

# **Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Recovery Community Subcommittee Wednesday February 5, 2025, Approved**

## **Attendees:**

**Attending:** Amber Blankenship (co-chair), Trenton Clem, Joe Deegan, Elly Donahue, Heather Gregory, Raj Masih, Dan McCawley (co-chair)

**Invited, Not Attending:** Brandy Blatt, Ardella Cottrill, Francisca Gray, Ann Hammond, William Long, Lou Ortenzio, Stephanie Stout, Destini Williams, Paul Shimer, JoAnna Vance

**Guest Attendees:** Merideth Smith and Terry Rusin from PSIMED Corrections, LLC

**Marshall University Staff:** Rachel Bledsoe, Bradley McCoy

## **Opening:**

Amber Blankenship (Co-Chair) provided welcome and opening remarks of this meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Recovery Community Subcommittee. The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was present to approve the January 2025 meeting minutes. Heather Gregory made a motion to approve without changes, and Joe Deegan seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed with all in favor and none opposed, and the minutes were approved. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss with PSIMED Corrections, LLC representatives the background of their work as well as to provide informational resources.

## **Agenda Items**

### **Subcommittee Chair Meeting**

- Bradley Mcoy provided an overview of the Subcommittee Chair meeting scheduled for March 10, 2025. It is currently scheduled in person in Charleston with a virtual option available. Many other Subcommittees would like to receive input from the Recovery Subcommittee.
- In the Recovery section of the 2025 Plan, their only key performance indicator (KPI) that directly references another Subcommittee is regarding the Courts Subcommittee. Amber Blankenship and Dan McCawley are attending the February 11, 2025 meeting of the Courts Subcommittee and Stephanie Thornton is attending the March meeting of the Recovery Subcommittee.

### **Guest Speakers: Merideth Smith and Terry Rusin (PSIMED Corrections, Ltd.)**

- Meredith Smith, PSIMED Corrections, LLC (PSIMED) is the sub lender for Wexford Health Sources from Pennsylvania. They are the behavioral health component for justice-involved populations in jails, prisons, and juvenile facilities in the state under a mandated agreement. The Department of Corrections creates policies that are then sent to Wexford and then PSIMED provides implementation, so they report to both Wexford and the Department of Corrections by chain of command. Private prisons have their own set guidelines.
- PSIMED meets with every Department of Corrections to create a medication-assisted treatment (MAT) consult team, access candidates, and helps establish a coordination of care.

- Jails and prisons each have different approaches. PSIMED offers individual or group therapy related to trauma and substance use disorder as well as additional substance use programming. They offer a wide range of methods to address opiate use disorder.
- Pharmacy care restrictions for patients: PSIMED does notify pharmacies before a patient's release. Each institution handles releases differently. If medications are sent to the incorrect pharmacy, the jail's medical team likely had the incorrect information for the patient. The patients are able to call back into the institution to get updated corrected referrals, but many may not realize this.
- Re-Entry or Peer Navigator: These are not always available in every system. The systems that have peers in place do provide a link between PSIMED and the patient upon release and are effective in communicating resources to offer to patients.
- PSIMED is not available for duplication of established reentry programs, but they want a better relationship with REACH Inc. and other reentry programs in the future to diminish barriers and create synergy of efforts.
- Medicaid no longer covers Subutex. Therefore, jails have switched to suboxone. Injectables had better compliance because they lasted longer and did not require daily usage.
- For any gap in behavioral health coverage, PSIMED tries to fill the gap. They collaborate in weekly meetings and provide continuing education for directors/staff. Their main focus is to treat patients and assist in making better transitions.
- Merideth Smith shared her email address for further communication as questions from this Subcommittee arise. Future discussions will occur as needed.

#### **Additional Discussion**

- Bradley McCoy reminded the Subcommittee that anything produced by the Subcommittee would have to be approved by the Office of Drug Control Policy prior to being presented elsewhere. Amber Blankenship and Joe Deegan plan to present at the WVAAP Conference in the summer so there is still time for creation, collaboration, and approval for a presentation.
- Amber Blankenship plans to schedule a meeting with Jostin Holmes and others at the Office of Drug Control Policy to discuss multiple key performance indicators in the plan that require their collaboration.

#### **Adjournment**

Amber closed the meeting by thanking all subcommittee members. The full Subcommittee will meet again on March 5, 2025 at 2:00 PM.