

# **Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Community Engagement and Supports Subcommittee Transportation and Employment Workgroup Tuesday, October 14, 2025, Approved**

## **Attendees:**

**Workgroup Members Attending:** Jeb Corey, Deb Harris (co-chair), Danial Gum, Bob Hansen, Joshua McGill, Ashley Payne (co-chair), Brie Salmons

**Workgroup Members Not Attending:** Alyce Almond, Michael Austin, Jonathon Compton, Tamara Lee, Jay Phillips, Lorrie Smith, Stephanie Thornton

**Other Partners Attending:** Melissa Bias, Josiah Hannah, Keith King, Brittany Lowther, Kimberly Mundy

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

**State Opioid Response (SOR) Staff Attending:** Mark Lanyon

**Marshall University Staff Attending:** Bradley McCoy

## **Opening:**

Deb Harris and Ashley Payne (co-chairs) provided welcome and opening remarks for this meeting of the Governor's Council on Transportation and Employment. The meeting was called to order on Tuesday October 14, 2025 and was conducted by Google Meet conference. The July 15, 2025 meeting minutes were already approved by the Workgroup co-chairs by email on August 5, 2025. There was no further discussion. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss priorities for the 2026 State Plan.

## **Agenda Items:**

### **Meeting Minute Approval Process**

- Bradley McCoy provided an overview of the meeting minute approval process. Chairs can now approve of meeting minutes without a quorum. The July meeting minutes were already approved by the chairs by email. Meeting minutes will continue to be sent out with reminders.

### **Community Conversations and 2026 State Plan Planning**

- Bradley McCoy, Dr. Stephen Loyd, and Deb Harris provided an overview of the three virtual and four in-person Community Conversations dates. Deb Harris attended the meeting in Moorefield, West Virginia.
- Transportation and stigma were brought up at every meeting date. This group is keenly aware of transportation as a need, but they must have formalized solutions.
- Dr. Stephen Loyd discussed long-distance telehealth providers. While they provide a solution to our transportation needs, they do not exist in or know our communities.
- Brie Salmons looks for novel transportation solutions and models quarterly. They do not see any new models that have not already been tried in West Virginia. There is no model that can

improve upon just a lack of public transit. Additionally, volunteer models have not accurately met the needs of our state.

- Routes to Recovery is working to develop hubs in more rural areas such as Jackson County.
- Deb Harris and Ashley Payne developed a draft of a 2026 State Plan and shared it with those on the call for their input. A copy of the drafted plan is on the last page below.
- Transportation
  - They kept the Goals, Strategies and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) around seeking funding.
  - They want to provide the stigma training developed by Lyn O'Connell and the Public Education Subcommittee on StigmaFreeWV to community groups such as faith leaders and transportation providers.
  - Transportation providers have internal survey data. They would like to compile this information and identify areas for improvement.
- Employment
  - They want to continue the recovery friendly employer training. They will embed stigma training into it so that it is included. They also will send a survey post-training to inquire about existing resources, gaps, and overlap.
  - Bob Hansen suggested that they do a training of trainers (ToT) so that more people can provide recovery friendly employer training.
  - They kept the Goals, Strategies, and KPIs related to biannual stakeholder meetings.

#### **Additional Discussion**

- None

#### **Adjournment:**

Ashley and Deb closed the meeting by thanking all the Workgroup members for their attendance and participation. The Workgroup will meet again on Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 10:00 AM.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Goal 2: Increase availability of transportation in order to access prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery services.

Strategy 1: Explore and secure funding opportunities to sustain and expand current transportation models.

KPI 1: By March 31, 2026, identify a list of at least two funding opportunities.

KPI 2: By September 20, 2026, apply and secure funding to sustain and expand current transportation models.

Goal 3: Improve the quality (experience of riders) and efficiency of transportation services in West Virginia.

Strategy 1: Provide education on stigma to encourage expansion of community resources.

KPI 1: By March 31, 2026, identify groups to provide with stigma education.

KPI 2: By December 31, 2026, have at least two education sessions for community groups such as faith leaders and transportation providers

Strategy 2: Identify opportunities to improve efficiency of transportation from rider and provider perspective.

KPI 1: By December 31, 2026, have a biannual meeting of a provider network to discuss efficiency of resources.

KPI 2: By December 31, 2026, compile tools and resources (such as survey data) from providers.

KPI 3: By December 31, 2026, identify areas of improvement based on tools and resources from providers.

## **EMPLOYMENT**

Goal 4: Increase employment opportunities and job retention for individuals in recovery for substance use disorders through supported employment, apprenticeships, and programs such as Jobs & Hope West Virginia.

Strategy 1: Assist businesses to employ individuals in recovery.

KPI 1: By June 30, 2026, continue to host virtual and in-person trainings with 25 employers across the state to increase the number of existing recovery friendly workplaces.

KPI 2: By December 31, 2026, compile survey data from conference attendees about current existing resources and programs to inform future training opportunities.

KPI 3: By December 31, 2026, identify and train at least five new trainers in a Training of Trainers (ToT) for recovery friendly workplace training.

Strategy 2: Sustain existing programs that assist individuals in recovery from substance use disorder to obtain employment, including Jobs & Hope, Creating Opportunities for Recovery Employment, and Restore, Empower & Attain Connections with Hope, and other programs who want to participate for collaboration purposes.

KPI 1: By December 31, 2026, meet bi-annually to revise and review existing plan to increase collaboration and funding among workforce programs.

KPI 2: By December 31, 2026, identify and secure two funding resources to ensure the continuation and expansion of existing workforce programs.