

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Community Engagement and Supports Subcommittee Transportation and Employment Workgroup Tuesday, May 19, 2026, Approved

Attendees:

Workgroup Members Attending: Alyce Almond, Leah Cook (co-chair), Jeb Corey, Bob Hansen, Ken Fitzwater, Deb Harris (co-chair), Brittany Lowther, Simone Marsalis, Joshua McGill, Jay Phillips, Brie Salmons, Lorrie Smith

Workgroup Members Not Attending: Jimmy Alexander, Michael Austin, Jonathon Compton, Danial Gum, Tamara Lee, Stephanie Thornton

Other Partners Attending: Josiah Hannah, Keith King

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

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 Tuesday, May 19, 2026 and was conducted by Google Meet conference. The co-chairs approved of the March 17, 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

- **Goal 4, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** Jay Phillips and Leah Cook have worked on a proposal for Rural Health Transportation (RHT) funding. They also met with Tony Perkey from Rural Health Link about the Routes to Recovery and Seed Sower grant opportunities. In July, an additional hub will open for services to Lewis, Upshur, and Randolph Counties.
- **Goal 4, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** Jobs and Hope is applying for an ARC Inspire grant for a statewide initiative titled "DRIVE." The proposal for funding would encompass heavy equipment and Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training and would also assist in funding Good News Mountaineer Garage for expanding car donation opportunities and vehicle repair assistance. The "DRIVE" program is reliant on being awarded the grant funding.
- **Goal 5, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** This KPI has already been achieved at 100% as the Subcommittee has identified two community groups for stigma education.

- **Goal 5, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** Routes to Recovery and Seed Sower is developing a toolkit through the ARC grant that will address stigma reduction. Seed Sower is offering mental health first aid training for drivers.
- **Goal 5, Strategy 2, KPI 1:** A meeting of the provider network to discuss resource efficiency will be scheduled for June.
- **Goal 5, Strategy 2, KPI 2:** Routes to Recovery and Seed Sower have collected data to complete the next ARC report.
- **Goal 5, Strategy 2, KPI 3:** Modivcare has restarted sending their monthly tips and field checks to help identify areas of improvement based on provider resources. Modivcare had suspended this activity since COVID.
- **Goal 6, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** On May 28, 2026, Jobs and Hope is hosting their first Second Chance Job Fair at the Charleston Town Center Mall. They have 20-30 employers along with resource providers who will be available to about 60+ registered job seekers. In partnership with Connect Appalachian and Fletcher Group funding, training is provided to employers about second chance recovery friendly workplaces. Data will be provided to the Subcommittee from this pilot training.
- **Goal 6, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** In conjunction with the Fletcher Group grant, East Tennessee State University is compiling data and surveys to send out to employers. These surveys will be sent after trainings are provided for feedback and data about the current existing resources and programs available.
- **Goal 6, Strategy 1, KPI 3:** Once the curriculum is complete, Deb Harris will recruit and host the Training of Trainers (ToT).
- **Goal 6, Strategy 2, KPI 1:** An internal group of workforce leaders met last week on May 14, 2026 to review and revise the existing plan to increase collaboration and possible funding among resource programs. Prestera was represented at this meeting along with a representative from CORE and the REACH initiative. Another meeting is already scheduled for June and December.
- **Goal 6, Strategy 2, KPI 2:** The Workgroup discussed applying collectively through the West Virginia First Foundation or one of the Rural Health Transformations funding opportunities. A meeting is scheduled for June to discuss the collaboration and applications for these funding opportunities.

Additional Discussion

- The Subcommittee was encouraged to share all funding opportunities with the Workgroup.
- Bradley McCoy and Deb Harris discussed an in-person meeting in July or September focused on the Train the Trainer events.

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, July 21, 2026 at 11:00 AM.