

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Community Engagement and Supports Subcommittee September 5, 2023, Approved

Attendees:

Brian Gallagher, Carly Glover, 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 Tuesday, September 5, 2023 and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was present to approve May meeting minutes. Amy made the motion for approval and Ashley seconded the motion. The purpose of this meeting was to review 2023 Quarter 3 KPI progress and Quarter 4 activities and plan for the 2024 State Plan.

Agenda Items:

2023 Implementation Planning and Review of KPI Q3 Progress and Q4 Activities

Housing (Bob Hansen)

Goal 1

- Strategy 2, KPI 8: The white paper is currently in draft form and has been generated by the WVARR-Fletcher group. Some adjustments to the recommendations are underway. As it is not officially a committee document, the timeline for its official release remains uncertain. However, the workgroup will undergo a comprehensive review of the white paper, which encompasses all recovery housing, not exclusively WVARR-certified housing. Bob will distribute this report for further evaluation.
- Strategy 2, KPI 6: Bob has noted the absence of state participation in the workgroup. He is inquiring about how to address resource allocation, involving entities like BBH and ODCP. There is an immediate need to strategize funding for recovery housing in the future. Kim has sought guidance from the council and initiated contact with Denise Morrissey's office for a meeting. Establishing a strong connection between the subcommittee and the state is imperative,

aligning with SOR priorities. Plans are in motion for a 2024 strategy and subsequent invitations to health funders to assess alignment with these priorities. The subcommittee is extending an invitation to Nikki Lyttle from SOR, and further invited subcommittee members connected with the West Virginia First Foundation to share any updates.

Transportation (Deb Harris)

- Last week, a meeting was convened with Deb, Rachel, and Ashley; however, Deb refrained from sharing any updates. The workgroup has another meeting slated for this month, specifically on September 19th at 11 am.
- Ashley is aware of progress being made regarding operational models within the state. Kim mentioned a specific model in Parkersburg, but obstacles related to grant funding arose, primarily attributed to certification issues. Fortunately, the Benedum Foundation has stepped in to serve as a financial supporter for this model, offering a Bridge Grant application through the Department of Transportation as a viable solution.

Employment (Ashley Shaw)

- Ashley reports that maintaining workgroup participation remains a persistent challenge.
- Kim highlights that numerous health funders she interacts with rely on the models developed by this workgroup for employers hiring individuals in recovery. She emphasizes the importance of preserving this model's consistency in the new plan because it has a proven track record of effectiveness.

Goal 3

- Strategy 3, KPI 1: The aim to hold virtual training sessions with employers throughout the state has been completed. Ashley expressed hope for conducting the fall round of trainings, but due to staffing and capacity constraints, it may not be feasible.
- Strategy 3, KPI 2: The workgroup has gathered information on Kentucky, New Hampshire, and Ohio models and will work to review.
- Strategy 3, KPI 3: The process of establishing a recovery-friendly workgroup is underway. The group convened last week, and it is expected to be fully operational by the end of this year.
- Strategy 9, KPI 2: Ashley and Bev are planning to convene discussions to explore avenues for securing additional funding.

Town Hall Meeting Updates and Report

- A map was presented, displaying the counties with registered participants for the Community Engagement subcommittee's town hall meetings held across the four sessions.
- Bev highlighted that there had been in-depth discussions addressing broader questions aimed at pinpointing specific action items.
- Carly underscored that employment, transportation, and housing emerged as recurring themes of discussion within all eight subcommittees represented during the town hall meetings.

- Deb provided an update, noting that the survey's closure date is scheduled for a week from Friday, which falls on September 15. The report stemming from the survey will be promptly released to the subcommittee shortly thereafter.
- Additionally, Deb mentioned the upcoming town hall meeting scheduled for Monday, September 18, from 10 am to 12 pm, with a focus on youth and young adults up to 25 years of age.

2024 Planning

- Conversations have revolved around the appointment of a new ODCP director and the directorship of the West Virginia First Foundation. However, no definitive decisions have been reached. The absence of these appointed directors poses challenges in advancing the agenda for next year's plan. Brian informed the group about an upcoming meeting next Monday, addressing the appointment of the West Virginia First Foundation director, with Bev representing the subcommittee.
- Bev noted that the committee lacks representation from individuals with lived experience, which may hinder the allocation of funding to where it is most needed.
- Amy mentioned that once the Town Hall data becomes available, they should leverage advocacy efforts to disseminate information effectively, serving as a communication strategy for both the council and the broader communities and coalitions.

Additional Discussion

- The Housing Workgroup meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 5 at 1 pm.
- The Transportation and Employment Workgroup meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 19 at 11 am.

Adjournment:

Kim closed the meeting by thanking all subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. The subcommittee will meet again on October 23rd.