

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Courts and Justice-Involved Populations Subcommittee November 19, 2021, Approved

Attendees:

Stephanne Thornton (Co-Chair), Stephanie Bond, Brandon Steele, Brian Gallagher (Council Chair), Deb Koester, Gary Krushanski, Judge James Rowe, and Tom Plymale

Opening:

Stephanne Thornton (Co-Chair) provided welcome and opening remarks of this regular meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Courts & Justice Involved Populations Subcommittee. The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. on Friday, November 19, 2021 and was conducted by Zoom conference. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct regular business of the subcommittee including how KPIs would be measured in Year 3.

Approval of Minutes:

Stephanne Thornton asked if subcommittee members had reviewed the minutes from the last meeting and if there were any questions. As there were no questions she asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made by Judge Rowe to approve the minutes with a second by Stephanie Bond. With all in favor and none opposed the minutes were approved.

Agenda Items

Town Hall Meeting: The Courts & Justice Involved Populations Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for November 30th from 10 AM to 12 PM. Currently, 148 individuals are registered. The Town Hall Meeting agenda and process were reviewed. All subcommittee members were encouraged to promote attendance by partners and colleagues. Deb was asked to send the registration link out following the meeting, which can also be found on the Help & Hope website.

Year 3 Plan Review: The subcommittee then turned attention to review of all key performance indicators (KPIs) to discuss how each would be measureable for purposes of reporting in 2022. The following summarizes the discussion:

- Goal 1, Strategy 1 – For KPI 1, plan to use GOALS statistics/numbers. There will be a new GOALS program implemented in 2022 as well. For KPI 2, also plan to also use GOALS statistics/numbers for therapeutic services provided. It was noted that Day Report Programs would be different.
- There was also broader discussion of the need to increase diversion in order to decrease the numbers in jails and prisons. The subcommittee felt there would be value in providing education to judges and prosecuting attorneys on diversion programs in terms of what it is and why it works.

- Brian suggested engaging Brian Steele and Charlie Trump to understand Senate perspectives and consider a meeting to update them on the subcommittee's position. This could be done in collaboration with Chad Napier and the Law Enforcement subcommittee.
- The subcommittee then continued discussion moving from education to policy development. They discussed the possible need to explore a new bill on bail reform. It was noted that last year's bill has limitations and is not related to treatment or conditional bail if entering treatment. Stephanie Bond noted the relation of such policy to documented reduction in overdose deaths with linkage to treatment and data to support. Brian also noted the relation between increasing LEAD and reduced jail costs. Moving this toward policy development would require a fiscal note which Betsy shared the Department of Corrections could do and would be asked to do so for introduction of such policy during session. Nicholas Co was discussed as an example of cost savings in the jails. Commissioner Jividen will send an update to the subcommittee on counties where there have been cost savings.
- The subcommittee also discussed creating a mechanism to have pretrial defendants released from jails directly into treatment more expeditiously. Stephanie Thornton offered up Rule 46g from the WV Rules of Criminal Procedure during the discussion. It was noted that this issue could also align with the goals of the Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) and others by decreasing the tax burden on counties, reducing overdose risk, and increasing linkage to treatment directly from jail.
- The subcommittee then discussed the concept of developing a Speaker's Bureau however no immediate next steps were identified.
- Finally, the subcommittee discussed that some counties currently keep of list of incarcerated individuals who cannot make bond and who have a substance use disorder (SUD). This occurs now in Cabell, Raleigh and Mercer counties. They know who needs treatment. It was felt that a goal of having a list and monitoring it with Sheriff as lead could have significant benefit, however further exploration is needed.

2022 Meeting Schedule: Following a brief discussion the subcommittee determined that 10-11 AM on the second Friday of each month would be the regular meeting time in 2022. Deb will set up a recurring calendar invite.

Adjournment

Commissioner Betsy Jividen and Stephanie Thornton, Co-Chairs, closed the meeting by thanking all subcommittee members for their attendance and an excellent meeting. A calendar invite will be sent out for the 2022 meetings with the next meeting in December scheduled for the 17th at 10 AM.