

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Transportation and Employment Workgroup July 18, 2023, Approved

Attendees:

Deb Harris, Ashley Shaw, Josh McGill, Brittany, Brie, Beverly, Richard, Kristen, Sara Barton, Rebecca Loughner

Opening:

Deb Harris provided welcome and opening remarks for this meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Community Engagement Subcommittee – Transportation and Employment Workgroup. The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, July 18, 2023 and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was present to approve March meeting minutes. Beverly made the motion for approval, and Brie seconded the motion. A quorum was present to approve the May meeting minutes. Kristin made the motion for approval, and Beverly seconded the motion. A call for new attendees to introduce themselves was made, and Sarah Barton from ProFuse Solutions introduced herself. The purpose of this meeting was to review the Quarter 2 progress of the Community Engagement Transportation and Employment section of the 2023 State Plan.

Agenda Items:

Transportation and Employment Updates:

Transportation

- Deb opened the meeting.
- Josh noted that over the next couple of months gas mileage reimbursement program that runs through Modivcare is going to be transitioning away from the current card system.
- The gas mileage reimbursement program will now use PEX Cards. There is no major change between the card systems, and will start going out to the members in September.

- The new system, in conjunction with the Member App, it will allow for reimbursements of mileage claims in real time using geolocation information, which will also mean the logs that are needed for the process will no longer be required.
- Modivcare is running a pilot now with their transits in the state, starting with PBTA in the North Central part of the state, with a system called Token Transit.
- Token Transit is a digital delivery service system for bus passes. As long as the participant or member has a smartphone, they will need to download the app, and Modivcare will be able to purchase the pass and send it directly to the participant/member.
- This new system will alleviate the turnaround time on standing orders, especially for those members with a one-off trip.
- PBTA is the first to run this pilot program with seven transits on the system. Modivcare will be at the Transit Conference next week, and if everyone is on board, will look to roll the program out to them in the future.
- Ashley noted obstacles that Recovery Point had faced recently with their “Routes to Recovery” program and if there were any funding or donation programs to assist with the program.
- Brittany from Recovery Point informed the group that they are partners with Modivcare and they assist with rides and other partnerships in their community. Recovery Point is down three vehicles, the Durango, Maroon Van, and the Bus.
- Brie told the group that she is having a meeting with the individuals that donated the Durango and would see if they have additional vehicles to donate to Recovery Point
- Josh from Modivcare is aware of the issues and, at the Transit Conference, will speak with folks from the community who are looking to go towards micro transits about the possibility of donating or putting them in touch with the right people who might.
- Brittany noted that Recovery Point would be willing to pay for something to replace their vehicles that have been serviced/lost in the previous weeks.
- Rebecca provided an update from the Mobility Management program in the Mid-Ohio Valley area and has provided a few recovery rides recently (court appointments/crisis situation to St. Joes.). The Mobility Management program is in conversation about what will happen with the program after September as Rebecca’s time with the Regional Council will end, and Kim Teman from Benidorm is heading up the conversation along with the Mid-Ohio Valley Rural Health Alliance.
- Deb informed Rebecca that the SUD Collaborative met about their Inspire Grant, and the Mobility Management program was mentioned due to the rides the program gives and that the new process will ensure they are being compensated correctly.
- Deb provided an update that Jobs & Hope WV will be renewing their four grants, starting with the Office of Drug Control Policy and Good News Mountaineer Garage with the car donation program that has donated over 150 cards to Jobs & Hope participants.

- Jobs & Hope will continue to utilize Modivcare for trips to work, education, and recovery-related activities for participants; Jobs & Hope will continue to have participants enroll in the “Get Paid to Pay it Forward” program.
- Modivcare will be able to use the West Virginia Cares process for variances that will allow participants with flags on their backgrounds to sign up for independent drivers.
- Richard from Modivcare confirmed that the West Virginia Cares process can “override” any issues on their background checks.
- Josh noted that over 400 applicants have applied for the “Get Paid to Pay it Forward” campaign, and that it blew all expectations out of the water. Modivcare currently has six-eight applicants making it through the normal process and will have another 10-15 that they think will go through the process, with the goal of getting above 20.

Employment

- Deb provided an update on Jobs & Hope WV co-hosting with several other organizations, the Reentry and Recovery WORKS! Speed Hiring Event at the Bridgeport Conference Center on July 26th. The event will provide resources to employers and job seekers, with 16 employers registered to hire job seekers on the spot.
- Beverly from Reach seconded Deb’s Reentry and Recovery WORKS update! Speed Hiring Event.
- Ashely provided an update on CORE being down two staff in their hub one location and are gearing up to post those positions for an employment specialist. Ashley and Sherry Myers currently manage the Hub One region (Cabell, Wayne, Lincoln, and Putnam Counties).
- CORE also has a position posted, and a decision is coming for their expansion to Mason, wood, and Jackson Counties. Have narrowed down to two candidates and have toured office space in Parkersburg with the goal of hiring someone in that position in the next 30 days.
- CORE will be kicking off the Workforce Webinars in the fall; please ensure that your contact information is provided to Ashley to ensure you are included in the invite if you are interested in participating.
- In addition, CORE will be starting a business creation forum, which will be hybrid – online and in-person – to feature different small businesses throughout the state, focusing on recovery housing and facilities with virtual watch parties.
- Kristen commented that she knows of a few small business owners that would fit the requirements for the business creation forum that CORE/Ashley discussed, and their information would be sent to Ashley.
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2023 Q2 Progress:

Goal 2

- Strategy 1, KPI 1: Marked as 50% completed. Deb suggests that a group meet to compile the information and document the written plan. The date of completion was pushed back to June 30, 2023.
- Strategy 1, KPI 2: Marked as 75% completed. Rebecca noted that Mobility Management did provide a ride outside of Wood County. Josh mentioned the Get Paid to Pay it Forward and the two Quick Response teams being in the final stages of contracting. Brittany provided an update on the grant allowing them to move into Wood County.
- Strategy 1, KPI 3: Marked as 25% completed. Deb noted that Rachel was not on the call to provide an update on the KPI.

Goal 3

- Strategy 3, KPI 1: Marked as 100% completed. Ashley noted she will not talk about KPIs with 100% completion.
- Strategy 3, KPI 2: Marked as 40% completed. Bev will provide information regarding Kentucky to Ashley. Ashley will work on Ohio, and Deb provided an update about using New Hampshire as a blueprint.
- Strategy 3, KPI 3: Marked as 100% completed. Ashley noted she will not talk about KPIs with 100% completion.
- Strategy 3, KPI 4: Marked as 25% completed. Deb noted that they have the model there, and the Jobs & Hope WV Intern and Strategic Relations Agent are working on creating the “West Virginia Version.”
- Strategy 9, KPI 1: Marked as 100% completed. Ashley informed the group that she, Deb, and Beverly met and completed writing the plan allowing Jobs & Hope, Creating Opportunities for Recovery Employment, and WV Hire to sustain workforce programs.
- Strategy 9, KPI 2: Marked as 35% completed. Beverly updated that she is working with Deb K. and Doug T. to solve the issue.

Additional Business:

- Deb reminded work group members that if anyone they know would like to be included in the meetings, invites can be sent out to these individuals.

Adjournment:

Sarah put the motion to end the meeting, and Brie seconded the motion to close the meeting. The workgroup will meet again in September.