

# **Meeting Minutes of the Full Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Wednesday, November 19, 2025, Approved**

## **Attendees:**

Dr. James Berry, Janine Breyel, Jim Canaday, Rebecca Crowder, Senator Vince Deeds, Rick Dempsey, Candace Facemyer, Olivia Fox, Bob Hansen, Deb Harris, Dr. Stehen Loyd, Dr. Michael Kilkenny, Dr. Stefan Maxwell, Dan McCawley, Bradley McCoy, Dr. Mark McDaniel, Teresa Mills, Christina Mullins, Dr. Lyn O'Connell, Dr. Amy Saunders, Chief Shawn Schwertfeger, Elizabeth Shahan, Secretary Arvin Singh, Jessica Smith, Stephanie Thornton

## **Opening:**

Christina Mullins provided welcome and opening remarks of this meeting of the Full Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment. The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, and was conducted by Google Meet conference.

## **Agenda Items:**

### **Approval of July 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

- Meeting minutes for July 16, 2025 were sent out via email to the Council prior to this meeting. Dr. Stefan Maxwell made a motion to approve the minutes, and Deb Harris seconded that motion. There was no further discussion, and the meeting minutes were approved with all in favor and none opposed.

### **Approval of the State Plan Quarter 3 Progress Report**

- This agenda item was not discussed.

### **2025 Community Conversations Overview (Rick Dempsey, Office of Drug Control Policy)**

- Rick Dempsey provided an overview of the 2025 Community Conversations. They occurred on the following dates:
  - August 27, 2025 (virtual, 98 attendees)
  - September 3, 2025 (virtual, 69 attendees)
  - September 5, 2025 (virtual, 58 attendees)
  - September 9, 2025 (Charleston, WV after the Peer Recovery Support Specialist Conference, 111 attendees in addition to some conference attendees who stayed after but did not sign in)
  - September 11, 2025 (Logan, WV, 77 attendees)
  - September 15, 2025 (Moorefield, WV, 40 attendees)
  - September 16, 2025 (Wheeling, WV, 35 attendees)
- A community conversation summary report was developed and shared with Subcommittee members.

### **Updates on 2026 State Plan Development (Bradley McCoy, Marshall University)**

- Bradley McCoy shared the timeline of 2026 State Plan Development. Subcommittee chairs and members facilitated and attended the Community Conversations in August and September to collect data from key stakeholders and the public. The Community Conversations Summary Report was shared with Subcommittees for use in planning for 2026 during the months of October and November. The draft 2026 Plan will be presented and discussed on December 4, 2025 at an in-person meeting of the Office of Drug Control Policy and Subcommittee Chairs in Charleston, West Virginia. It will then be sent to ODCP, approved by the Governor's Council on the January 21, 2026 meeting, and submitted to the Governor's Office and then the legislature.

### **Agency Substance Use Disorder-related Updates (Dr. Stephen Loyd, Office of Drug Control Policy)**

- Dr. Stephen Loyd provided general updates and priorities for the Office of Drug Control Policy. These included:
  - Working with the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) on reentry Infrastructure.
  - The success of the in-person Community Conversations and identification of transportation and the lack of youth substance use disorder treatment as key topics that came up at all meeting dates.
  - The opportunity that Aetna will educate Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) at no cost for them to start providing youth treatment.
  - Schools offering overdose reversal drugs being county-dependent when it should be statewide.
  - Working with the Substance Use Disorder committee in the Senate.

### **Additional Member Updates:**

- Dr. Stefan Maxwell and Dr. Stephen Loyd discussed the need for education campaigns for pregnant and parenting women on the effects of fetal drug exposure including alcohol and cannabis exposure in addition to the ongoing opioid epidemic. They discussed funding education campaigns on cannabis exposure.
- Deb Harris announced that Jobs and Hope is hosting a Day of Hope at the legislature on January 20, 2026.
- Secretary Arvin Singh discussed the application by West Virginia to the Rural Health Transformation Program and its focus on transportation as a way to get people physically to medical appointments.

### **Additional Discussion:**

- None.

### **Adjournment:**

Christina Mullins closed the meeting by thanking all attendees for their attendance and participation. The Governor's Council will meet again on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 3:00 PM.