

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Community Engagement and Supports Subcommittee October 20, 2023, Approved

Attendees:

Brian Gallagher, Bob Hansen, Deb Koester, Amy Saunders, Beverly Sharp (co-chair), Ashley Shaw, Rachel Thaxton, 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 Friday, October 20, 2023 and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was present to approve September meeting minutes. Ashley made the motion for approval and Amy seconded the motion. The purpose of this meeting was to review Quarter 3 KPI progress and discuss priority areas for the 2024 State Plan.

Agenda Items:

2023 Q3 KPI Progress

Housing

- Strategy 2, KPI 7: A sub-workgroup has been identified for the formulation of recommendations. Bob is presently in the process of creating a preliminary draft based on the discussion, which will be unveiled during the upcoming workgroup meeting. The progress on this KPI remains at 0%, and has been marked as red on the working document.
- Strategy 2, KPI 9: Ongoing listening sessions have exposed the demand for recovery housing. A bill passed by the legislature specifies that state or federal funding cannot be allocated to new programs lacking certification. To address this, Bob, Brian, and Bev will explore potential amendments to make the bill more adaptable. The draft language will be shared in the coming weeks. Rachel mentioned her meeting with Deb Harris with delegates and encouraged them to examine the bill and propose changes, which they should send to Rachel for onward transmission to the delegates. Another challenge is that SOR funds for the next year have already been allocated, leaving no state funding available. Rachel pointed out that SOR will evaluate the programs they are currently supporting and decide whether to continue funding

and recoup funds accordingly. The progress on this KPI remains at 0%, and has been marked as red on the working document.

- Strategy 2, KPI 8: Bob will distribute a copy of the white paper, but it offers a general overview and recommendations. The survey only encompassed WVARR-certified facilities, leaving many recovery homes without a voice in addressing their needs. It's crucial to address all challenges transparently rather than focusing on a narrow scope. Therefore, KPI language and progress should reflect this. Emily has a comprehensive list of recovery housing throughout the state, though non-WVARR certified housing continues to emerge regularly due to their lack of standardization. Encouraging workshops to prepare recovery homes for WVARR certification, as suggested by Kim, could be a viable solution. Additionally, Deb proposed having maps available as handouts for the Council Meeting in December. The completion rate of 100% has been reduced to 80% to reflect this discussion, and marked as yellow on the working document.

Transportation

- Deb Harris forwarded remarks concerning the Town Hall Meetings.
- During the WVAAP Conference, Bev mentioned encountering challenges related to transportation to long-term recovery and court appointments. She noted that Deb Harris reported a 90% success rate with MotivCare under Jobs & Hope, but other instances were cited, such as individuals spending 24 hours in the ER.
- Bev intends to communicate with Deb Harris for further updates.
- Strategy 1, KPI 2: Remains at 50% completion for Quarter 3 and was marked as yellow on the working document.

Employment

- Strategy 3, KPI 2: Ashley pointed out that she has access to information about the Ohio Model, but it needs to be documented and can be moved toward completion. The KPI is noted with 50% completion, and was marked as yellow.
- Strategy 3, KPI 4: Deb Harris, Ashley, and Rachel have held meetings and completed initial rounds of reviewing marketing materials intended for statewide distribution. Their upcoming meeting is scheduled for December 6th to launch the campaign. The KPI is currently at 30% completion and was marked as red.
- Strategy 9, KPI 2: WV CORE has convened to collaborate on funding opportunities. Currently, Jobs & Hope and CORE have sufficient funding. Bev and Ashley have been discussing the possibility of securing additional funding for the WV REACH Initiative. Bev mentioned that since WV REACH relies exclusively on grant funding, they are continually seeking financial support. The KPI remains at 45% completion and was marked as yellow to reflect.
- Bev remarked on the issue of employer designations, noting that while some employers may be recovery-friendly, they may not necessarily be felon-friendly. It is essential to distinguish between the two so that recovery-friendly workplaces do not automatically imply felony-friendly, even though many individuals in recovery may have a criminal record. Bev also mentioned ongoing efforts to work with the legislature on matters related to expungement.

Town Hall Meetings and Looking Ahead to 2024

- Kim highlighted that discussions surrounding housing, employment, and transportation were prevalent in all subcommittees during the THM.
- Carly conducted a review of the section outlining emerging themes in the THM Report.
- Bev expressed concerns about individuals not having state IDs upon release from incarceration. She had a meeting with Senate President Blair and the transportation commissioner, and they are pushed that this issue will be addressed through forthcoming legislation.
- Kim encouraged each workgroup to evaluate the current plan, identify necessary additions or modifications for 2024, in readiness for the December Governor's Council Meeting.

Next Steps:

- Once Bob has completed the development of legislative recovery housing draft language, he will distribute it.
- To advance Strategy 3, KPI 2, a document must be generated utilizing the existing compiled information on the models.
- The task of identifying priority areas within their respective sections of the plan and tailoring them for 2024 will fall to the workgroup chairs.

Adjournment:

Kim closed the meeting by thanking all subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. The subcommittee will meet again in November.

Goal 1: Increase capacity of recovery housing in West Virginia.

		Q1 Progress	Q2 Progress	Q3 Progress	Q4 Progress
Strategy 2	Provide long-term, sustainable funding, resources, and training to increase the capacity of recovery residences and the appropriate use of recovery housing in West Virginia				
KPI 1	By December 31, 2023, increase the number of recovery residences that offer multiple pathways, including all forms of medication-assisted treatment, by an additional 20% and display on a map.	50%	66%	66%	
KPI 2a	By December 31, 2023, continue to identify and analyze best practices of successful recovery housing in other states.	0%	100%	100%	
KPI 2b	By December 31, 2023, increase trainings statewide in West Virginia by 25%.	40%	At 12	50%	
KPI 4	By January 31, 2023, offer two educational opportunities on housing for community stakeholders and partners across the state, to include but not be limited to WVARR tools/resources and levels of care.	100%	100%	100%	
KPI 5	By December 31, 2023, hold a statewide conference for housing operators, staff, and community stakeholders that offers different tracks, scholarships, hands on learning, and certificates of completion.	25%	100%	100%	
KPI 6	By December 31, 2023, assess the funding needs of recovery residences in West Virginia and identify current funding available for recovery residences.	30%	100%	100%	
KPI 7	By December 31, 2023, develop recommendations to create sustainable funding models for all levels of recovery housing in the state.	0%	0%	0%	
KPI 8	By March 31, 2023, develop a white paper that includes, but is not limited to, how recovery housing is funded in West Virginia, sustainability of funding to support recovery housing, current barriers and challenges, and sustainability of staff.	0%	0%	80%	
KPI 9	By December 31, 2023, identify and make a request and application for it a certain percentage of annual state opioid response grant funding to recovery residences.	0%	0%	0%	

Goal 2: Increase availability of transportation in order to access prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery services.

		Q1 Progress	Q2 Progress	Q3 Progress	Q4 Progress
Strategy 1	Explore innovative models of transportation for individuals with substance use disorder. Based on what is learned about these models and feasibility of addressing existing barriers develop innovative strategies that enable individuals with a substance use disorder to regain the ability to independently transport.				
KPI 1	By March 2023, continue to document written plan with best practices and working models.	50%	50%	50%	
KPI 2	By December 2023, replicate successful models such as Routes to Recovery in three counties, MOV Mobility Management in two counties, and ModivCare by three quick response providers.	50%	75%	100%	
KPI 3	By September 2023, document the funding needs and recommendations of each expansion and share with the Office of Drug Control Policy and Council.	25%	25%	75%	

Goal 3: Increase employment opportunities and job retention for individuals in recovery for substance use disorders through supported employment, apprenticeships, and programs such as Jobs & Hope West Virginia.

		Q1 Progress	Q2 Progress	Q3 Progress	Q4 Progress
Strategy 3	Assist businesses to employ individuals in recovery.				
KPI 1	By December 31, 2023, host virtual and in-person trainings with 25 employers across the state to facilitate a recovery friendly workplace.	100%	100%	100%	
KPI 2	By December 31, 2023, continue to meet monthly to identify and document recovery friendly workplace models (Kentucky, Ohio, and New Hampshire).	25%	40%	50%	
KPI 3	By March 31, 2023, establish a recovery friendly workplace work group meeting quarterly to implement a statewide recovery friendly workplace initiative.	100%	100%	100%	
KPI 4	By December 31, 2023, establish a statewide employer designation for a recovery friendly workplace model that includes building awareness, employer engagement, and employer partnership.	25%	25%	30%	
Strategy 9	Sustain existing programs that assist individuals in recovery from substance use disorder to obtain employment, including Jobs & Hope, Creating Opportunities for Recovery Employment (CORE), and HIRE-WV.				
KPI 1	By March 31, 2023, establish a written plan to collaborate with Jobs & HOPE, Creating Opportunities for Recovery Employment, and WV HIRE to sustain workforce programs.	50%	100%	100%	

KPI 2	By December 31, 2023, secure funding to ensure the continuation and expansion of existing workforce programs.	25%	45%	45%	
-------	---	-----	-----	-----	--