

# **Meeting Minutes**

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

### ***February 9, 2024, Approved***

#### **Attendees:**

James Becker (co-chair), Jorge Cortina (partial attendance), Angela Gray, Jostin Holmes, Leigh Levine, Michael Kilkenny (co-chair), Hallie Morgan, Rebecca Roth, Jessica Smith, Rachel Thaxton

#### **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, February 9, 2024 and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was present to approve December meeting minutes. Angela made the motion for approval and Leigh seconded the motion. The purpose of the meeting was to embark on implementation planning for the 2024 State Plan.

#### **Agenda:**

##### **2024 Implementation Planning**

##### **Goal 1**

- Strategy 1: Aim to enhance collaboration with additional state agencies (ODCP, BMS, BBH) by scheduling an interim meeting to identify and discuss obstacles related to treatment locations. Rebecca has proposed a meeting to evaluate relevant KPIs and brainstorm potential recommendations as a foundational step.
- Strategy 1, KPI 1: Dr. Becker has recommended the creation of payment models that focus on the integration of services. He has identified Dr. Hyla Harvey from Medicaid as a key contact for determining the location and scale of these integrated services. Suggesting a meeting with her and involving the ODCP in future subcommittee discussions could prove beneficial.
- Strategy 1, KPI 2: The introduction of a preliminary survey targeting WV Medicaid providers to gauge the extent of integrated services has been suggested, with the ODCP playing a pivotal role in its development.
- Strategy 1, KPI 3 / KPI 4: Utilizing BMS data has been proposed as a means to fulfill this KPI, alongside inviting Keith King from BMS to join the subcommittee and provide updates. Rebecca highlighted the importance of maintaining telehealth as an accessible option without the need for a specific modifier in billing codes, noting the potential underreporting of telehealth usage within the state. She suggests examining this data in the context of telebehavioral health, though it may not provide a complete overview of statewide activities. Discussions with BBH, ODCP, and Medicaid are recommended for making informed recommendations, with follow-up actions planned. Dr. Becker also sees value in consulting Dr. Cynthia Persily and others with expertise in addiction services for additional insights.

##### **Goal 2**

- Strategy 1: Dr. Becker observed that state agencies have amassed a considerable amount of data,

suggesting that the information needed to assess effectiveness and answer KPI-related questions likely already exists. He proposed organizing a meeting with BBH to gain a comprehensive understanding of existing data trends related to infectious diseases and to derive insights on substance use for the subcommittee's use. Angela highlighted that this KPI aligns with the objectives of the 2026 HIV/Hep C Plan.

- Dr. Kilkenny intends to contact Dr. Christiansen to arrange a meeting for advice on moving the subcommittee forward. The subcommittee agreed to temporarily halt the planning for 2024 and wait for more direction from the Governor's Council before moving ahead. A motion to pause was introduced by Dr. Michael Kilkenny and supported by Dr. Jim Becker through a seconding of the motion.

### **Adjournment:**

Dr. Becker closed the meeting by thanking all subcommittee members for their attendance. The subcommittee will meet again in March.