

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

## Attendees:

Amber Blankenship (chair), Joe Deegan, Heather Gregory, Dan McCawley, Phil Shimer

## 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, February 7, 2024 and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was not present to approve November meeting minutes and they will be tabled for the next meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to review 2024 KPI prioritization.

## Agenda Items

### Workgroup Updates

- The workgroup needs to convene with MCOs; however, they have implemented all the recommended changes to the document related to the informed consent process and have distributed it to the entire subcommittee for review.

### Review of 2024 KPIs

- Goal 1, Strategy 2: The workgroup is actively engaged with the informed consent document and plans to continue its efforts in the upcoming monthly meeting, including arranging a discussion with the MCOs. Joe highlighted the importance of ongoing education for providers to ensure successful implementation, emphasizing that substantial effort is required to maintain the focus on facilitating recovery even after the initiative is operational. The priority remains on refining the informed consent process. Amber shared insights from a recent meeting with the behavioral healthcare providers association, where the majority indicated they are already undertaking similar work.
- Goal 3, Strategy 2: Dan mentioned he is exploring a grant opportunity to introduce a family peer curriculum in West Virginia. The decision on the grant will be made by summer, with hopes to enhance peer support services with family-oriented offerings.
- Goal 6, Strategy 1: Joe observed that the strategy aimed at broadening the subcommittee's network through new collaborations has potential for integration with other strategies over the course of the year, suggesting a more synergistic approach to achieving the subcommittee's objectives.

### ODCP: 2024 Priorities

- Jostin Holmes and Rachel Thaxton have delayed their presentation and will now participate in the April meeting to deliver it.

### Additional Business

- Joe mentioned that the recovery advocacy day held at the capital featured over 60 exhibitors and

saw 280 individuals register for continuing education, with a total of 400 participants attending. The event began at the culture center, focusing on mobilizing individuals to engage with legislative processes and lawmakers directly. This gathering of individuals active in the recovery field was notably well-represented and made a positive impact on the legislative community.

- Dan reported progress with the Police to Peers program, which they are working to extend throughout the state.
- Heather highlighted the importance of promoting education across various care level criteria in their initiatives, suggesting the consideration of a requirement or continuing education for Peer Recovery Support Specialists.

## **Adjournment**

Amber closed the meeting by thanking all subcommittee members. The full subcommittee will meet again on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2 PM.