

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Community Engagement and Supports Subcommittee Transportation and Employment Workgroup Wednesday, March 17, 2025, Approved

Attendees:

Workgroup Members Attending: Jimmy Alexander, Alyce Almond, Jonathon Compton, Leah Cook (co-chair), Ken Fitzwater, Danial Gum, Deb Harris (co-chair), Joshua McGill, Jay Phillips, Brie Salmons

Workgroup Members Not Attending: Michael Austin, Jeb Corey, Bob Hansen, Tamara Lee, Lorrie Smith, Stephanie Thornton

Other Partners Attending: Alex Alston, Melissa Bias, Jennifer Myers, Jonathan Young

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

State Opioid Response (SOR) Staff Attending: Mark Lanyon

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, March 17, 2026 and was conducted by Google Meet conference. The co-chairs approved of the January 28, 2026 meeting minutes. There was no further discussion. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss progress of the 2026 State Plan key performance indicators (KPIs).

Agenda Items:

2026 State Plan KPI Progress and Quarter 1 Progress Report

- **Goal 4, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** 50% complete, Recovery Point and Seed Sower submitted for Rural Health Transportation funds. Brie Salmons sent a grant opportunity to the Workgroup via email last week, but it was not transportation specific. ARC Inspire grants have some opportunities.
- **Goal 4, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** 50% complete, This is dependent on the above KPI.
- **Goal 5, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** 100% complete, Seed Sower and Routes to Recovery drivers will get stigma training through resources on StigmaFreeWV this year.
- **Goal 5, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** 0% complete, Recovery Point and Seed Sower are in the process of creating a toolkit to disseminate to other transportation providers and prospective providers that includes a section related to stigma reduction. This is part of our current ARC funded project, "Bridging the Gap: Innovative Transportation Network."
- **Goal 5, Strategy 2, KPI 1:** 50% complete, Deb Harris, Jay Phillips, Josh McGill, Brittany Lowther have already started meeting to discuss this.

- **Goal 5, Strategy 2, KPI 2:** 25% complete, The “Bridging the Gap: Innovative Transportation Network” ARC grant is compiling data from Routes to Recovery, Seed Sower, and Modivcare.
- **Goal 5, Strategy 2, KPI 3:** 25% complete, no updates.
- **Goal 6, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** 25% complete, Jobs & Hope is in the planning phase for multiple in-person and virtual job fairs. Jimmy Alexander at CORE will join the work on this.
- **Goal 6, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** 0% complete, The survey will be developed in advance of the next conference.
- **Goal 6, Strategy 1, KPI 3:** 50% complete, The ARISE ARC grant will meet this. The SOR Regional Coordinators will volunteer for this. Multiple Workgroup members will contact Deb Harris about participation.
- **Goal 6, Strategy 2, KPI 1:** 75% complete, A meeting is already scheduled for May 2026.
- **Goal 6, Strategy 2, KPI 2:** 25% complete, Deb Harris asked the Workgroup to please send her any funding opportunities they become aware of.

Additional Discussion

- Alyce Almond shared that there is existing funding for youth summer work experiences.
- Jimmy Alexander shared an open Employment Specialist position with CORE.
- Keith King is providing updates to Ken Fitzwater on billing for job coaching.
- WorkForce West Virginia is hiring a reentry coordinator to manage workforce resources.

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, May 19, 2026 at 11:00 AM.