

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Recovery Community Subcommittee Wednesday, February 4, 2026, Approved

Attendees:

Subcommittee Members Attending: Amber Blankenship (co-chair), Elly Donahue, Coty Long, Raj Masih, Dan McCawley (co-chair), Liz Neal

Subcommittee Members Not Attending: Brandy Blatt, Ardella Cottrill, Trenton Clem, Joe Deegan, Phil Shimer

Guests Attending: Kelly Douglas, Stephanie Frazer

Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) Staff Attending: Olivia Fox

State Opioid Response (SOR) Regional Coordinators Attending: 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, February 4, 2026, and was conducted by Google Meet conference. Amber Blankenship and Dan McCawley approved the January 7, 2026 meeting minutes. There was no further discussion. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss implementation of key performance indicators (KPIs) in the 2026 State Plan.

Agenda Items:

2026 State Plan Overview and Quarter 1 Prioritization

- The State Plan is still under review by the Governor's Office.
- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** By March 31, 2026, a survey can be distributed by the certification board to Peer Recovery Support Specialists (PRSSs) to discuss training needs. Dan McCawley has met with Marshall University's Collegiate Recovery. Amber Blankenship has developed a first draft of the survey in a Google Doc and asked for Subcommittee input. It is 12 questions in length. Amber will share the draft with Deb Koester for review. The survey will be distributed in March with results compiled by summer.
- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** By June 30, 2026, the Recovery Subcommittee will include the West Virginia Certification Board for Addiction & Prevention Professionals (WVCBAPP) in survey distribution and present results to them.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** By July 31, 2026, Liz Neal and Dan McCawley will coordinate with their contacts at 211, United Way, Help4WV, and Lata Menon with First Choice Services.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** Amber Blankenship has developed an 18-page rough draft of the Informed Consent Training and asked for Subcommittee input. Amber and Liz Neal will meet about developing this further. There is new confidentiality language to add.
- **Goal 4, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** By June 30, 2026, the Subcommittee chairs will reach out to Rick Dempsey for more clarification on how they can partner with the Office of Drug Control Policy and their communications department to implement this.
- Additional KPIs in the plan will be addressed in later quarters.

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.

- Liz Neal is providing weekly peer training and provided the following link:
<https://westvirginiasoberliving.com/prsstraining/>

Adjournment

Amber closed the meeting by thanking all Subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. The full Subcommittee will meet again on March 4, 2026, at 1:00 PM.