

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Courts and Justice-Involved Populations Subcommittee Monday October 7, 2024, *Unapproved*

Attendees:

Subcommittee Members Attending: Judge Rowe and Stephanie Thornton (chair)

Members Not Attending: Amber Blankenship, Stephanie Bond, Candace Facemyer, Sam Hess, Cindy Hill, Tom Plymale

ODCP Staff: Justin Smith

Marshall University Staff: 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 Monday October 7, 2024, and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was not present to approve the July 2024 and September 2024 meeting minutes. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the 2025 State Plan and the timeline for its completion.

Agenda Items:

Review Town Hall Meeting Summary Report and Establishment of Final 2025 State Plan

- Stephanie Thornton and Bradley McCoy discussed the Town Hall Meeting Summary Report and the emerging themes from the Courts section. Stephanie emailed the group and asked them to identify their top priorities from the Town Hall Meeting Report in a shared document. She will send a reminder for this on Friday October 11, 2024. Based on the responses, she will decide if the group needs an additional meeting to discuss the 2025 Plan before the November meeting.

2024 KPI Progress and 2025 State Plan

- The group discussed the completeness of current KPIs and what should remain in the plan/have their date extended for next year.
- Stephanie Thornton asked Judge Rowe to look over her Jail Bill and Rule 46g Protocol Draft. Next year, this group could seek training on this from the Prosecuting Attorney Institute for the courts and from ODCP/Marshall University for the LEAD programs. LEAD teams and diversion programs operate under separate grants and funding sources. It remains to be seen what data collection will look like in terms of expectations, databases, and who would be responsible for it.
- Jostin Holmes provided an update from ODCP on the SUBLOCADE map. He and Justin Smith are working together with IT to update the ODCP map for MAT treatment. They will be able to give SUBLOCADE its own dropdown box when searching for its availability. Jostin will have the list of places it is available to share with the group in November via spreadsheet even if the map update has not gone live on the website by then.

- The group discussed how they could train peers and court workers on different levels of care.
- The group discussed how West Virginia is not that punitive of a state for pregnant women who seek treatment for substance use disorder but there is a pervasive stigma. Approximately 80% of women in West Virginia prisons have been or are mothers. The group would like to address this in the plan next year, potentially with a KPI about meeting with the Pregnant and Parenting Women and the Public Education subcommittees. The group discussed how the lack of family treatment/recovery care is a barrier for women seeking help. CCBHC's could offer EAPs for family support that are virtual/in person such as 6 free sessions of family counseling. Behavioral health comprehensives need to apply to the First Foundation to fund family support programs.
- Stephanie Thornton identified some of her main priorities for the 2025 Plan such as naloxone saturation and the successes in Delaware that Candace Facemyer mentioned last time and addressing social determinants of health. Additionally, the group needs to speak with Stephanie Bond about family treatment court expansion feasibility.
- Stephanie Thornton is sending the group the information she has from the Transportation Workgroup which is a one-pager from Modivcare, Seed Sowers, and Recovery Point about the levels and options for their services as well as the public transit linkages available by county.

Additional Discussion

- A New York Times article was recently published about how the state of Maine sends people with substance use disorder home from prison with buprenorphine/SUBLOCADE. While West Virginia is already doing this without the same recognition, it is nice to know that they are on the right path of innovation.

Adjournment:

Stephanne closed the meeting by thanking all subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. The subcommittee will meet again on Tuesday November 12, 2024, with a possible additional meeting before then.