

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Recovery Community Subcommittee Wednesday, May 6, 2026, Approved

Attendees:

Subcommittee Members Attending: Amber Blankenship (co-chair), Ardella Cottrill, Raj Masih, Dan McCawley (co-chair), Liz Neal

Subcommittee Members Not Attending: Brandy Blatt, Elly Donahue, Trenton Clem, Kenny Jordan, Coty Long, Phil Shimer, John Smith

Guests Attending: Stephanie Thornton

State Opioid Response (SOR) Staff Attending: Stephanie Frazer

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

Marshall University Staff Attending: Bradley McCoy

Opening:

Dan McCawley (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, May 6, 2026, and was conducted by Google Meet conference. Dan McCawley and Amber Blankenship approved the April 1, 2026 meeting minutes. There was no further discussion. The purpose of this meeting was to review key performance indicator (KPI) updates.

Agenda Items:

Guest Speaker – Stephanie Thornton (Courts and Justice-Involved Populations Subcommittee Chair)

- Stephanie requested data for which facilities/services use Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the prevalence of high scores to relay this information to the Courts Subcommittee. There are high ACE scores in the population of those who have lived experience with substance use and/or justice-involved populations. This data could be significant in assisting with trauma-informed legal populations.
- REACH and West Virginia Sober Living do not use it, according to Dan McCawley and Amber Blankenship.
- The State Opioid Response (SOR) team is working on Statements of Work (SOWs) now but will need information of ACEs use so they can work with providers to create an ACEs sheet to add into their intake forms or to utilize existing support documents.

Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Updates

- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** The Subcommittee received edits for their peer workforce training survey. The Marshall University team will put it into Survey Monkey, afterwards the survey will be distributed at conferences and by Kenny Jordan.
- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 3:** On June 8-10, 2026, the Subcommittee will deliver targeted trainings and continuing education sessions focused on peer supervision, emotional support, professionalism, boundaries and self-care. The Subcommittee is also conducting a peer supervision training at the WVAPP (West Virginia Addiction and Prevention Professionals) Conference. The Subcommittee is also speaking at the Public Defenders Conference.

- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 3:** No new updates on housing database usage.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** Amber Blankenship is joining the May Youth Subcommittee meeting.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** The Subcommittee can facilitate an Informed Consent Training Model for substance use disorder (SUD) recovery and mental health providers for the fall conferences. Subcommittee members are also available to host additional zoom meetings. Invitations can also be distributed with the West Virginia Behavioral Health Planning Council.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 1, KPI 3:** Bradley McCoy will facilitate communication with Jessica Smith at ODCP about administrative approval of training, logos, templates, and official communications/acknowledgements. This will lead to co-hosting continuing education events with the Office of Drug Control Policy.
- **Goal 4, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** The Subcommittee have content for the monthly biography for an individual who has sustained success in their recovery. The Subcommittee just needs to collaborate with ODCP on how to advertise this.
- **Goal 4, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** The Subcommittee is considering the removal of this KPI. It was previously added by Rick Dempsey. The work to allow those with lived experience to speak with those in carceral settings is already an ongoing conversation and has been for years. The Recovery Subcommittee would not be able to present to those in a carceral setting. Bradley McCoy will reach out to Stephanie Thornton for her thoughts on someone from the Courts Subcommittee being able to present the same information or if it should be totally removed from the 2026 State Plan.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 1, KPI 3:** The Subcommittee wants to collaborate with ODCP on this, but they already have standing Recovery Month kickoff meetings scheduled. They would like Dr. Stephen Loyd to be involved in this.

Additional Discussion

- The West Virginia Behavioral Health Planning Council is looking for members to join. Reach out to Ardella Cottrill at ardella.cottrill@gmail.com for more information. Meetings are quarterly in January, April, July, and October on the third Thursday and they are hybrid meetings. We also have monthly committee meetings for Adult Services, Children and Family, System & Monitoring, and Adult Services.
- Raj Masih told the group that he has developed a PowerPoint with youth overdose data, but it is not available for public distribution.
- Raj Masih presented the Overdose Incident Command Structure project he is working on with Todd Davies and Dr. Cynthia Persily from Marshall University. The project will detect overdoses, verify overdoses, will alert responders, and enable notification to support response to overdose clusters. There are two arms to the project: investigative and response. There will be regional centers responsible for the detection and verification.

Adjournment

Dan closed the meeting by thanking all Subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. The full Subcommittee will meet again on June 3, 2026, at 1:00 PM.