

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Recovery Subcommittee May 3, 2023, Approved

Attendees:

Amber Blankenship, Jon Dower (chair), Fran Gray, Bob Hansen, Jostin Holmes, Stephanie Stout, Rachel Thaxton, JoAnna Vance, Phil

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, May 3, 2023 and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was present to approve April meeting minutes. JoAnna made the motion to accept the minutes and Stephanie seconded the motion. The motion carried and the minutes were accepted. The purpose of the meeting was to provide updates on the progress made by the workgroups.

Agenda Items

Bob Hansen (Hope & Action Alliance)

- Bob has proposed an initiative that aims to provide leadership opportunities to individuals who have firsthand experience in a particular field. Together with JoAnna, he has established a group with the purpose of developing a training program for aspiring leaders. Bob mentioned that he has connections with a prominent national pharmaceutical company that has expressed interest in financially supporting a leadership program in West Virginia. He has been in communication with the staff of Leadership WV, David Sanders (who leads the Leadership Academy), as well as Marietta College and their leadership program. The program is planned to span six months, with monthly meetings on Fridays and Saturdays. Upon completion, participants will receive a certificate from Marietta College. They have already compiled a list of topics and allocated a budget for transportation and childcare.
- Bob has requested assistance from the subcommittee in creating the curriculum and generating additional ideas to enhance the program. He assures that he will share a draft with members for review before final submission.
- Various members shared their recommendations for the leadership program, which encompassed areas such as enhancing public speaking abilities, fundamental financial skills, prioritizing relationship-building during the initial weekend rather than delving into intensive educational content, arranging meetings with influential political figures in West Virginia (such as the Governor, Majority Leaders, and State Auditor), and proposing that the first cohort of the program should consist of the members belonging to the Recovery subcommittee.

Workgroup Reports

- Amber mentioned that her workgroup will convene once more to make additional revisions and

subsequently present the KPI document to the entire group for the entire month's consideration. She emphasized that her next course of action involves engaging with the MCOs to implement the informed consent document.

- Jon expressed a desire for the subcommittee to gather during the summer to collectively revise their portion of the strategic plan before the town hall meetings commence. To facilitate this, Jon will be in contact with Deb Koester to coordinate and organize the necessary arrangements.
- Jon requested the committee's input to expand upon the document titled "Strengths, Opportunities, and Roadblocks and Barriers," which he developed alongside Joe and Raj for the upcoming Planning Meeting on 6/9. During the discussion, several points were raised. Phil highlighted the strength of bringing together a previously unrecognized community, Fran mentioned the resource-saving aspect of avoiding service duplication, and Stephanie acknowledged the geographical diversity among the membership. Regarding opportunities, Phil emphasized the importance of advocating for individuals with lived experience, while Jon highlighted the potential for collaboration with other subcommittees. As for roadblocks and barriers, Jon identified committee membership and funding sources as significant challenges. Following the discussion, John proposed a motion to approve the document. Amber motioned to accept the document, which was seconded by Rachel.

Additional Discussion

- Jon urged the subcommittee members to provide their recommendations for guest speakers in June. Rachel proposed inviting the newly appointed commissioner of the Bureau of Behavioral Health, while Jon suggested inviting the team from the WV Peer Conference.
- The PRSS WV Peer Conference has been scheduled to take place from June 21st to June 23rd in Charleston.

Adjournment

Jon closed the meeting by thanking all subcommittee members. Jon entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Amber made the motion and Stephanie seconded. The subcommittee will meet again in June.