



# Meeting Minutes

## Treatment, Health Systems, and Research Subcommittee of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment

### *September 29, 2023, Approved*

#### **Attendees:**

James Becker (co-chair), Jorge Cortina, Joe Deegan, Emma Eggleston (co-chair), Angela Gray, Leigh Levine, Jan Rader, Rebecca Roth

#### **Opening:**

Dr. James Becker (co-chair) provided welcome and opening remarks of this meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Treatment, Health Systems, and Research Subcommittee. The meeting was called to order on Friday, September 29, 2023 and was conducted by Zoom conference. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce guest speaker Joe Deegan from the Recovery Subcommittee and review the Town Hall Meetings and Quarter 3 progress planning of the 2023 State Plan.

#### **Agenda:**

##### **Guest Speaker (Joe Deegan, Recovery Subcommittee)**

- Goal 1, Strategy 3, KPI 1: The focus is on the identification of recovery response team models within the Recovery section of the plan. The intention is to ensure alignment with the committee's objectives. Joe pointed out that when Dr. Becker and other subcommittee members were invited, they brought forward existing recovery response team models from across West Virginia.
- Angie highlighted that in every discussion, the need for post-residential program or post-incarceration support arises. This encompasses transitional housing, workforce reintegration, and post-release reintegration. The necessity for comprehensive wraparound services is emphasized to facilitate sustained success in recovery.
- Dr. Becker underscored that there isn't a one-size-fits-all solution, but rather a need to explore a range of approaches. Several questions arise, including the collection of data to identify which approaches are most effective for specific individuals, presenting opportunities for research.
- Dr. Eggleston emphasized the importance of establishing a shared understanding of the overall goal. This includes finding a balance between current efforts and data collection, as well as developing a framework that encompasses general measures and collaborative mapping of responsibilities. The goal is to identify programs that align with this framework and use them as a guide.
- Angie noted feedback indicating the state's need to endorse evidence-based programs and research led by practical experience. Striking a balance between data collection and preserving the workload constraints of healthcare workers is crucial.
- Dr. Becker emphasized that outcomes should not be viewed solely on a large scale but should also consider individual outcomes within treatment programs and their impact on healthcare systems and communities. When establishing benchmarks, multiple levels of assessment are necessary before determining what truly works.

- There's a need to share these discussions not only within the treatment subcommittee but also with the Office of Drug Control Policy to align with their interests. Joe expressed the willingness of the recovery subcommittee to continue collaborating with the treatment subcommittee in future meetings or exchanges to yield tangible results.
- Dr. Becker suggested that the next steps should involve a careful review of the proposed edits to the recovery KPIs, determining where they best fit, and then scheduling a meeting between subcommittees to discuss how these elements integrate into the current plan's scope.

### **Review of Town Hall Meetings**

- Carly reported Carly conveyed that in the month of August, four town hall meetings took place, attracting a registration of over 700 participants and featuring 48 trained facilitators. Additionally, a separate town hall meeting centered around youth, with 200 registered attendees, occurred in September. The town hall meeting report was released last week, and a report specifically addressing youth is scheduled for release in the coming weeks.
- Angie provided an update on the recurring themes that emerged from the town hall meetings, including discussions on quality treatment, wraparound services, youth harm reduction, and transportation.
- Dr. Eggleston pointed out that after the group has had an opportunity to review the reports from the Town Hall Meetings, the focus should be directed towards integrating a youth-centric approach into the 2024 plan.

### **2023 Quarter 3 Plan Progress**

#### **Goal 1**

- Strategy 6, KPI 1: Dr. Eggleston pointed out that the purpose of this KPI was to have a mapping exercise to identify the locations where services are co-located.
- Strategy 6, KPI 2: Angie raised a concern about the potential return to pre-pandemic practices, particularly the requirement for an in-person visit for the first appointment before transitioning to telehealth. This approach faces significant barriers due to appointment wait times and transportation issues. Rebecca mentioned ongoing collaboration with the WV Rural Health Association to develop a FAQ resource on telehealth, aiming to provide updated information to the public. Dr. Eggleston pondered whether utilizing mobile service deliveries could overcome the initial in-person appointment barrier by having physicians come to the patients. Dr. Cortina agreed and suggested gathering many people in one location as the mobile unit travels to facilitate the initial visit. Rebecca encouraged anyone with language or content contributions to send them her way and also noted that some of the mobile units associated with the state opioid response grant are in the process of obtaining approval from OFLAC.

### **Fall 2023 Meeting Schedule**

- The upcoming meeting dates for the Treatment, Health Systems, and Research Subcommittee are scheduled for October, November 17th, and December 15th, each running from 2 PM to 3 PM.

### **Adjournment:**

Dr. Eggleston urged subcommittee members to review the section of the plan to continue to document Quarter 3 progress. Additionally, a doodle poll will be sent out to determine the date of the October subcommittee meeting. She closed the meeting by thanking all subcommittee members for their attendance.