

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Recovery Subcommittee March 1, 2023, Approved

Attendees:

Amber Blankenship, Joe Deegan, Jon Dower (chair), Fran Gray, Raj Masih, Tina Ramirez, JoAnna Vance, Alisha Woodson

Opening:

Jon Dower (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, March 1, 2023 and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was present to approve January meeting minutes. Raj made the motion to accept the minutes and Joe seconded the motion. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce Great Rivers System of Care and review work group reports.

Agenda Items

Great Rivers Regional System for Addiction Care (Tina Ramirez / ramirezt@marshall.edu):

- Great Rivers Regional System for Addiction Care serves to address addiction and recovery efforts. It is funded through the Merck Foundation and serves Cabell, Jackson, Kanawha, and Putnam counties, and is expanding to Charleston.
- The organization is expanding to complete work in re-entry and collaborate with county hospitals and the Mosaic Project for SUD screening. Additionally, they run QRTs in Putnam, Wayne, and Mason counties, and help support Lincoln counties and provide harm reduction outreach in Cabell County.
- A new project they have taken on is helping with the recovery high school project for children with addictive addiction or those in recovery. Tina noted the subcommittee may help develop youth support groups for this project by securing a peer recovery coach. However, Jon noted due to ethical code PRSS certified peer recovery coaches are unable to work with minors.
- Amber's group is working with Great Rivers Regional System to expand efforts in the western regional jail including filling and distributing backpacks with necessary supplies for recovery and re-entry.

Work Group Reports:

- Jon noted that work group meetings have to be announced at the state-level.
- Work group 1 (Joe):
 - Joe noted the group has been making progress on Goal 1, Strategy 3.
 - They had a conference call with former ODCP director Dr. Matt Christiansen and reviewed recommendations listed under KPI 1 and potential model creations to address recidivism.

- Joe notes that under KPI 4, there is no board of professionals that exist of PRSS or other recovery coach supports. He states in Ohio they have a program for this, which can potentially be modeled for WV.
- He notes that the subcommittee emphasized the need for lived experience in coach and a recovery program set up to help individuals who relapse in the event of a mental health crises or other unfortunate event.
- This work group meets on the 4th Friday of every month at 3 pm.
- Work group 2 (Amber):
 - Amber noted this group is working on Goal 1, Strategy 2, KPI 2.
 - She notes they have created an informed consent document containing information on risks versus benefits of MOUD and mental health medications for patients with SUD. She will send this document to subcommittee members for review.
 - This work group meets on the 2nd Friday of every month at 10 am.

Additional Discussion:

- Jostin from the ODCP will present at the subcommittee meeting in April to give updates for legislation that impacts the work of the recovery subcommittee.
- Amber invited Alisha Woodson as an addition to the subcommittee.

Adjournment

Joe's work group will be meeting Friday, March 24th at 3 pm and Amber's work group will be meeting Friday, March 10th at 10 am. Jon closed the meeting by thanking all subcommittee members. Joe made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Amber seconded the motion. The subcommittee will meet again on Wednesday, April 5.