

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Community Engagement and Supports Subcommittee May 31, 2023, Approved

Attendees:

Emily Birckhead, Deb Harris, Deb Koester, Ashley Shaw, Beverly Sharp (co-chair), Kim Tieman (co-chair)

Opening:

Kim Tieman (co-chair) provided welcome and opening remarks of this meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Community Engagement and Supports Subcommittee. The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, May 31, 2023 and was conducted by Zoom conference. The purpose of this meeting was to conduct a review of the presentations on Strengths, Opportunities, and Roadblocks/Barriers prepared by each of the workgroups in preparation for the State Planning Meeting.

Agenda Items:

State Planning Meeting:

Transportation & Employment

- Ashley presented the Strengths, Opportunities, and Roadblocks/Barriers presentation, which is slated for review during the Town Hall Planning Meeting, focusing on the transportation and employment segment of the committee's work. The strengths highlighted encompassed the successful implementation of training programs aimed at fostering recovery-friendly workplaces and the establishment of a comprehensive plan to sustain workforce initiatives. Deb Harris offered to provide analytics regarding employers participating in Jobs & Hope wage reimbursements, including data on the number of vacancies filled, vacancies yet to be filled, and retention rates. Beverly committed to sharing CORE data as well. In terms of opportunities, Ashley emphasized the importance of institutionalizing effective models that are making a tangible impact across the state, while also striving to obtain statewide recognition for recovery-friendly workplaces. When discussing barriers, Deb Harris emphasized the need to identify essential documents required for securing employment, suggesting a potential examination of the DC model for guidance.

- Kim proposed inviting Joan Centrella from the WVU Bridge Initiative to address the subcommittee and share her water report, which includes mapping the social determinants of health in counties eligible for EPA funding. The subcommittee expressed interest in replicating this mapping approach to highlight the transportation needs and demonstrate the requirement for funding opportunities.
- Deb Harris added that she received a grant to assist in covering the costs of obtaining 4000 IDs and driver's licenses, with the provision of vouchers as a means of payment. Beverly shared an initiative in Wheeling where a city bus is utilized once a week to facilitate the process of obtaining IDs, that may be useful in achieving this initiative.
- Deb Harris conveyed challenges regarding attendance during workgroup meetings. Kim proposed the distribution of a recommitment letter to workgroup members, containing an updated schedule to encourage their active participation. Ashley recommended assigning KPIs to members who possess expertise in specific areas to enhance their engagement and accountability.
- Kim inquired about the members' perspectives on the subcommittee's initiatives, questioning whether they were developed solely because of the knowledge of certain organizations capable of fulfilling them, and also regarding the preference for reporting individual progress versus subcommittee progress. Ashley and Deb Harris shared their thoughts, emphasizing that they believed they had collaborated effectively to address the needs of individuals, irrespective of which organization receives credit for the work.
- Bev acknowledged encountering difficulties in arranging transportation for individuals transitioning from correctional facilities to treatment facilities for the past three weeks. Deb Harris requested Bev to share the relevant information with her so that she could offer additional ideas and assistance in facilitating a smoother transition.

Housing

- Emily presented the strengths that will be discussed during the Town Hall Planning Meeting, focusing on the housing section of the committee. Noteworthy strengths included a conference registration with 300 attendees, the planning of a three-day conference featuring prominent speakers, and the successful approval of a funding survey by the UK IRB to be conducted as a formal study, free of charge. The white paper for this study will be authored by the Fletcher group research team from the UK.
- Emily shared the challenges related to state funding, particularly in meeting the initiatives tied to KPIs, such as white papers and conferences. Kim and Deb Koester stated that funding was available and had been offered for this year's conference.
- Kim will undertake the task of seeking approval for the survey from the Governor's Council to ensure the proper release of data through the Institutional Review Board (IRB). Additionally, she will arrange training sessions for co-chairs and task teams to ensure smooth implementation of the new plan.
- Bob Hansen volunteered to serve as the co-chair of the committee, and Emily agreed to contact him and confirm his acceptance of the position.

- Emily informed the subcommittee that she has already shared the current survey results. In addition, Deb Koester offered to conduct background research once the survey is closed, ensuring that the results are presented to the subcommittee before being made public.
- Kim and Emily reached a consensus that the survey would be released as a collaborative effort between the Fletcher group and WVAAR, rather than being attributed to the Governor's Council.
- Emily will share the survey results with Deb Koester and Kim, and they will coordinate a future meeting to finalize the strengths and opportunities document for the housing section.

Adjournment:

Kim closed the meeting by thanking all subcommittee members for their attendance and participation.