



Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Courts and Justice-Involved Populations Subcommittee December 12, 2023, Approved

Attendees:

Amber Blankenship, Stephanie Bond, Gary Krushansky, James Rowe (partial attendance), Justin Smith, Stephanie Thornton (co-chair)

Opening:

Stephanie 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, December 12, 2023 and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was not present to approve October and November meeting minutes, and they were tabled for the next meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to review and finalize changes to the Courts and Justice-Involved Populations section of the 2024 State Plan.

Agenda Items:

Review of 2024 KPI Modifications:

Goal 1

- Strategy 1, KPI 1 & 2: Pertains to transitions from incarcerable settings back into the community, ensuring a defined number of individuals self-reporting SUD. Currently covering 40%, deemed unrealistic, proposing biannual screenings. Focus on understanding costs associated with transitioning from MOUD in prisons to post-release injections. Stephanie and Justin suggest reframing to include individuals hesitant to admit SUD by exploring substance use as a historical barrier rather than a current issue. Stephanie will request the screener dialogue for insight into question framing.
- Strategy 1, KPI 3 & 4: Highlights individuals released on Subutex and the scarcity of providers offering injectables (Sublocade) due to its Schedule 3 classification. Action items for these KPIs involve identifying and bridging these gaps.
- Strategy 2, KPI 1: Stephanie notes judges expressing enthusiasm for having a menu of treatment options to be aware of available resources.
- Strategy 2, KPI 2: Selected October 31, 2024 as the date for completion of this KPI, aligning with the fall judicial conference of 2024. Timing suitable for discussing outpatient, inpatient, and

sober-living options. Stephanie remarked that circuit rearrangements will be made on January 1, 2025.

- Strategy 2, KPI 3: Considers utilizing the Addiction Severity Index or exploring an app/computer-based algorithm for appropriate treatment level determination. Cost may be a factor based on user numbers. Comparable to an existing app at Great Rivers.
- Strategy 2, KPI 4: Focuses on jail bill counties. Proposes creating a resource guide based on the work in Mercer and Raleigh, aiming for replication and expansion. Partnering with Marshall University, Gary to identify applicable counties.
- Strategy 3, KPI 1: Aims for stigma reduction in collaboration with the law enforcement subcommittee. Gary reports on Rachel, Justin, and Errol Randall conducting stigma reduction training at the police academy. Additional funding secured for LEAD programs in all eight action counties through 2024.
- Strategy 3, KPI 2: Targets stigma reduction in collaboration with the public education subcommittee. Stephanie urges members to consider measurement methods for campaign effectiveness, suggesting pre- and post-tests for courts along with training assessments.

Goal 2

- Strategy 1, KPI 1: Legal aid proposes providing individuals with one expungement opportunity, but ambiguity exists regarding whether it pertains to one circuit or one charge. Seeking clarity, legal aid and Jobs and Hope collaborate on pathways for the upcoming legislative session to explore expungement considerations for legislators. Judge Rowe advocates for a comprehensive reform approach to provide legislators with a clear and uniform understanding. The WV Law Institute is recommended for promoting legislative change in this area.
- Strategy 2: Targets transportation as a barrier for justice-impacted individuals, collaborating with the Community Engagement and Supports subcommittee. The Pay it Forward to Pay it Back initiative is set to be operational in 2024, and there is potential to use data tracking capabilities within this initiative.
- NOTE Strategy: Proposes a return to a fatality review. Stephanie will connect with Dr. Christiansen next week for discussions. Given the surge in new substances, there is a notable increase in justice-impacted individuals experiencing overdoses post-release, lacking corresponding data. If not aligned with the state plan, coordination with the ODCP is suggested to explore the feasibility of tracking this data. Amber suggests QRTs ask individuals responding to an overdose about their last release from jail or prison to track such cases. Gary notes that CORE data can incorporate this question into their list and encourages subcommittee members to suggest additional questions for inclusion.

Next Steps:

- Stephanie will ask for a copy of the screener questionnaire to gain insight into how SUD history is being addressed, to potentially reform Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 2.
- Gary has asked subcommittee members to forward him questions related to data tracking on recidivism in overdose cases.

Adjournment:

Stephanne closed the meeting by thanking all subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. The subcommittee will meet again on January 9th at 10 am.