Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Law Enforcement Subcommittee Wednesday, September 16, 2026, Approved

Attendees:

Subcommittee Members: Lieutenant Adam Crawford, Julie Lockhart, Lata Menon, Jason Milton, Chief Shawn Schwertfeger (chair), Brad Story
Subcommittee Members Not Attending: Misty Atkins, Beth Bailey, Lieutenant Kenneth Murray, Errol Randle, Kevin Williams
Guests Attending: Stephanne Thornton
Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) Staff Attending: Justin Smith
State Opioid Response (SOR) Regional Coordinators Attending: Tyler Kerns
Marshall University Staff: Bradley McCoy

Opening:

Chief Shawn Schwertfeger (Chair) provided welcome and opening remarks of this meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment – Law Enforcement Subcommittee. The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, and was conducted by Microsoft Teams conference. Chief Schwertfeger approved the August 11, 2026 meeting minutes. There was no further discussion. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss progress of key performance indicators (KPIs) and invite Stephanne Thornton as a guest speaker to discuss Peer Recovery Support Specialists (PRSSs) working with law enforcement.

Agenda Items:

Guest Speaker – Stephanne Thornton (Courts & Justice-Involved Populations Subcommittee Chair)

- Stephanne Thornton presented information on PRSSs working with law enforcement that she has received across various interviews and surveys. This summary includes Embedded Peer programs and Police & Peer programs.
- Models are separated by different grant streams, but all feature peers with lived/living experience.
- Models offer the following:
    - Community outreach
    - Crisis intervention and stabilization
    - Deflection and diversion
    - Harm reduction
    - Mental health and/or trauma response
- Quantitative data measures include:
    - Number of referrals and/or contacts
    - Referrals to treatment
    - Treatment connection (intake completed)
    - Kinds of referrals (Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder, Other)
    - Non-treatment referrals (number made)

    - Connection to non-treatment referrals (completed)
    - Naloxone units distributed
    - Reduction in crime, arrests, and overdose rates
- Qualitative data measures include:
    - Law Enforcement perspective shift – working with peers / recovery community perspective shift – working with law enforcement.
    - People impacted by SUD come to the police department to engage with peers.
    - Press campaigns – anti-stigma.
    - Stories of change and observable changes in quality of life in communities.
- Referrals Process: Referrals come from law enforcement, dispatch, probation, hospitals, crisis responders, community partners, and through word of mouth. Law enforcement hands out peer's cards. Most respond to referrals within 1-3 days. Caseloads range from 5-10 to 30-40.
- Initial Findings:
    - Personnel is key (from Chief to peers).
    - Volume of services is impressive, but not the only story.
    - Value in intangibles (quality of life changes, harm reduction, peer-led services, treatment focus).
- Measurable outcomes that will carry weight:
    - Demonstrable public safety impact.
    - Demonstrable cost savings/Return On Investment (ROI) through diversion success.
    - Broad impact: Interdisciplinary teams provide strong crisis stabilization.
- Gaps Identified:
    - Limitations in follow through post-treatment completion (no clear hand-off).
    - Engagement barriers for participants include insurance, transportation, pet care, childcare.
    - Geographic availability of programs is limited.
    - Not uniform in what is measured.
- Model Differences:
    - Embedded Peers
    - Adjacent Peers
    - Blended Peers
    - All meaningful and effective but operated differently.

2026 State Plan Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 1**: 100%, This KPI is complete, but Lata Menon will still send updates from the CIT Summit and additional CIT trainings.
- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** 75%, Lata will provide county information about CIT Summit attendees.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** 75%, Problems with ODMAP data are ongoing. Some teams report that it is working again, but there is concern that they will not be able to backfill data.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 2**: 75%, Due to lack of backfill data from ODMAPs, they will unlikely be able to report on spike alerts from this quarter.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 2, KPI 3:** 50%, Justin Smith is expected to deliver training at various fall conferences.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 1, KPI 1**: 100%, This KPI is complete, but Lata Menon and Lt. Murray will still provide numbers of updates.

- **Goal 3, Strategy 1, KPI 2**: 75%, Lata will communicate with emergency department staff and 911 to gather the data for each county.
- **Goal 4, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** 75%, Bradley McCoy will reach out to Misty Atkins and Lt. Murray for Handle With Care and Angel Initiative Updates.
- **Goal 4, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** 0%, No updates about how Handle With Care's deidentified data will be shared with partners.
- **Goal 4, Strategy 2, KPI 1:** 100%, Stephanne Thornton presented this information on this meeting.

Fall Planning

- Bradley McCoy discussed the fall schedule. In October, Subcommittees will receive the Town Hall Meeting Summary Report. Subcommittees will use their October meetings to discuss priorities for next year. He will work with Subcommittee chairs to draft a version of the 2027 State Plan during October. The November Subcommittee meetings will be used to make edits and finalize the 2027 State Plan draft.

Additional Discussion:

- None.

Adjournment:

Chief Schwertfeger closed the meeting by thanking all Subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. The Subcommittee will meet again on Tuesday, October 13, 2026 at 9:00 AM.