

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Recovery Community Subcommittee Wednesday, January 7, 2026, Approved

Attendees:

Subcommittee Members Attending: Amber Blankenship (co-chair), Elly Donahue, Joe Deegan, Raj Masih, Dan McCawley (co-chair), Liz Neal, Phil Shimer

Subcommittee Members Not Attending: Brandy Blatt, Ardella Cottrill, Trenton Clem

Guests Attending: Kelly Douglas, Stephanie Frazer, Jessica Whitmore

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

State Opioid Response (SOR) Regional Coordinators Attending: Christina Adkins, Jill Poe

Marshall University Staff Attending: 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, January 7, 2025, and was conducted by Google Meet conference. Amber Blankenship and Dan McCawley approved the December 3, 2025 meeting minutes. There was no further discussion. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss implementation of the 2026 State Plan.

Agenda Items:

2026 State Plan Overview and Quarter 1 Prioritization

- Bradley McCoy is working on the new 2026 spreadsheet. The State Plan is still under review by the Governor's Council but for purposes of the meeting, the Subcommittee can use the most current version of the Plan which was approved by the Office of Drug Control Policy.
- The Subcommittee discussed KPIs with Quarter 1 completion dates to prioritize them and also discussed what other items will need to be addressed in the first half of the year.
- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** By March 31, 2026, a survey can be distributed to the certification board to focus on what the training needs are. It may require several circulations to meet the required participation numbers. Joseph Deegan volunteered to assist with the survey's development with assistance from Amber Blankenship.
- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** By June 30, 2026, the Recovery Subcommittee will work with the West Virginia Certification Board for Addiction & Prevention Professionals (WVCBAPP) to maintain the peer workforce and to gain understanding of needs. This should also include the informed consent finalized form which the Subcommittee has drafted.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** A template needs to be developed for training on informed consent. A specialized version for providers, nursing boards, and peers will need to be developed. A secondary work group should be developed to support ethics and autonomy in the informed consent template. Liz Neal will help Amber Blankenship with this, and they will begin meeting on this now.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** The Subcommittee is working to understand the continuing education (CE) process and will need to get their informed consent training approved for CEs. The suggestion was made to seek advice from the certification board. They will be able to deliver the training at two peer conferences, the prescribers conference, and the West Virginia Association of Addiction and Prevention Professionals (WVAAPP) conference, among others to meet this KPI.

Subcommittee Membership

- The Subcommittee discussed inviting new members to best represent geographic locations and professions. Buckhanon, Parkersburg, Martinsburg, and Welch/McDowell County were discussed as needing representation. Membership suggestions can be sent to Bradley McCoy to include on future calendar invites.

Additional Discussion

- Recovery Advocacy Day at the Capitol will begin with a reception on the evening of February 5, 2026 and then a full day on February 6, 2026. Recovery Advocacy Day had 300-400 people in attendance last year. The highlighted focuses for this year's events are re-entry and workforce with panels being finalized.
- Day of Hope at the Capitol is January 20, 2026.
- Amber Blankenship is hosting navigator training in Parkersburg soon if any Subcommittee members want to connect.
- Liz Neal is providing weekly peer training.

Adjournment

Amber closed the meeting by thanking all Subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. The full Subcommittee will meet again on February 4, 2025, at 1:00 PM.