

# Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Community Engagement and Supports Subcommittee Transportation and Employment Workgroup Wednesday, January 28, 2025, Approved

## Attendees:

**Workgroup Members Attending:** Alyce Almond, Michael Austin, Jonathon Compton, Leah Cook (co-chair), Ken Fitzwater, Danial Gum, Joshua McGill, Deb Harris (co-chair)

**Workgroup Members Not Attending:** Jeb Corey, Bob Hansen, Tamara Lee, Jay Phillips, Brie Salmons, Lorrie Smith, Stephanie Thornton

**Other Partners Attending:** Brittany Adams, Josiah Hannah, Jennifer Myers

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

**State Opioid Response (SOR) Staff Attending:** Gwyn McGee

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

**Marshall University Staff Attending:** Bradley McCoy

## Opening:

Deb Harris and Leah Cook (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 Wednesday, January 28, 2026 and was conducted by Google Meet conference. The co-chairs approved of the December 2, 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 Implementation

- Bradley McCoy provided an overview of the timeline for Plan approval. Olivia Fox provided an update that the Plan is still awaiting approval from the Governor's Office.
- **Goal 4:** Recovery Point and Seed Sowers are seeking funding from the Rural Health Transportation funds. Multiple areas of funding have already been identified.
- **Goal 5, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** Due March 31, 2026, community groups to be identified for stigma education will be easy to manage.
- **Goal 5, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** The Workgroup will work to schedule stigma education using previously established contacts and StigmaFreeWV.
- **Goal 5, Strategy 2, KPI 1:** Jobs & Hope is already working to streamline transportation services to employment and more.
- **Goal 6, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** Ashley Payne has already established some work here before she left her position. ARC is funding Jobs & Hope and the Fletcher Group Inc. to work in this space.
- **Goal 6, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** A post-event survey will go out to attendees. Bradley McCoy offered that Marshall University could develop that for evaluation.

- **Goal 6, Strategy 2, KPI 1:** There is a workforce and sustainability meeting scheduled for May 14, 2026. REACH, CORE, and Jobs & Hope will meet to discuss synergy of their programs. It is open to the group to request participation. Ken Fitzwater with Pretera asked to be included.
- **Goal 6, Strategy 2, KPI 2:** Deb Harris asked the Workgroup to please send her any funding opportunities they become aware of.

#### **Subcommittee Membership**

- Ashley Payne has left her position with CORE. Deb Harris will now represent Employment and Leah Cook with Recovery Point will represent Transportation.
- Leah provided an overview of her role at Recovery Point and Routes to Recovery.
- Bradley McCoy reminded the Workgroup to send him contact information for any potential new members.

#### **Additional Discussion**

- Dr. Stephen Loyd would like to develop a Reentry Workgroup with a Jobs & Hope representative and asked Deb Harris to join or appoint someone else from this Workgroup.

#### **Adjournment:**

Deb and Leah closed the meeting by thanking all the Workgroup members for their attendance and participation. The Workgroup will meet again on Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 11:00 AM