September 10, 2025, at 2:00 PM.