

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Courts and Justice-Involved Populations Subcommittee August 8, 2023, Approved

Attendees:

Carly Glover, Sam Hess, Gary Krushansky, Tom Plymale, James Rowe, Justin Smith, Stephanie Thornton (co-chair)

Opening:

Stephanne Thornton (co-chair) provided welcome and opening remarks of this meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Courts and Justice-Involved Populations Subcommittee. The meeting was called to order at on Tuesday, August 8, 2023 and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was present to approve July meeting minutes. Tom made the motion to approve the minutes and Judge Rowe seconded the motion. The purpose of this meeting was to review and report Quarter 2 data for the Courts and Justice-Involved Populations section of the 2023 State Plan.

Agenda Items:

2023 Q2 Implementation Planning Progress:

Goal 1

- Strategy 1: Gathering information about medication-assisted treatment within correctional facilities. Roughly 45% of individuals entering jails and prisons test positive for substance use disorder through a universal screening process during booking or classification. Within this group, around 200 Sublocade injections are administered onsite and provision of MAT to about 400 individuals. Shifting all injections to the jail population could offer greater time savings for medical and correctional staff compared to the prison setting, despite the higher cost of \$1400 per month per injection. This could be considered as a future recommendation. No instances of treatment-related issues, such as stomach wounds, caused by Sublocade have been observed in jails/prisons.
- Strategy 2: Wexford Health has established a telehealth linkage to ensure continuity of care for community treatment while individuals are incarcerated. However, the implementation of this process will require a significant amount of time. Gary noted that the LEAD Program will be

expanded to include pre- and post-arrest diversion, as well as re-entry services. The scope of the program will be widened, and potential grant funding might facilitate its implementation as early as October 1. The plan involves hiring a new LEAD coordinator to establish immediate contact after post-arrest diversion and connect individuals with necessary services.

Furthermore, bi-monthly Rule 46G meetings will address the issue of individuals with high bonds being unable to secure release, potentially involving the LEAD coordinator. Discussions with sheriffs have highlighted concerns about law enforcement officers making diversion decisions upon arrest, suggesting the involvement of a prosecutor and a team to assess pre-/post-arrest diversions. Exploring this option as an alternative sentencing strategy for individuals with substance use disorder will continue.

Goal 2

- Strategy 1, KPI 1: Stephanie acknowledges lack of advancement but highlights obstacles: decentralized county operations hinder universal expungement due to distinct case variations, and costs linked to fees pose challenges. Subcommittee plans to revisit legal aide presentation to pinpoint barriers, assess tangible progress, and compile a summary for the next meeting. Potential additional barriers will be discussed, and if none emerge, focus will shift to addressing identified barriers.
- Strategy 2, KPI 2: This strategy revolves around expediting hiring events and facilitating the integration of individuals with criminal backgrounds into the workforce. Amber, representing the REACH initiative, will update the committee on upcoming speed hiring events scheduled for the rest of the year at the next meeting.
- Strategy 2, KPI 3: Marked as 100% completed. Information dispersed across multiple websites aims to raise awareness about the incentives available to employers who hire individuals with a history in the criminal justice system (WV ODCP, Help & Hope, Jobs & Hope).

Additional Discussion:

- Invitation to Yellow Line Project: Representatives from the Yellow Line Project in Minnesota are scheduled to participate in a subcommittee meeting to discuss their initiatives after diversion. New potential meeting dates have been proposed: September 21st, either from 11 am to 1 pm or from 2 pm to 3 pm, and October 11th, from 2 pm to 3 pm.
- Town Hall Meetings: A series of Town Hall Meetings is scheduled for August 15, 16, 23, and 31, taking place from 10 am to 12 pm. Stephanie strongly encourages subcommittee members to register and attend these meetings, which will be hosted on the Help & Hope website.

Adjournment:

Hearing no further discussion, Stephanie closed the meeting by thanking all subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. Tom made the motion adjourn and Stephanie seconded the motion. The subcommittee will meet again on Tuesday, September 12th at 10 am.