

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Recovery Subcommittee July 3, 2024, Approved

Attendees:

Brandy Bibbee-Blatt, Amber Blankenship (co-chair), Trenton Clem, Joe Deegan, Ely Donahue, Heather Gregory, Ann Hammond, William Long, Dan McCawley (co-chair), Bradley McCoy (staff), Lou Ortenzio, Carly Phillips, Lacey Sawyers Stephanie Stout, JoAnna Vance

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, July 3, 2024, and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was present to approve the June meeting minutes. Joe Deegan made the motion for approval and Dan McCawley seconded the motion. The purpose of the meeting was to provide updates on 2024 KPI implementation.

Agenda Items

Review Quarter 2 Progress Report

- Dan McCawley reviewed the Quarter 2 Progress Report document in real time.
- Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 1: Amber Blankenship and Joe Deegan are working on this. They have a document made and are presenting it to providers/MCOs. The group was comfortable with marking this as 100% complete.
- Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 2: This has been completely developed but has not been implemented yet, so the group left it at 99% complete.
- Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 3: There has been communication with Christina Mullins, but the group needs to reach back out again and see what her last communication with Jon Dower was. This was marked at 25% complete because conversations have been had around the plan.
- Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 4: Rachel Thaxton at ODCP is aware of this so it is marked at 25% complete.
- Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 5: No survey has been conducted yet, so it is marked at 0% complete.
- Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 1: The Family Advocacy Group has not met yet because the chair has been traveling. The core team will meet and lay groundwork for a statewide Family Advocacy Group and Rachel Thaxton has been made aware of this, so it is at 25% complete.
- Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 2: There have been conversations around this and there is ODCP buy-in so it is marked at 25% complete.
- Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 3: West Virginia Family Strong is already in place, but the group wants more professionals trained so it is marked at 25% complete.
- Goal 3, Strategy 1, KPI 1: There have been conversations happening, but no explicit list has been made. They are continuing to invite more people to meetings and felt comfortable marking it as 100% complete.
- Goal 3, Strategy 1, KPI 2: Amber Blankenship has not spoken with the Executive Director of the WV First Foundation yet. The group marked this as 50% complete because they understand the structure and schedule of the WV First Foundation, but just need to make the conversations

happen.

- Goal 3, Strategy 1, KPI 3: They are not sure the background of this KPI but have people with lived experience working in various positions across the state and have been spreading awareness of the importance of involving those with lived experience into the work. This was marked as 50% complete.
- Goal 3, Strategy 1, KPI 4: Nothing has happened with this and it is marked as 0% complete.
- Dan McCawley provided Bradley McCoy with this document during the meeting.

Continue to work on Goal 3, Strategy 2, KPI 3

- West Virginia Behavioral Health Planning Council is concerned with increasing family support. Ardella Cottrill was supposed to join the meeting today to talk more about this but had another meeting.
- The Family Strong curriculum exists to train family members of those with SUD to work like PRSSs in helping other family members of those with SUD. It is an evidence-based, 8-week course.
- Amber Blankenship and Ely Donahue have already completed this training. They were going to begin training others as early as July 15 but may have to push it back.
- 3 groups in northern West Virginia and 2 groups in Martinsburg are already using the Family Strong curriculum.
- Dan McCawley has also applied for a family training grant that he will hear back about by September.
- FAVOR in Greenville, South Carolina is a good example implementation site.

Discussed Informed Consent Document

- Amber Blankenship has the informed consent document in a Google Drive and offered to share it with the group. She reviewed the document on the meeting. She is meeting with MCOs about it in August. This is a template that hopefully any organization could use.

Additional Business

- The group wants to invite Tina Ramirez to a future meeting to talk about Recovery High School.
- Lacey Sawyers teaches classes at West Virginia University in mental health and addiction studies. She has a course related to familial issues that stem from addiction and would love to get her class involved in the family training because they would be eager to work with this group.
- Bradley McCoy provided a reminder about the Town Hall Meetings occurring every Wednesday in August and that facilitators are still needed.

Adjournment

Amber closed the meeting by thanking all subcommittee members. The full subcommittee will meet again on August 7, 2024.