Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Courts and Justice-Involved Populations Subcommittee Tuesday, September 8, 2026, Approved

Attendees:

Subcommittee Members Attending: Amber Blankenship, Stephanie Bond, Candace Facemyer, Lesley Hill, Coty Long, Stephanne Thornton (Chair)
Subcommittee Members Not Attending: Sam Hess, Cindy Hill, Lori Lynch, Judge Jim Rowe
Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) Staff Attending: Dr. Stephen Loyd, Justin Smith
State Opioid Response (SOR) Staff Attending: Stephanie Frazer
State Opioid Response (SOR) Regional Coordinators Attending: Jill Poe
Marshall University Staff Attending: Bradley McCoy

Opening:

Stephanne 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, September 8, 2026, and was conducted by Google Meet conference. Stephanne Thornton approved the August 11, 2026 meeting minutes. There was no further discussion. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss key performance indicator (KPI) updates.

Agenda Items:

General KPI Updates

- Stephanne Thornton asked the Subcommittee to discuss Goal 1, Strategy 3, KPI 3 and how referrals to unmet treatment and social needs are being addressed upon release from jails and prisons. Dr. Gary Davenport discussed some of the medical needs during the August meeting. Additional resources include but are not limited to: mobile units such as those run by Prestera, Groups Inc, REACH, Day Report Centers, recovery residences, Jobs & Hope recovery liaisons, and others across the peer workforce. The Subcommittee discussed the degree to which each of these services are able to perform warm handoffs and their individual success in meeting needs.
- Lesley Hill will report back with some referral statistics for Groups Inc.

Fall Planning

- Stephanne Thornton will complete the Quarter 3 Progress Report and send it to Bradley McCoy September 25, 2026.
- On the October meeting, Recovery Point will provide updates about their usage of the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Questionnaire and the second half will be used to discuss what should be included in the 2027 State Plan.
- The November meeting will be used to finalize a draft of the 2027 State Plan.
- The Subcommittee discussed expungement of charges across multiple jurisdictions and interpreting universality. There is a bill that will be introduced to address this, but the exact

language will determine its interpretation. The Subcommittee thinks this will be a focus for the 2027 State Plan.

- Peer services being third-party reimbursable is necessary for sustainability. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) has certification and training standards. There are 25 states with training models/practices for peers that state leaders are compiling for review now. This will also be a focus for next year.

Additional Discussion

- In August, West Virginia CIT and First Choice Services held an action planning meeting for McDowell and Wyoming Counties. Attendees included mental health staff, the West Virginia First Foundation, and Lieutenant Murray with the West Virginia State Police, Day Report staff, REACH staff, and Family Resource Network (FRN) staff. They discussed the need to expand the peer workforce, recovery housing, transportation, and childcare.
- The Subcommittee discussed upcoming events during Recovery Month such as various media campaigns, Save A Life Day, the September 22, 2026 McDowell County You Are Not Alone outreach event, the Logan County Recovery Walk, and the September 10, 2026 panel discussion with Dr. Stephen Loyd at West Edge Factory in Huntington.
- West Virginia University is presenting their peer-driven continuum of care model to stakeholders in Washington, DC today.

Adjournment:

Stephanne closed the meeting by thanking all Subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. The Subcommittee will meet on Tuesday, October 20, 2026 at 10:00 AM.