Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment
Recovery Community Subcommittee
Thursday, October 22, 2026, Approved

Attendees:

Subcommittee Members Attending: Amber Blankenship (co-chair), Kenny Jordan, Dan McCawley (co-chair), Coty Long, Raj Masih, Liz Neal, Sara Smith
Subcommittee Members Not Attending: Brandy Blatt, Trenton Clem, Ardella Cottrill, Joe Deegan, Elly Donahue, Heather Gregory, Phil Shimer, John Smith
ODCP Staff Attending: Olivia Fox
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 Thursday, October 22, 2026, and was conducted by Microsoft Teams conference. Amber Blankenship and Dan McCawley approved the October 7, 2026 meeting minutes. There was no further discussion. The purpose of this meeting was to create a draft of the 2027 State Plan.

Agenda Items:

2027 State Plan

- The Subcommittee used this time to actively work on their 2027 State Plan draft. A version of it is included below.
- Kenny Jordan will be able to provide numbers for peer credentialing next year.
- Amber Blankenship is sending an additional document to Bradley McCoy to also carry over some key performance indicators (KPIs) from last year regarding surveying peer recovery supports specialists (PRSSs) about training.

Additional Discussion

- None.

Adjournment

Amber closed the meeting by thanking all Subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. The full Subcommittee will meet again on October 22, 2026, at 10:00 AM.

2027 State Plan Draft

Goal 1: Strengthen the PRSS workforce by supporting existing family peer, youth peer, peer supervisor, and clinical peer supervisor credentials.

Strategy 1: Work with the West Virginia Certification Board for Addiction and Prevention Professionals

(WVCBAPP) to identify the support needed for recruitment, eligibility navigation, and completion.

KPI 1: By January 31, 2027, meet with WVCBAPP to identify leading barriers related to PRSS certifications and opportunities for collaboration.
KPI 2: By March 31, 2027, document the number of individuals certified by credential and current requirements for each.
KPI 3: By June 30, 2027, develop a WVCBAPP approved information sheet with information such as credentialing requirements and volunteer locations.
KPI 4: By August 31, hold two informational sessions to recruit 20 prospective candidates pursuing credentialing.
KPI 5: By November 30, 2027, provide technical assistance (TA) to 10 candidates to pursue application, preparation, and/or certification.

Goal 2: Standardize healthcare provider training and foster client empowerment through informed consent.

Strategy 1: Create and implement a curriculum for statewide provider training on the revised informed consent document to ensure correct use, measurable knowledge gain, and greater client comprehension across all SUD recovery providers.

KPI 1: By January 31, 2027, submit the existing training package to the Office of the Inspector General/the Office of Health Facility Licensure and Certification for approval of the 42 CFR inclusion and training format.
KPI 2: By March 31, 2027, develop a post-training assessment.
KPI 3: By December 31, 2027, make the on-demand course available and complete six live sessions including post-training evaluation.
KPI 4: By December 31, 2027, analyze and share evaluation data obtained through training.

Strategy 2: Engage the Treatment, Health Systems, and Research Subcommittee and the West Virginia Board of Medicine to review informed consent and establish a pathway for its adoption by Medicaid-funded substance use disorder providers.

KPI 1: By March 31, 2027, meet with the Treatment, Health Systems, and Research Subcommittee to discuss adoption of adoption of standardized universal informed consent form for providers.
KPI 2: By June 30, 2027, meet with the West Virginia Board of Medicine to discuss adoption of standardized universal informed consent form for providers.
KPI 3: By September 30, 2027, submit one formal adoption request including the form, approval documentation, training access, and proposed implementation steps.
KPI 4: By December 15, 2027, request and report BMS's written disposition or remaining requirements.