

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Law Enforcement Subcommittee Tuesday, October 14, 2025, Approved

Attendees:

Subcommittee Members: Lata Menon, Shawn Schwertfeger (chair), Errol Randle, Kevin Williams

Subcommittee Members Not Attending: Adam Crawford, Misty Atkins, Beth Bailey, Julie Lockhart, Jason Milton, Brad Story

Guests Attending: Stephanie Thornton, Nicole Blevins

Office of Drug Control Policy Staff Attending: Olivia Fox, Dr. Stephen Loyd, Justin Smith

State Opioid Response (SOR) Staff Attending: Mark Lanyon

State Opioid Response (SOR) Regional Coordinators Attending: Lauren Kotz, Jill Poe

Marshall University Staff: Bradley McCoy

Opening:

Chief Shawn Schwertfeger (Chair) provided welcome and opening remarks of this meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Law Enforcement Subcommittee. The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, and was conducted by Google Meet conference. Chief Schwertfeger approved of the September meeting minutes. There was no further discussion. The motion passed with all in favor, and none opposed. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss priorities for the 2026 State Plan.

Agenda Items:

Community Conversations and Priorities for the 2026 State Plan

- The timeline for the 2026 State Plan is to finalize it at the November meeting, have it to ODCP by December, and to the legislature in January. Chief Shawn Schwertfeger will meet individually with Bradley McCoy before the November meeting to work on producing a draft for Subcommittee input and approval.
- Bradley McCoy, Chief Shawn Schwertfeger, Justin Smith, and Dr. Stephen Loyd provided an overview of the three virtual and four in-person Community Conversations. They discussed how little law enforcement and incarceration were brought up, which Dr. Loyd noted as very different than similar conversations he has in other states. He attributes it to the treatment people receive while in jails and prisons here. Additional topics were stigma, transportation, and the lack of youth treatment options. The in-person event in Moorefield also discussed reentry after incarceration.
- The Subcommittee discussed programs at the Elkins Mountain School and the Fairmont Youth Academy that offer youth treatment, but they require the individual to have gotten in trouble and be placed there by a court system first. This only helps individuals who fall into a sweet spot of getting into trouble, but not so much trouble that they need more advanced care.
- Youth overdose data has not seen the decrease that other populations have in the last decade.

- Elizabeth Hardy is working with Errol Randle to develop a youth version of the emotional intelligence training. He will update the Subcommittee as it is developed.
- The 2026 State Plan will also focus on diversion. Dr. Loyd wants continued education and advertisement of Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), Quick Response Teams (QRTs), and Police and Peers. The Wheeling Police Department's contact rate with Police and Peers can lead by example, with a 26% reduction in overdoses from last year. The Nitro Police Department also has a successful program. The Subcommittee discussed developing a peer network to discuss best practices.
- Lata Menon offered First Choice Services as a partner to be able to advertise programs and training statewide. While pockets of Police and Peer programs exist, they have the connections to advertise similar programs with stakeholders in all 55 counties.

Additional Discussion:

- None.

Adjournment:

Chief Schwertfeger closed the meeting by thanking all Subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. The Subcommittee will meet again on Tuesday, November 11, 2025 at 9:00 AM.