

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Courts and Justice-Involved Populations Subcommittee Tuesday, August 11, 2026, Approved

Attendees:

Subcommittee Members Attending: Stephanie Bond, Candace Facemyer, Lesley Hill, Coty Long, Judge Jim Rowe, Stephanie Thornton (Chair)

Subcommittee Members Not Attending: Amber Blankenship, Sam Hess, Cindy Hill, Lori Lynch

Guests Attending: Dr. Gary Davenport

Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) Staff Attending: Dr. Stephen Loyd, Justin Smith

State Opioid Response (SOR) Staff Attending: Renee Harris

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

Marshall University Staff Attending: Bradley McCoy

Opening:

Stephanie Thornton (Chair) provided welcome and opening remarks of this meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment – Courts and Justice-Involved Populations Subcommittee. The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, and was conducted by Google Meet conference. Stephanie Thornton approved the July 14, 2026 meeting minutes. There was no further discussion. The purpose of this meeting was to invite guest speakers Dr. Gary Davenport and Lesley Hill to discuss medication access to those transitioning from incarceration into the community.

Agenda Items:

Guest Speakers – Dr. Gary Davenport and Lesley Hill (Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation)

- Dr. Gary Davenport provided updates on qualitative data collected among nurses at their facilities. They collected information on five variables on types of follow-up. This data is one year old now so there could be updates to practice and policies. Nine facilities were represented by the data and there was variability among sites.
- Based on the data, the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) has asked the jails' medical staff to standardize their practices and provided education on why they need to give the same amounts of medications with standardized procedures at release.
- DCR has also looked at recidivism data across the nine sites, specifically rates on those who return within 30 days of release because those are seen as a gap and reentry failure. They ranged from 5%-10%. Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) is seen as a solution here.
- Reentry with medications varied significantly between sites. One example was given of a site that provides a 3-day supply of medication and a prescription. Some sites give referrals to providers in the community while others call in prescriptions themselves. and some only provide information resources. The Subcommittee discussed how at least a 7-day supply of medication is needed to be considered substantial enough.

- The Subcommittee discussed the use of mobile units like those provided by Presteria for linkage to resources.
- Groups Incorporated has been operating as a pilot program for connection and linkage of those graduating the Goals Program and is planning to implement in more sites.
- Only 2 of 9 sites were asked about mental health follow-up in the qualitative survey.
- The goal is that no one entering a facility needing mental health treatment should leave without treatment. The medical vendor sees patients within 14 days of them arriving at the jail.
- The medical vendor has a resource for searching all pharmacies to verify an individual's current prescriptions when booked into the jail, or will call pharmacies individually, for continuity of prescribing while in jail, but some people have not maintained current prescriptions in the community.
- The Subcommittee discussed research that points to continuity access to MOUD as the biggest factor for prevention of overdose death and recidivism.
- DCR will collaborate with their medical vendor to discuss updates to pharmacy rules and medication supply policies at jail release.
- The Subcommittee discussed differences in state models such as Virginia and North Carolina. Each state's 1115 waiver is written differently.
- The Subcommittee discussed how the community provider model can be profitable with Medicaid credentialing. The Governor's Council can make future recommendations to payment and medical management models.
- DCR has a 7-point plan to address mental health treatment gaps in care for early jail stays.
- The Subcommittee discussed how it is easier to transfer models of care from jails to prisons rather than the inverse.
- Lesley Hill provided an update that she is working to get buy-in from DCR to approve contact visits for Peer Recovery Support Specialists (PRSSs).

Town Hall Meetings

- Four virtual Town Hall Meetings are scheduled and facilitators have signed up to cover all four dates.

Additional Discussion

- None.

Adjournment:

Stephanne closed the meeting by thanking all Subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. The Subcommittee will meet on Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 10:00 AM.