

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Recovery Subcommittee August 7, 2024, Approved

Attendees:

Subcommittee Members: Amber Blankenship (co-chair), Brandy Blatt, Joe Deegan, Jostin Holmes, Rajan Masih, Dan McCawley (co-chair), Lou Ortenzio, Stephanie Stout, Rachel Thaxton, JoAnna Vance,
Guest Speaker: Jonathan Board (First Foundation)
Staff: Bradley McCoy

Opening:

Amber Blankenship (chair) provided welcome and opening remarks of this meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Recovery Subcommittee. The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, August 7, 2024, and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was present to approve the July meeting minutes with one syntax editing suggestion in the meeting notes. Joe Deegan made the motion for approval and Rajan Masih seconded the motion with all in favor, and none opposed, and the minutes were approved. The purpose of the meeting was to host a guest speaker Jonathan Board, from the First Foundation to speak and provide general updates.

Agenda Items

Jonathan Board — First Foundation

- Jonathan Board joined the meeting by phone. The First Foundation has identified support needs for individuals in treatment and recovery and has core criteria they are focusing on. They are meeting on Friday August 9th to discuss current barriers and Jonathan would like to advocate for this group to present their needs. JoAnna Vance let him know about the statewide family of those with substance use disorder (SUD) advocacy that she is setting up. She is currently setting up a timeline for statewide listening sessions to determine the needs of family members of those with SUD but has already identified needs such as bereavement services, learning how to help without feeling enabling etc. That group can get in touch with the First Foundation for advocacy as well. Jonathan Board assured the group that their interests are aligned and have synergy.

General Updates

- Amber Blankenship and Dan McCawley are working to document KPI progress. They are documenting the conversations that have occurred with various stakeholders to make KPIs more measurable.
- Emily Birkhead has WVAR updates about family recovery housing that she can provide at the September meeting.
- Joe Deegan provided an update about Project Engage. The purpose of this project is to engage with those in health facilities with co-occurring mental health problems and SUD. Berkeley County already has a grant for this. A patient navigator identifies clients in the health facility and offers service, a case manager makes referrals to services, and a PRSS is present as well. This will require a lot of training, but it will also make the project staff responsible for training hospital staff in hopes of stigma reduction. The group discussed how family and PRSS support can continue post-

hospitalization. Project Engage was compared to Reverse The Cycle, but in more facilities than just the emergency department.

- Raj Masih mentioned that SOR funds Family Support Specialists for comprehensives with Regional Youth Centers.
- Joe Deegan provided an update on SB820's outcomes for residential treatment. Providers and MCOs got together to inform the legislature. The legislature wants to demonstrate that treatment and recovery work. Trac9 Informatics is "a standardized assessment battery for substance use disorders and mental health provides evidentiary support for clinical monitoring, outcomes, supervision and success forecasting" according to their website. They track multiple categories of self-evaluation through the continuum of care. They use this evaluation to let staff know where clients are struggling and attempt to pair clients with staff based on expertise and areas of need. They say it can be adapted locally to West Virginia's needs and can also track social determinants of health. They use AI and machine learning to predict client success.
- JoAnna Vance let the group know about upcoming events. In September, JoAnna will share the timeline of the statewide family advocacy group's community listening sessions.
 - August 31st from 6:00-8:00 is International Overdose Awareness Day at the Capitol. This year they are focusing more on remembrance and there will be a butterfly release.
 - September 7th and 8th is Transformational Leadership meeting with 12 new advocates (2 from each region).
- Lou Ortenzio is now the Director of a new men-only recovery residence in Harrison County. It is called Arch Recovery Center: Addiction Treatment Center In West Virginia and located in Quiet Dell.
- Rachel Thaxton provided multiple updates. She is currently in the process of planning the one-day recovery housing conference planned for the first week of December. She would like input from this group, particularly the chairs, Amber and Dan, and WVARR (Bob Hansen and Emily Birckhead). There is a planning meeting for the conference occurring every other Friday up until the conference so she may invite some of those present to these planning meetings.
- Rachel Thaxton provided a reminder to the group regarding the Recovery Residence Rule. SB475 changes registration with OHFLAC and data systems. It is posted for public comment on ODCP and OHFLAC's websites. Comments close on August 30th and then will be evaluated to see if changes are adopted into the rule.
- Rachel Thaxton reminded the group that coming up in September is Save-A-Life Day. All West Virginia counties are confirmed to be participating except Tucker County, but they are in communication about it. They have cryptid stickers going out. Every state east of the Mississippi River is participating this year.
- Rachel Thaxton provided an update on the Informed Consent document. She stated that she and Jostin Holmes can push it to ODCP leadership and put it into statements of work. The managed care organizations (MCOs) and the Bureau of Behavioral Health have both seen and provided edits to it. It should be in its final draft now and just needs to be sent back to MCOs and the Bureau of Behavioral Health so they can see the final product.

Adjournment

Amber closed the meeting by thanking all subcommittee members. The full subcommittee will meet again on Wednesday September 4, 2024.