

Meeting Minutes

Treatment, Health Systems, and Research Subcommittee of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment

Thursday, January 8, 2026, Approved

Attendees:

Subcommittee Members Attending: Rebecca Alley, Dr. Jim Berry, Ken Fitzwater, Heather Jarrett, Keith King, Heidi Life, Anita Mallett, Raj Masih, Dr. Garrett Moran, Brienne Taylor, Josh Titlow, Danielle Woods-Huffman, Lisa Zappia

Invited Subcommittee Members Not Attending: Thomas Bailey, Shawna Chapman, Candace Facemyer, Jennifer Fields, Constance Harvey, Emalene Heaton, Amy Proffitt, Victoria Swain, Timothy Watson, Jessica Whitmore

Guests Attending: Ashli B. Cottrell, Kelly Douglas, Emily Sarkees

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

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

Marshall University Staff Attending: Deb Koester, Bradley McCoy

Opening:

Deb Koester provided welcome and opening remarks of this meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Treatment, Health Systems, and Research Subcommittee. The meeting was called to order on Thursday, January 8, 2026, and was conducted by Google Meet conference. Deb Koester approved of the November 20, 2025 meeting minutes. There was no further discussion. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss implementation of the 2026 State Plan.

Agenda:

Welcome and Introductions

- Bradley McCoy provided a brief introduction and explanation of his role at Marshall University, Division of Community Health as an academic partner to the Governor's Council. He is responsible for planning and hosting meetings, so if attendees have questions related to that, they can reach out to him. Rick Dempsey provided a brief overview of the role of the Governor's Council and its Subcommittees. All attendees then provided brief introductions.
- The next upcoming Governor's Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 21, at 3:00 PM and are open meetings. Anyone who wishes to attend can find information on the Office of Drug Control Policy's (ODCP) website.

2026 State Plan and Quarter 1 Implementation

- The new 2026 Treatment, Health Systems, and Research Subcommittee Plan has been submitted to the Office of Drug Control Police (ODCP) for edits. The 2026 State Plan has been submitted to the Governor's Council and will be forwarded to the Governor's Office for approval.

- During planning, the Subcommittee identified two topic areas of Crisis Intervention Teams and Housing for the 2026 Plan. Dr. Koester provided an overview of the work on CIT that has been implemented by the Law Enforcement Subcommittee over the past 2-3 years. She also provided overview of the work implemented in the Community Engagement and Supports 'Housing' Workgroup. She explained that those topic areas and work will remain with those respective Subcommittees in the 2026 Plan but encouraged those interested to attend the monthly meetings if they would like to be more involved.
- The following were discussed pertaining to the Treatment Subcommittee 2026 Plan:
 - **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 1:**
 - For the next meeting a map of all QRTs will be created, validated and brought back to this Subcommittee.
 - The State Opioid Response (SOR) Coordinators do have access to some maps documenting the Quick Response Team (QRT) by county across the state.
 - Jill Poe with SOR does have 13 counties in her region with 3 operating QRTs.
 - **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 2:**
 - To assess QRTs, the Subcommittee suggested starting to develop a list of possible data points to document what this group wants to measure and understand.
 - It was noted that the SOR State Program Lead may be collecting data from QRTs currently.
 - A list of data points to be collected will be started for the February meeting.
 - For this group to collect additional/other data, SOR Coordinators can assist with survey distribution and promotion, so they are completed.
 - **Goal 1, Strategy 2, KPI 1:**
 - The Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute is developing wearable devices to integrate with apps which could assist in remote physiological monitoring (RPM).
 - Dr. Masih also implemented a separate preliminary trial which included approximately 100 participants. The results showed improved results with relapse rates, lower reincarceration rates, and better engagement with medication assisted treatment (MAT). This study included RMP along with remote therapeutic monitoring (RTM).
 - The February Subcommittee meeting will include Dr. Berry and Dr. Masih each sharing more about their work, as well as increasing knowledge of the Subcommittee on RPM and RTM more broadly.
 - **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 1:**
 - Contingency management needs to have updated training. This is the number one treatment for stimulant use. Identification should be priority in understanding where the gaps exist across the state followed by contingency management's integration pathways.
 - Discussion on data collection for this KPI will be continued to future meetings.
 - **Goal 2, Strategy 2, KPI 1:**
 - Resources are available at the Office of Drug Control Policy's website for healthcare providers. SOR also has mobile health providers working in conjunction with several outside agencies. The Primary Care Association and The Office of Health Facility Licensure and Certification (OHFLAC) were identified as agencies to gain more updated information as to availability options. Telehealth is still broadly offered but social determinants need to be accessed for barriers.

- West Virginia is the bottom tier for internet access. Smaller counties have proportional larger barriers to services such as internet and fixed broadband. This gap widened when the Affordable Connectivity Program was discontinued.
- For the February meeting, the Subcommittee will review what is available and has been mapped for mobile and tele services.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 3, KPI 1:**
 - The Subcommittee is planning to host a March or April presentation about the scope of loan repayment availability. Deb will reach out to the Bureau of Public Health to coordinate this so the Subcommittee can learn more.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 4, KPI 1:**
 - The Subcommittee is focusing on late Spring roundtables. This KPI will be discussed in their next meeting.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 5, KPI 1:**
 - Deb will invite Stephanie Thornton to the March Subcommittee meeting so the Subcommittee can gain understanding about their current work.

Adjournment:

Deb Koester closed the meeting by thanking all Subcommittee members for their attendance. The Subcommittee will schedule a meeting date for February by email.