

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

Attendees:

Subcommittee Members Attending: Amber Blankenship (co-chair), Ardella Cottrill, Kenny Jordan, Coty Long, Raj Masih, Dan McCawley (co-chair), Liz Neal, John Smith

Subcommittee Members Not Attending: Brandy Blatt, Elly Donahue, Trenton Clem, Joe Deegan, Phil Shimer

Guests Attending: Jessica Whitmore

State Opioid Response (SOR) Staff Attending: Stephanie Frazer, Mark Lanyon

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, March 4, 2026, and was conducted by Google Meet conference. Amber Blankenship and Dan McCawley approved the February 4, 2026 meeting minutes. There was no further discussion. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss Quarter 1 completion of key performance indicators (KPIs) in the 2026 State Plan.

Agenda Items:

2026 State Plan Quarter 1 Progress Report

- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** 25%, The survey questions are being finalized and sent to Dr. Deb Koester for review. The survey will not be distributed until late March with results back in late spring. Jessica Whitmore offered any assistance needed.
- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** 25%, This training will somewhat hinge upon information learned from the surveys. The Subcommittee will utilize existing events such as SOR or First Choice Services' training events. Kenny Jordan will help to integrate training already creating by the Marshall University Center of Excellence. Angie Gray was identified as a candidate to train healthcare professionals on the utilization of PRSSs.
- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 3:** 0%, The Subcommittee would like to invite Bob Hansen to the April meeting.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** 10%, Dan McCawley has reached out to local health departments about their community health and wellness plans.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** 0%, No updates.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 3:** 0%, The Subcommittee would like to clarify this with Rick Dempsey. Amber Blankenship will reach out about this. Emily Birckhead has annual reports with recovery gaps and barriers that can be utilized by this Subcommittee.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** 50%, Amber Blankenship and Liz Neal have worked on this together. They would like to develop three specialized trainings for 1) providers, 2) nurses, 3) PRSSs. This has already changed based on legislation from February so it will have to be resubmitted to Jessica Whitmore for additional review. The Subcommittee discussed potential trainers for each specialized audience. Kenny Jordan has staff that would do well here and the Subcommittee would again like to utilize Angie Gray.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** 0%, Pending based on KPI 1.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 1, KPI 3:** 0%, Pending based on KPI 1.

- The Subcommittee chairs are reaching out to Rick Dempsey for a meeting to discuss plans for all the KPIs in Goal 4
- **Goal 4, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** 0%, Jessica Whitmore offered to share this on Office of the Inspector General social media accounts.
- **Goal 4, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** 0%, The Subcommittee will invite Stephanie Thornton to a future meeting.
- **Goal 4, Strategy 1, KPI 3:** 0%, No updates.

Additional Discussion

- Subcommittee members provided individual organizational updates and advertised vacant PRSS positions.

Adjournment

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