

# **Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Community Engagement and Supports Subcommittee Transportation and Employment Workgroup**

## **Tuesday, December 2, 2025, Approved**

### **Attendees:**

**Workgroup Members Attending:** Alyce Almond, Deb Harris (co-chair), Bob Hansen, Ashley Payne (co-chair), Jay Phillips

**Workgroup Members Not Attending:** Michael Austin, Jonathon Compton, Jeb Corey, Danial Gum, Tamara Lee, Joshua McGill, Brie Salmons, Lorrie Smith, Stephanne Thornton

**Other Partners Attending:** Josiah Hannah, Brittany Lowther, Kimberly Mundy, Jonathan Young

**Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) Staff Attending:** Rick Dempsey, Olivia Fox, Justin Smith

**State Opioid Response (SOR) Regional Coordinators Attending:** Jill Poe

**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 Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Community Engagement and Supports Subcommittee – Transportation and Employment Workgroup. The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, December 2, 2025 and was conducted by Google Meet conference. The co-chairs approved of the October 14, 2025 meeting minutes. There was no further discussion. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss completion of 2025 key performance indicators (KPIs) and the completion of the 2026 State Plan.

### **Agenda Items:**

#### **Finalize 2025 Quarter 4 Progress Report and Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Updates**

- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** 100%, completed in Q1. They have identified funding sources and submitted applications.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** 75%, Seed Sowers and Recovery Point have both secured funding. Recovery Point's Jackson County hub will be operational soon.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** 100%, This was completed in Q2.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** 100%, This was completed in Q2. Dr. Lyn O'Connell has provided resources.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 1, KPI 3:** 0%, This has been carried over to the 2026 State Plan.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 2, KPI 1:** 100%, This was completed in Q1.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 2, KPI 2:** 100%, This was completed in Q1.
- **Goal 4, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** 50%, This has been carried over to the 2026 State Plan for implementation in the first half of the year.
- **Goal 4, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** 0%, This was dependent on the completion of Goal 4, Strategy 1, KPI 1.
- **Goal 4, Strategy 1, KPI 3:** 50%, This will be imbedded in the virtual training next year.

- **Goal 4, Strategy 2, KPI 1:** 100%, Deb Harris and Ashley Payne have had meetings with Bev Sharpe.
- **Goal 4, Strategy 2, KPI 2:** 100%, CORE has secured additional SOR Funding and Jobs and Hope has received funding through an ARC Arise grant.

#### **2026 State Plan**

- Deb Harris and Ashley Payne reviewed the final version of the 2026 State Plan. A copy of the Plan is provided below.
- Jay Phillips provided the update that Seed Sowers' drivers are also getting mental health first aid training.

#### **December 4, 2025 Subcommittee Chair Meeting**

- There will be an in-person meeting of Subcommittee Chairs on December 4, 2025 in Charleston, West Virginia where they will present their sections of the 2026 State Plan to the Office of Drug Control Policy and one another.

#### **2026 Meeting Schedule**

- The chairs would like to get back to a scheduled series of meetings. This Workgroup will meet every other third Tuesday from 11:00-12:00. The first meeting will be on January 20, 2025.

#### **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, January 20, 2026 at 11:00 AM.

## 2026 State Plan

### **Goal 4: 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 5: 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.

### **Goal 6: 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.