

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Recovery Subcommittee April 5, 2023, Approved

Attendees:

Amber Blankenship, Joe Deegan, Jon Dower (chair), Fran Gray, Jostin Holmes, Raj Masih, JoAnna Vance, Stephanie Stout

Opening:

Jon Dower (chair) provided welcome and opening remarks of this meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Recovery Subcommittee. The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, April 5, 2023 and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was present to approve March meeting minutes. Stephanie made the motion to accept the minutes and Joe seconded the motion. The motion carried and the minutes were accepted. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce Jostin Holmes from the WV ODCP to receive policy updates.

Agenda Items

Jostin Holmes (WV ODCP)

- A model has been created for “spike warnings” which utilizes data to alert individuals of overdoses across the state and response plans. Jostin notes that more locations are being developed for use in this model.
- Current focuses include improving communication to surrounding counties of the spike warning, as well as distinguishing language between OD map alerts.
- Regarding expanded school mental health, the ODCP has focused on assisting the Department of Education in advising students who are currently experiencing substance use/misuse and overdose and providing resources for them.
- GameChanger campaigns have aimed efforts towards naloxone trainings, in collaboration with the Department of Education. Eight trainings have currently been conducted. They additionally have partnered with McDonalds and Tudor’s to distribute bag inserts for naloxone training resources.
- Nalox(ONE) has expanded efforts for continuing education on naloxone for West Virginians through participating pharmacies.
- The amount of naloxone kits distributed in 2022 was approximately 90,000 and estimates for 2023 are projected to be even higher.
- Save-a-Life Day for 2023 is going regional, with the inclusion of all 55 counties and surrounding states.
- Naloxone for school nurses was approved in December and presented at WV Nursing School Conference in November. This policy provides naloxone in schools and nurses can administer, as

well as train teachers on use. There have been statewide trainings for school nurses and educational packets have been distributed to school nurses statewide.

- Currently, there is a draft of a policy for emergency shelters when it comes to naloxone. The ODCP is to receive available data before the policy is submitted.
- Efforts to continue focus on the continuum of recovery are being made to educate case managers and different clinicians (e.g. difference between a recovery bed and a treatment bed).
- Residential treatment capacity by county includes a total of 1349 beds across 91 treatment facilities in 17 WV counties. An AFA was released for adolescent substance use, but no responses were received so it will be re-released. Changes will be made to the AFA to address the reasons nobody applied (i.e. barriers to working with adolescents) and further give them the ability to create these programs.
- The number of MOUD patients continues to increase across programs, as efforts are being made to educate on the benefits of MOUD and break the stigma for this treatment.
- Current best practices for stimulant use include the TRUST program and Dynamicare. The ODCP has recently aimed to increase efforts in stimulant use programming and funding opportunities.
- QRTs are expanding, with the goal of one per county. 32 counties are currently covered. Additionally, the LEAD Program is to be expanded into 4-6 new counties.
- Police and Peers Program has officially been launched, with Fayetteville PD being the first site. Responses have been positive, and Logan County sheriff is the next target. Bloomfield and Princeton are currently in the hiring process.
- The START Program has had a wide reach with 51 parents and 61 children impacted, as 75% have been reunited with caregivers and 50% were diverted from foster care.
- PRSS new certification went into effect in January. Jostin notes there is a lack of peers, with many organizations struggling to hire peer support. ODCP is looking to assist peers when it comes to the certification process.
- Jobs & Hope has been meeting unmet needs, especially in the realm of transportation and naloxone trainings. The creating recovery and employment AFA was awarded to 9 organizations and created 75+ jobs for individuals in recovery.
- Feedback from 2022 Town Hall Meetings were received and utilized to identify gaps and prioritize strategies for the 2023 State Plan.
- Next steps focus on justice-involved populations with SUD, developing recovery ready communities, women and child/families, and Catch My Breath initiative.
- Jostin noted that a regional coordinator training will be held in the upcoming weeks to understand how to allocate funds coming for recovery-based efforts. There is an emphasized needs for individuals with SUD to be a part of determining fund allocation.
- Jon requested that once the new ODCP director is appointed, they attend a Recovery subcommittee meeting to be introduced.

Additional Discussion:

- Workgroups were not held last month due to a lack of participation. The next work group meetings are scheduled for Friday, April 14th and Friday, April 28th.
- Jon noted that the first Narcan vending machine has been opened in the state of WV, and there has been further discussion about implementing subsequent vending machines in other areas.
- WVU will be holding an ATI training on June 5th and 6th.
- JoAnna noted that the Public Education subcommittee's stigma training will be released soon, and the next stigma campaign is currently in the works. Jon suggested meeting with Lyn O'Connell for further involvement of the Recovery subcommittee in anti-stigma messaging.
- Raj stated that the predictive overdose model will be presented at the Rx Summit in Atlanta that

focuses on using AI in recovery.

- Bob Hansen will be the guest speaker during May's subcommittee meeting.
- Fran reported that she is working on the West Virginia Recovery High School campaign.

Adjournment

Jon closed the meeting by thanking all subcommittee members. The subcommittee will meet again in May.