

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Recovery Community Subcommittee Wednesday, August 5, 2026, Approved

Attendees:

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

Subcommittee Members Not Attending: Brandy Blatt, Trenton Clem, Ardella Cottrill, Joe Deegan, Elly Donahue, Kenny Jordan, Phil Shimer, John Smith

Guests Attending: Jessica Whitmore

ODCP Staff Attending: Dr. Stephen Loyd

State Opioid Response (SOR) Staff Attending: Stephanie Frazer

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, August 5, 2026, and was conducted by Google Meet conference. Amber Blankenship and Dan McCawley approved the July 1, 2026 meeting minutes. There was no further discussion. The purpose of this meeting was to review key performance indicator (KPI) updates.

Agenda Items:

Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Updates

- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** There are currently 34 responses to the survey. Liz Neal and Jenny Lancaster will further disseminate the survey. There are 1,500 peers in the state, but the Subcommittee is unsure how many of those are active. They would like many more responses to the survey.
- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** Liz Neal has provided training on peer supervision, recertification, and the justice-impacted population. Amber Blankenship has provided training on the intersection of recovery and reentry and community development. Marshall University recently hosted an 8-hour ethics training. Kenny Jordan has provided Bradley McCoy with a list of all trainings he has hosted thus far this year.
- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 3:** No new updates on housing database usage as they transition database systems.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** No updates.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** The Youth Subcommittee can share their list of existing resources. OVP Health will have youth treatment beds that do not require patients to be justice-impacted hopefully by the end of the year.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 3:** Barriers to recovery identified have been the lack of youth resources and transportation. The Subcommittee will get information from the Town Hall Meetings. Dr. Loyd and Josh Barker are also hosting reentry round tables around the state and will share the information they collect.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** Amber Blankenship is developing the PowerPoint and will send Deb Koester the newest version of the Informed Consent document.

- **Goal 3, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** This is dependent on the completion and approval of the Informed Consent training module.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 1, KPI 3:** This is dependent on the completion and approval of the Informed Consent training module.
- **Goal 4, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** The Subcommittee has content for the monthly biography for an individual who has sustained success in their recovery. Dan McCawley is reaching out to Olivia Fox to send it through the appropriate channels for social media approval and posting.
- **Goal 4, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** No updates.
- **Goal 4, Strategy 1, KPI 3:** Kenny Jordan already hosts monthly peer meetings. Coty Long is going to invite peers on the Recovery Subcommittee to the RE-PATH Advisory meetings.

Town Hall Meetings

- Four virtual Town Hall Meetings are scheduled for the following times. Registration can be found at the following link: <https://helpandhopewv.org/odcp/>
 - Wednesday, August 12, 2026, 10:00-12:00
 - Wednesday, August 19, 2026, 1:00-3:00
 - Wednesday, August 26, 2026, 10:00-12:00
 - Thursday, September 3, 2026, 1:00-3:00

Additional Discussion

- Dan McCawley has met with Lieutenant Kenneth Murray to discuss promotion of the Angel Initiative and synergy across programs. Jessica Whitmore offered to connect the West Virginia State Police with more providers.
- Dr. Stephen Loyd is presenting the 2020-2025 overdose data to the legislature next week.
- Jessica Whitmore offered to use the Office of Inspector General's email lists and social media to promote any September Recovery Month events that the Recovery Subcommittee is participating in.

Adjournment

Amber closed the meeting by thanking all Subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. The full Subcommittee will meet again on September 2, 2026, at 1:00 PM.