

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Community Engagement and Supports Subcommittee Transportation and Employment Workgroup Tuesday, July 21, 2026, Approved

Attendees:

Workgroup Members Attending: Alyce Almond, Jonathon Compton, Leah Cook (co-chair), Jeb Corey, Bob Hansen, Deb Harris (co-chair), Brittany Lowther, Simone Marsalis, Brie Salmons, Lorrie Smith

Workgroup Members Not Attending: Jimmy Alexander, Michael Austin, Ken Fitzwater, Danial Gum, Tamara Lee, Joshua McGill, Jay Phillips, Stephanie Thornton

Other Partners Attending: Melissa Bias, Devon Hayes, Heather Merritt

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

State Opioid Response (SOR) Staff Attending: Mark Lanyon, Gwynn McGee

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, July 21, 2026 and was conducted by Google Meet conference. The co-chairs approved of the May 19, 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:** This KPI was completed in Quarter 2
- **Goal 4, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** Routes to Recovery secured funding for an expansion hub in Buckhannon. They are also applying for funding to expand to the north as well. Jobs and Hope submitted the application for an ARC Inspire grant for a statewide initiative titled "DRIVE."
- **Goal 5, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** This KPI was completed in Quarter 1.
- **Goal 5, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** Jay Phillips was not present at the meeting, but he has updates on training he has provided recently. This training is also being developed into a toolkit.
- **Goal 5, Strategy 2, KPI 1:** The internal provider network is scheduling a meeting for August.
- **Goal 5, Strategy 2, KPI 2:** Seed Sower's data from presentations is being developed into the aforementioned toolkit. Modivcare is meeting with consultants to compile provider data.
- **Goal 5, Strategy 2, KPI 3:** Identifying areas of improvement will hinge upon the completion of KPI 2.

- **Goal 6, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** On May 28, 2026, Jobs and Hope hosted their first Second Chance Job Fair at the Charleston Town Center Mall. They are planning their second in-person second-chance job fair for the fall in Parkersburg. Additionally, WorkForce WV has hosted regular virtual job fairs.
- **Goal 6, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** In conjunction with the Fletcher Group grant, East Tennessee State University has completed the recovery employer survey. They will disseminate the survey at the second-chance job fair in the fall and also do a follow-up survey six months later to determine how they have implemented recovery-friendly policies.
- **Goal 6, Strategy 1, KPI 3:** Deb Harris is halfway complete with the curriculum. She has a list of Workgroup volunteers for a training of trainers.
- **Goal 6, Strategy 2, KPI 1:** An internal group of workforce leaders have met twice this year already with another meeting scheduled for December. This KPI was completed in Quarter 2.
- **Goal 6, Strategy 2, KPI 2:** The internal group of workforce leaders are collaborating to apply for a direct funding request from the West Virginia First Foundation.

Town Hall Meeting Planning

- 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

- The next meeting of the Workgroup will be in person. Deb Harris will confirm the availability of Mountain State Education Services Cooperative (MSESC) in Dunbar. Lunch will be provided and the Workgroup can go over the Fletcher Group's survey and the first modules of the Recovery Friendly Workplace training so that members can educate workplaces or host recovery-friendly job fairs in their regions.
- Bradley McCoy asked the Workgroup for feedback on needed areas of research for the Treatment, Health Systems, and Research Subcommittee to present to the Governor's Council and inform the 2027 State Plan.

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, September 15, 2026 at in person with forthcoming details.