

## **Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Transportation and Employment Workgroup March 21, 2023, Approved**

### **Attendees:**

Deb Harris, Rebecca Loughner, Matt Johnson, Beverly Sharp, Ashley Shaw, Rachel Thaxton, Jonathan Young, Josh

### **Opening:**

Deb Harris provided welcome and opening remarks of 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, March 21, 2023 and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was present to approve January meeting minutes. Beverly made the motion for approval and John seconded the motion. The purpose of this meeting was to review Quarter 1 progress of the Community Engagement Transportation and Employment section of the 2023 State Plan.

### **Agenda Items:**

#### **Transportation and Employment Updates:**

##### Transportation

- Deb noted that she and Rachel have been working with Modiv Care and First Choice Services to incorporate the Get Paid to Pay it Forward initiative that will allow Modiv Care to hire more independent drivers, mainly those who are in recovery, for transport to treatment and detox. The intake form has been completed and flyers to advertise these positions are ready for distribution.
- Josh stated there is a meeting scheduled for March 30<sup>th</sup> with the QRTs to run a parallel program.
- Rachel reported she has been having conversations with BBH about funding the rides that are currently not being paid for in order to bridge any coverage gaps.
- Rachel stated that to date 122 vehicles have been awarded through Good News Mountaineer Garage and there are over 200 participants who are regularly utilizing

Modiv Care services. Rachel stated at the end of 2022, 50,599 rides were provided for participants.

- Rachel reported that Good News Mountaineer Garage has been provided with funding to have vehicles in Morgantown and Charleston to provide participants rides to the DMV to get their driver's license. 17 individuals have been helped so far.
- Josh noted that as far as Modiv Care expansion, there is a new provider in southern West Virginia that will be able to cover the southern counties. He also noted that they are working on an expansion of their mass transit system, and they have tripled the volume of options available around the state.
- Rebecca stated that the mobility management program in Parkersburg, WV has been calling service agencies within the area to distribute their ride guide brochures. She notes that physical mail was heavily preferred in rural areas.

#### Employment

- Ashley noted that they partnered with the Robert C. Byrd Institute to coordinate employer workshops to educate employers on how to create recovery supportive workplaces. They conducted their 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop last Tuesday, which was focused on employment law. The next one is scheduled for April and will discuss employer incentives. Ashley will provide the link for any committee members who would like to attend.
- Recently CORE received funding through ARC power focused on entrepreneurship and social enterprise and will assist in providing virtual forums for individuals who desire to start their own businesses. There will be an annual virtual series for the next four years where other entrepreneurs will be brought in as guests to share their stories. The first is scheduled to take place in late April or early May.
- Ashley reported there will be an in-person employment law workshop on May 5<sup>th</sup> at Mt. West Community and Technical College in Huntington from 9 am to 11 am.
- Deb reported that the Jobs & Hope Wage Reimbursement Program is going well. There has been over 40 successful placements for employers that wish to hire participants and be reimbursed for up to \$25,000 or 1,040 hours.
- Deb noted that the Re-entry and Recovery Works Conference will take place May 4<sup>th</sup> in Bridgecourt with a speed hiring job event with opportunities for employers to learn about incentives to hiring individuals in recovery. She will share the flyer with the committee when it is ready for distribution.

#### **2023 Q1 Progress:**

##### Goal 2

- Strategy 1, KPI 1: Marked as 50% completed. Rachel notes that information has been collected from West Virginia and other states, but has not been compiled into a document to form a written plan. Deb and Rachel will schedule a meeting to complete this KPI. The date of completion was pushed back to June 30, 2023.

- Strategy 1, KPI 2: Marked as 50% completed. Deb noted that Get Paid to Pay it Forward will replicate the Routes to Recovery. Rebecca noted that Mobility Management is currently operating in one county with a goal of operation in two counties by December.
- Strategy 1, KPI 3: Marked as 25% completed. Deb noted that the funding for Get Paid to Pay it Forward may contribute to this meeting this KPI.

### Goal 3

- Strategy 3, KPI 1: Marked as 100% completed. Ashley noted she will compile the agendas and number of attendees for each session.
- Strategy 3, KPI 2: Marked as 25% completed. A monthly meeting date will be established beginning in April.
- Strategy 3, KPI 3: Marked as 100% completed. The workgroup has already been formed.
- Strategy 3, KPI 4: Marked as 25% completed. Deb noted that they have the model available and the staff member has been hired.
- Strategy 9, KPI 1: Marked as 50% completed. Deb, Bev, and Ashley have a meeting scheduled regarding the plan on March 28<sup>th</sup>, but it will not be completed by March 31. The date for completion was pushed back to June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Strategy 9, KPI 2: Marked as 25% completed. Meetings with Kim took place, but completion is contingent on the plan in KPI 1.

### **Additional Business:**

- Beverly stated that the Inside Out Incarceration Art Exhibit grand opening at Coalfield Development West Edge will be taking place this Thursday at 6 pm and will be available for viewing.
- 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:**

Ashley closed the meeting by thanking all subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. The workgroup will meet again in June.