

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Courts and Justice-Involved Populations Subcommittee Tuesday, May 13, 2025, Approved

Attendees:

Subcommittee Members Attending: Misty Adams, Amber Blankenship, Stephanie Bond, Candace Facemyer, Sam Hess, Judge Rowe, Stephanie Thornton (Chair)

Subcommittee Members Not Attending: Cindy Hill, Tom Plymale

Office of Drug Control Policy Staff: Justin Smith

Marshall Division of Community Health Staff: Rachel Bledsoe and Bradley McCoy

Opening:

Stephanne Thornton (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 on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was present to approve the April 2025 minutes. Stephanie Bond proposed a motion to approve the minutes. Judge Rowe seconded the motion. There was no further discussion or changes. The minutes were approved with all in favor, and none opposed. The purpose of the meeting is to review 2025 State Plan and key performance indicator (KPI) updates.

Agenda Items:

Upcoming Meetings with Law Enforcement and Treatment Subcommittees

- Stephanne Thornton proposed updating the dates and times for the June and July meetings. The June meeting was changed to June 3, 2025, at 10:00 AM. Stephanne and Bradley McCoy will work to schedule the new July date with the chairs of the Treatment Subcommittee.

KPI Goals and Performance

- *Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 1:* Patrick Mirandy, Chief of Staff of the West Virginia Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR), spoke at the April 2025 Subcommittee meeting about Naloxone accessibility. DCR is now represented on the subcommittee.
- *Goal 1, Strategy 2, KPI 1-2:* The Courts Subcommittee will meet with the Youth Subcommittee later this summer as they have identified that juvenile treatment centers are scarce. There is access to behavioral health, but they do not treat youth with a substance use disorder.
 - Bradley updated the group to the data collection measurements which are currently in process of being collected by the Youth Subcommittee related to youth treatment availability.
 - Barriers and gaps exist for this demographic due to the cost and risk/liability.
 - Justin Smith shared the website to link to Healthcare Enablement and Access Link detailing the West Virginia Treatment Bed Availability Locator: [Workbook: SUD Bed](#)

Availability. Veltex Recovery Group submitted that they have three open youth treatment beds on the open database.

- *Goal 1, Strategy 3, KPI 1*: Stephanie has communicated with the Office of Drug Control Policy about the rollout of the new map in collaboration with West Virginia University.
- *Goal 1 Strategy 3, KPI 2*: The Office of Drug Control Policy website is launching an updated mobile friendly 'app' in 90 days to help individuals find treatment centers with availability. The updated 'app' will combine new and existing information integrated with keyword search functionality.
 - Justin will reach out to Jessica Smith to do an environmental scan of juvenile treatment options.
- *Goal 1, Strategy 3, KPI 3*: This KPI can be met with the July meeting with the Treatment Subcommittee.
- *Goal 1, Strategy 3, KPI 4*: Pretera has completed their mobile pilot program and determined it will continue.
 - Pretera has met with Recovery Point, Copeland, and Community Care in an ongoing effort to work with jails in a collaborative effort.
- *Goal 1, Strategy 4, KPI 2*: The Subcommittee is researching family treatment coverage models such as Drug Free Moms and Babies program. This program addresses the entire family unit.
 - Amber and Dan from the Recovery Subcommittee are doing research on family peer support programs. Amber shared the link: <https://www.ffcmh.org/certification-cfps-code-of-ethics>
- *Goal 1, Strategy 5, KPI 1*: The Subcommittee is still searching for funding resources to maintain existing family treatment courts as current budget cuts have affected staffing.
- *Goal 1, Strategy 6, KPI 1*: The Subcommittee will meet with the Youth Subcommittee after their data collection is complete later this year.
- *Goal 1, Strategy 6, KPI 2*: Subcommittee chairs are meeting at the end of June with Dr. Stephen Loyd.
- *Goal 1, Strategy 6, KPI 3*: Stephanie Thornton has reached out to Brad Story with The West Virginia Behavioral Healthcare Providers Association (WVBHPA).
- *Goal 1, Strategy 6, KPI 4*: The Subcommittee would like to reach out to AETNA along with the WVBHPA to identify best practice levels of care and services.
- *Goal 1, Strategy 7, KPI 1*: The Subcommittee will forego the quarter two KPI measurement meeting until the end of June when Dr. Maxwell is available from the Parenting and Pregnant Women Subcommittee.
- *Goal 1, Strategy 7, KPI 2*: The Subcommittee will contact Lynn O'Connell from the Public Education Subcommittee for promotion of stigma reducing campaign regarding pre-natal care for pregnant women with criminal and civil involvement.
- *Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 1*: Sam Hess asked about who is working with public defenders regarding juvenile drug court programs. There are currently 14 juvenile drug courts in West Virginia.
- *Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 2*: The gaps and resources identified are dependent on completion of KPI 1.

Town Hall Information Update:

- Bradley McCoy informed the group about the upcoming plan for town hall meetings. There are virtual town hall meetings with breakout sessions. There are also in-person town hall meetings to be held in four location across West Virginia. The Subcommittee

suggests sending out invitations to publicize the availability of these meetings.
Volunteers were recruited to assist as facilitators for the breakout sessions.

Adjournment:

Stephane closed the meeting by thanking all Subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. The Subcommittee will meet on June 3, 2025, at 10:00 AM.