IN THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF WOOD COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

IN RE: MINUTES OF MEETING HELD
MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2009

PRESENT: RICK MODESITT, PRESIDENT
DAVID BLAIR COUCH, COMMISSIONER
WAYNE DUNN, COMMISSIONER

On this date, the County Commission met in regular session. They signed purchase orders, invoices and other correspondence.

At 10:30 A.M. the County Commission met with Toni Tiano, Grant Consultant; Larry Johnson and Kelly Shook from the Wood County Probation Department to discuss the S.O.B.E.R. Program. They asked the Commission if they will be willing to fund some of the grant monies that have been denied for the upcoming year. The Commission agreed in principle to provide a ten percent match for the Enforcing the Underage Drinking Laws Grant for 2010.

At 11:00 A.M., the County Commission held a hearing continued from the previous Thursday in regard to Grandview Trailer Park. John Reed, Wood County Compliance Officer; Bill Brown, Wood County Engineer and members from the Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department were in attendance. Property owner Don Hohman was not present but had a representative at the meeting. After discussion, the County Commission of Wood County, upon a motion made by David Blair Couch, seconded by Wayne Dunn and made unanimous by Rick Modesitt, did hereby ORDER Don Hohman cleanup Grandview Trailer Court located at Gihon Road, Parkersburg, West Virginia, within twenty-three (23) days. Upon recommendation of John Reed, Wood County Compliance Officer, said property is found to be in violation of The Abandoned and Dilapidated Building Ordinance for Wood County. Mr. Hohman is hereby ORDERED to

remove debris, cap open sewer lines and make substantial progress in cleaning up the property. On January 14, 2009 at 11:30 a.m. the Commission will convene to address the ongoing progress of the cleanup. Documentation pertaining to the aforementioned property is on file in the Office of the County Administrator. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

At 11:25 A.M., Marty Seufer, Wood County Planning Commission Director presented the North Pointe Subdivision Phase I plat for approval. Said plat consists of nineteen (19) lots, is located in Union Taxing District and is being developed by WJ, LLC. Said Plat was reviewed by the Wood County Planning Commission on December 2, 2009 and approved as presented. A Performance Bond in the amount of one hundred forty-two thousand dollars and zero cents ($142,000.00) was posted for the roads in said development, by means of an Irrevocable Letter of Credit. Following discussion and review, the County Commission of Wood County, upon a motion made by David Blair Couch, seconded by Wayne Dunn and made unanimous by Rick Modesitt, did hereby AUTHORIZE Rick Modesitt, in his official capacity as President and on behalf of the County Commission, to EXECUTE the aforementioned plat of North Pointe Subdivision for recordation. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

At 11:30 A.M., the County Commission met with Sheriff Jeff Sandy and several of his employees. The first issue dealt with the awarding of a bid for tasers. The County Commission of Wood County, awarded the bid for tasers to be utilized by The Wood County Sheriff's Department. Upon a motion made by David Blair Couch, seconded by Wayne Dunn and made unanimous by Rick Modesitt, said bid was awarded to Town Police Supply, P.O. Box 417, Collinsville, VA, at a price of twenty-five thousand eight

hundred eighty-nine dollars and twenty cents ($25,889.20). An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

The next issue to be discussed was the Sheriff requesting the ability to bill businesses for false alarms. He specifically requested to bill them $50.00 per call. The Sheriff stated he will get a report from the month of December, 2009 to allow them to visit the issue.

Next, the Sheriff discussed the "Are You OK Program". He stated he is willing to match the Commission through the concealed weapons fund. After discussion, the County Commission of Wood County, upon a motion made by David Blair Couch, seconded by Wayne Dunn and made unanimous by Rick Modesitt, did hereby AUTHORIZE the Wood County Sheriff's Office to purchase the computer program "Are You OK". The Commission further AUTHORIZED the application for a grant with The Parkersburg Area Community Foundation for the program and committed up to one thousand five hundred dollars and zero cents ($1,500.00) from the General Fund towards the purchase of said program. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

The County Commission of Wood County was in receipt of a check from the State of West Virginia in the amount of thirty-two thousand five hundred seventy dollars and eighty-one cents ($32,570.81) of which eight thousand six hundred ninety-three dollars and ninety-three cents ($8,693.93 represents reimbursement to Wood County for expenses incurred during the month of September, 2009, in regard to the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant Number 09-SIG-17. Receipt of the aforementioned check is pursuant to an ORDER appearing in Order Book 69, at Page 49 and bearing the date of October 15, 2009 at which time Rick Modesitt, in his official

capacity as President and on behalf of the County Commission, was AUTHORIZED to EXECUTE the Request for Reimbursement. Documentation pertaining to the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant is on file in the Office of the County Administrator. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

The County Commission of Wood County was in receipt of a check from the State of West Virginia in the amount of thirty-two thousand five hundred seventy dollars and eighty-one cents ($32,570.81) of which twenty-three thousand eight hundred seventy-six dollars and eighty-eight cents ($23,876.88) represents reimbursement to Wood County for expenses incurred during the month of August, 2009, in regard to the Community Corrections Program Grant Number 10-CC-09. Receipt of the aforementioned check is pursuant to an Order appearing in Order Book 68, at Page 79 and bearing the date of November 19, 2009 at which time Rick Modesitt, in his official capacity as President, and on behalf of the County Commission, was AUTHORIZED to EXECUTE the Request for Reimbursement. Documentation pertaining to the Community Corrections Program Grant is on file in the Office of the County Administrator.

Robert Tebay, III, Attorney for the City of Parkersburg submitted an Application for Annexation of Property by Minor Boundary Adjustment, Tygart District. It appearing that the Application is in proper form and the petitioner is entitled to file said Application and make such application, it is hereby Ordered that said Application, and Exhibits, be and the same are, hereby filed. The Commission set a hearing date for January 11, 2010 at 10:30 A.M. and that notice of said hearing, including a description of the territory sought to be annexed, be published in The Parkersburg News and The Parkersburg Sentinel once a week for two consecutive weeks and that said Notice be

posted at not less than five public places within the areas proposed to be annexed. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

The County Commission of Wood County, upon a motion made by Wayne Dunn, seconded by David Blair Couch and made unanimous by Rick Modesitt, did hereby AUTHORIZE Rick Modesitt, in his official capacity as President and on behalf of the County Commission, to sign the Request for Reimbursement in regard to the Governor's Highway Safety Program Grant Number F10-HS-03-154. The Request for Reimbursement is in the amount of two thousand nine hundred seventy-one dollars and forty-six cents ($2,971.46) for the month of November, 2009. The Request for Reimbursement from the Program Activity Report, the time sheets for the Jackson County Sheriff's Department, the West Union Police Department, the Doddridge County Sheriff's Department, the Harrisville Police Department, the Parkersburg Police Department, and the Monthly Progress Report have been submitted. Documentation pertaining to the Governor's Highway Safety Program Grant is on file in the Office of the County Administrator. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

Having no further scheduled appointments or business to attend to, the County Commission adjourned.

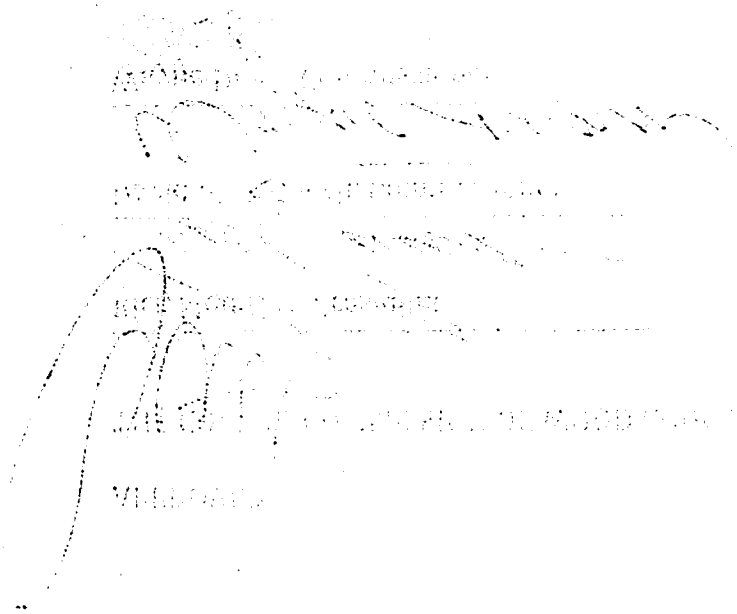
APPROVED:

THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF WOOD COUNTY

Rick Modesitt, President

David Blair Couch, Commissioner

Wayne Dunn, Commissioner



To listen to this meeting, please refer to DVD labeled December 21, 2009.

Wood County Commission Meeting
Held December 21, 2009

Please Print

1.	Larry Johnson
2.	Kelly Shook
3.	Tom Scott
4.	[illegible]
5.	Tim Miller
6.	Elizabeth Green
7.	John Reed
8.	Jeff Sandy
9.	Ron Cotletto
10.	Dennie Huggins
11.	T.R. Smith
12.	Mark King
13.	
14.	
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19.	
20.	

IN THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF WOOD COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

IN RE: ADDENDUM TO MINUTES OF MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2009

On this date, the County Commission of Wood County, upon a motion made by Wayne Dunn, seconded by David Blair Couch and made unanimous by Rick Modesitt, placed John Sines in nomination for appointment to the Lubeck Public Service District. Said vacancy is pursuant to an Order appearing in Order Book 51, at Page 433 and bearing the date of April 1, 1991, dealing with the procedure policy for appointments to Boards and Authorities. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

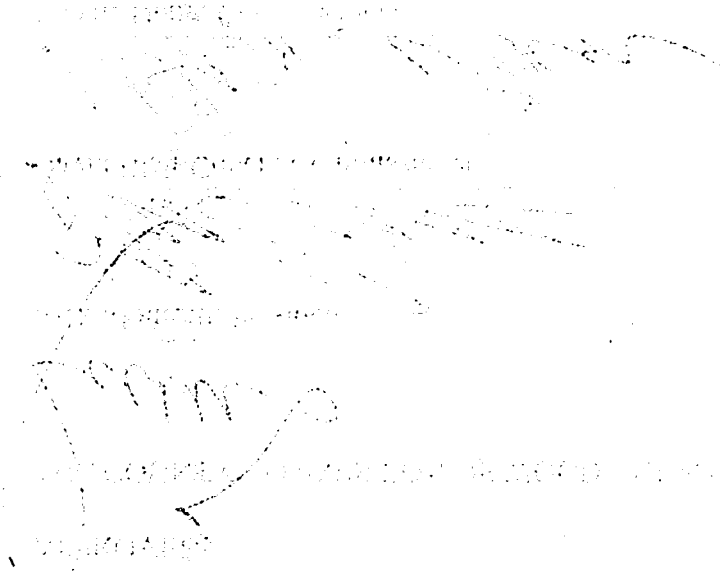
APPROVED:

THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF WOOD COUNTY

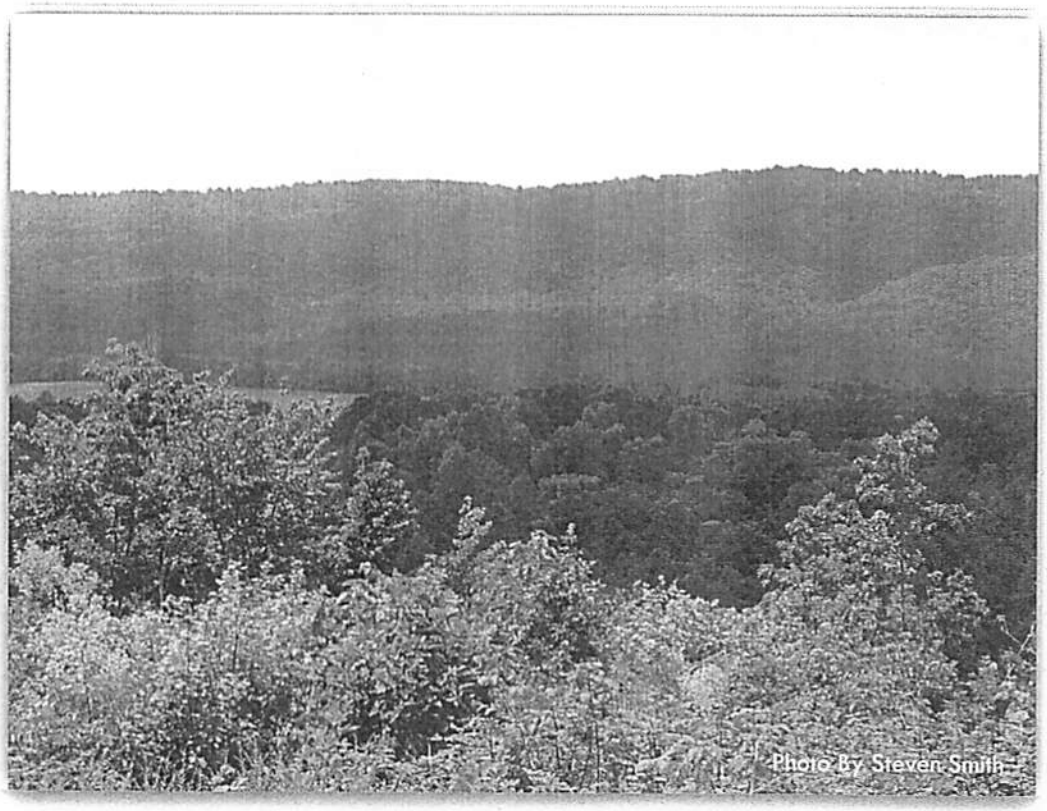
Rick Modesitt, President

David Blair Couch, Commissioner

Wayne Dunn, Commissioner



THE GOVERNOR'S COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PLAN *TO ADDRESS SUBSTANCE ABUSE* IN WEST VIRGINIA



November 2009

The West Virginia

Partnership

to Promote Community Well-Being

WV's Governor-Appointed Substance Abuse Prevention & Early Intervention Planning Body

This document was prepared by the West Virginia Prevention Resource Center with Drug Free WV Grant funds administered by The West Virginia Division of Criminal Justice Services.

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Dear Fellow West Virginians,

Serving as your Governor presents me with many challenges, but none more challenging than dealing with our state's substance abuse problems. As you know, West Virginia is a wonderful place to live and work. Unfortunately, we are not immune from the problem of substance abuse. We are experiencing alarming trends in prescription drug abuse, the use of illicit substances, and under-age drinking and tobacco use. These problems affect us all and stand as a barrier to our state reaching its full potential, rob us of our financial capital, and leave behind a wake of human suffering and personal tragedy. It places a tremendous financial burden on the state of approximately $2 billion each year.

Successfully addressing substance abuse calls for bold, aggressive action, innovation, and persistence. About a year ago, I directed the West Virginia Partnership to Promote Community Well-Being, our state-level substance abuse policy and planning board, and a body on which my wife, First Lady Gayle Manchin, is proud to serve, to develop a strategic drug abuse plan. This plan would guide the state, its institutions, communities, and citizens in solving this problem. It was important for the plan to support community-based efforts to address substance abuse and provide a roadmap for preventing much of the problem before it occurs.

A year-long planning effort has been undertaken calling on the resources and creativity of a broad cross-section of state and community leaders. The following document, *The Governor's Comprehensive Strategic Plan to Address Substance Abuse in West Virginia*, is the culmination of their efforts and provides an excellent framework for the changes needed to stem substance abuse in our state.

To make this plan succeed, I call on all affected state agencies and organizations to embrace the guiding principles and practices outlined in this document and unify in achieving its aims. Further, to attack the problem where it occurs, I encourage each citizen of our state to become involved in local efforts now under way or about to begin in their communities targeting substance abuse. I look forward to working with the Legislature and our state agencies to implement a long-term approach that will sustain a meaningful and effective system addressing the entire substance abuse continuum: *Prevention, Early Intervention, Treatment*, and *Recovery*. It is time that we took seriously the business of reducing substance abuse. We cannot afford not to.

A dramatic change in the way we go about the business of dealing with substance abuse in West Virginia is called for and provided in this plan. Gayle and I urge you to rise to the challenge and support this plan for a drug-free West Virginia.

JOE MANCHIN III
GOVERNOR

The Governor's Comprehensive Strategic Plan *To Address Substance Abuse in West Virginia*

Substance abuse affects a broader segment of West Virginia's citizens and their state and local governments than any other single issue confronting us today. Its severity and pervasiveness urgently call for an effective approach that reaches beyond the status quo. Changing the environment in our state that currently permits the problem to thrive requires the implementation of the guiding principles and practices set forth in this plan and an investment of resources on a level not previously committed. The Governor and The West Virginia Partnership to Promote Community Well-Being advance this plan as an evidence-based blueprint for reducing the human suffering and the crippling expense of substance abuse. The Governor and The WV Partnership believe this plan is innovative in its approach and promises to be both practical and effective. West Virginia can be successful in combating substance abuse, and this plan represents a clear way to begin.

ESSENTIAL NEEDS OF THE SYSTEM

Below are five components essential for an effective substance abuse system for the state.

1. Data: Epidemiology of Substance Abuse, Evaluation, and Research

The WV Partnership proposes an integrated data system for substance abuse issues that is comprehensive and accessible. This system will include data elements from every state agency that deals with substance abuse and will be used for assessment, evaluation, research, performance measurement, and accountability. Once constructed, the data system will be available publicly.

Relevant and reliable data must be available about the consequences of substance abuse, the nature of substance use (consumption patterns), and the factors that contribute to that use. Without such information, the state has no reliable grounds on which to plan, implement, or evaluate its efforts or to target resources where needs are greatest. Additionally, the availability of this data is needed to build capacity, develop the workforce, develop policy, and to determine if the efforts the state is making are effective.

Very few states budget financial or human resources adequately for analyzing, presenting, and using data. Good data can be used by many audiences -- by state government officials for financing and targeting funds to areas most in need, by local officials to identify the prevalence and extent of local problems, by capacity builders to determine workforce and organizational needs, and by policymakers to guide them in decision making. Overall, data is necessary to identify problems, develop solutions, and take action.

2. Continual Learning, Training, and Workforce Development

Continual improvement and advancement of the West Virginia system require the professional development of those working in the system at all levels. The state substance abuse system must have a learning orientation, in other words a learning system.

A learning system has a vision of what might be possible not brought about simply by training individuals. It happens as a result of learning at the whole system level. A learning system, in this sense, is a collection of individuals and organizations that facilitate the learning of its members and continuously transforms and improves itself to achieve the results it wants.

The state's system must identify the learning needs of its components and adapt accordingly to address those learning needs. Learning then becomes the principal mechanism by which the system strengthens itself.

3. Capacity Building (Technical Assistance)

Capacity building and the provision of technical assistance are extensions of a learning orientation. The WV Partnership believes its responsibility goes well beyond just providing funding. It must also commit to building communities' abilities to help themselves. This means providing opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills, and abilities to carry out successful efforts. In essence, capacity building allows time and resources to focus on the professionalization of the prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery workforce and the organizations for which they work.

The WV Partnership's first guiding principle is that "local people solve local problems best." Therefore, the Partnership views one of its primary roles as building and supporting local capacity. Capacity building, however, also applies to the membership of the WV Partnership, and its staff.

4. Communications

Open and multi-modal communications throughout the state substance abuse system at all levels, from local communities to the highest levels of state government, is an element that is absolutely essential to the proper functioning of the system. Multiple methods that can make full use of available technology are necessary.

5. Funding & Support

Acknowledging that resources are required to accomplish the mission of the substance abuse system, the WV Partnership calls for increased funds directed to substance abuse prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery efforts in West Virginia. The overall need for resources can be divided into three broad categories: programs, infrastructure, and research/evaluation.

Program resources are needed to provide the necessary support for work at the local level. The majority of funds will be directed to the local level.

Infrastructure resources are needed to support the system and its services. These funds would maintain the WV Partnership and its staff, an integrated data management and reporting system, training and workforce development, technical assistance, and communication systems.

Assessment/research/evaluation resources would support system-wide data collection, analysis, and reporting projects essential to a well-coordinated system. It would also allow the WV Partnership to uncover the roots of substance abuse issues in West Virginia.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION FOR THE WV PREVENTION SYSTEM

In 2006, Join Together Online (a program of the Boston University School of Public Health) published *Blueprint for the States: Policies to Improve the Ways States Organize and Deliver Alcohol and Drug Prevention and Treatment.* The document puts forth the findings and unanimous recommendations of a national policy panel. It focuses on state governments and suggests policy recommendations to use in organizing and delivering alcohol and drug prevention and treatment services. The WV Partnership concurs with these recommendations and has adopted them to guide West Virginia's response to addressing substance abuse in the following six areas:

1. Leadership

The Governor and the Legislature should become more involved in the WV Partnership in order to provide continuous leadership for a statewide strategy to prevent and address alcohol and drug problems. It is recommended that the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House recommend for appointment by the Governor a member of the House and the Senate as ex-officio members of the WV Partnership.

2. Structure

The WV Partnership is the governing and convening body for the West Virginia substance abuse system. It should be an independent alliance of stakeholders that reports directly to the Governor and the Legislature. Partnership members represent state government, West Virginia communities at large, and other professionals in the field. From state government, membership will include representation from the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state government. State agencies affected by alcohol and drug problems will have appointed members.

Community involvement will come through a network of 55 County Prevention Partnerships. The WV Partnership will establish the minimum organizational, operational, and governance requirements for local partnerships, and certify and designate a broadly representative partnership in each county of the state as the official (Governor appointed) primary entity responsible for local substance abuse issues. State prevention funds will only go to these local bodies, and their certification will be reviewed every three years.

Collectively, County Prevention Partnerships will be organized in one of four regions in the state following the WV Department of Health and Human Resources designated regions. Each region will elect a representative to serve on the WV Partnership with full membership privileges. Finally, outside professionals with expertise in the substance abuse continuum of care make invaluable contributions to the WV Partnership's activities.

To assure accountability, the WV Partnership will report its activities and results directly to the Governor, the Legislature, and to the general public on an annual basis. At the local level, county prevention partnerships will report to the WV Partnership and to their local constituencies annually. Reports will be available to the public.

3. Resources

The WV Partnership recommends that the state invest 5% of the direct costs of substance abuse to West Virginia in prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery efforts. West Virginia currently invests none of its own resources in prevention, early intervention, or recovery. As such, the WV Partnership recommends that the State commit to sustaining these efforts for a minimum of ten years. The funds would directly support county projects, regional and state projects, prevention research, and the prevention system infrastructure which supports the WV Partnership as well as local partnerships.

The WV Partnership will monitor reductions in the financial burden to the state and improvement in the well-being of West Virginia's communities relative to substance abuse. After the initial ten years, the investment will be assessed. Savings realized from these efforts will be used to defer the financial allotment to the WV Partnership and/or returned to state coffers.

4. Measurement and Accountability

It is recommended that the Legislature designate the WV Partnership as the official state repository of data concerning the social and financial aspects of substance abuse. The Legislature should then mandate a data-gathering system to monitor the burden substance abuse places on the state with core indicators (down to the local level) from state agencies impacted by substance abuse. The Legislature would also require these agencies to annually report this data to the WV Partnership. A similar system for reporting the financial burden should also be mandated.

The Legislature should require all secondary schools in West Virginia to participate in a statewide single youth survey every two years, and supplement existing federal funding so that a youth survey that is sufficiently comprehensive to capture regional- and local-level information can be administered. The WV Partnership will compile and analyze this data, make annual reports to the Governor and the Legislature, and disseminate it publicly for state, regional and local level prevention planning and evaluation.

5. Legislation

The WV Partnership recommends that the Legislature conduct a thorough review of current state law that establishes the state's alcohol and drug policies with regard to the full continuum of substance abuse services, i.e. prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery. Recommendations to bring current laws and regulations up to date should accompany the review.

6. Sustain State Focus and Attention

The Legislature should recognize the WV Partnership To Promote Community Well-Being as the state's designated substance abuse prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery planning body and maintain it with enough staff and authority to provide needed leadership and direction for the state's substance abuse efforts. The WV Partnership should continue to build and support community-based efforts to sustain a statewide commitment to continuing effective state action.


Photo By Steven Smith

PROPOSAL FOR FINANCING THE WV SUBSTANCE ABUSE SYSTEM

The Public Consulting Group determined in 2006 that the total cost to West Virginia for substance abuse was $1.86 billion. Of that, $470 million were direct costs related to the consequences of substance abuse. While the WV Partnership is committed to the concept of coordinated funding among member agencies and will continue to pursue public and private grant opportunities that further its mission, these resources have proven to be inadequate to address the burden of substance abuse in a meaningful way.

As noted above, the WV Partnership recommends that West Virginia invest 5% of the current direct cost of substance abuse annually in prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery services. Instead of asking for a handout, the WV Partnership proposes a plan by which the Legislature and Governor can invest in reducing the devastating social and financial burden caused by substance abuse in the state, while improving community well-being. The investment would be distributed by the WV Partnership using its current practice of data-driven decision making to insure that investments go where the needs are greatest. A commitment to this initial investment should be for a minimum of ten years to allow sufficient time for these efforts to make measurable and significant progress.

Grants will be distributed to certified County Prevention Partnerships (CPPs) based on the magnitude of their needs as determined by relevant and reliable data. Support will be provided to counties through ongoing evaluation, learning, workforce development, communications, and technical assistance. CPPs will be expected to reduce the social and financial burden of substance abuse in their counties through evidence-based programs, practices, and policies. Their activities and results will be regularly monitored and expected to continually improve.

As the financial burden of substance abuse to the state is reduced, the savings will be returned to the state and counties. The WV Partnership will continue to monitor grants and insure accountability. It will continue to support the maintenance and improvement of the infrastructure as well as capacity building, technical assistance, and research activities. The 5% investment could be made available by raising taxes on alcohol, some of which have not been raised in West Virginia since 1966.

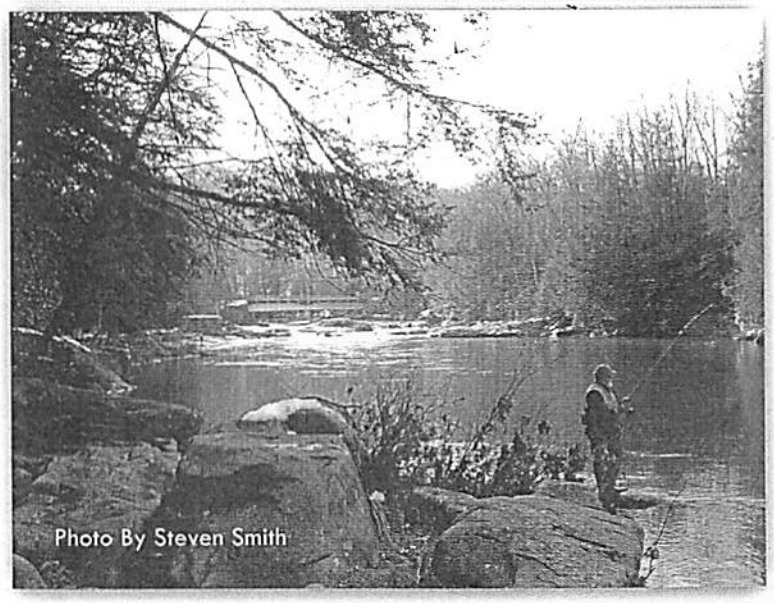


Photo By Steven Smith

"The consequences of alcohol misuse and illicit drugs are the single greatest drain on state budgets. Their negative impact on children, families and communities is beyond measure. State governments have the power to change all of this through leadership, optimal structure and better use of fiscal and human resources. Strong systems of measurement and accountability will be needed to show voters the results. We believe that the public will respond to this progress with added support for further improvements."

Blueprint for the States: Policies to Improve the Ways States Organize and Deliver Alcohol and Drug Prevention and Treatment

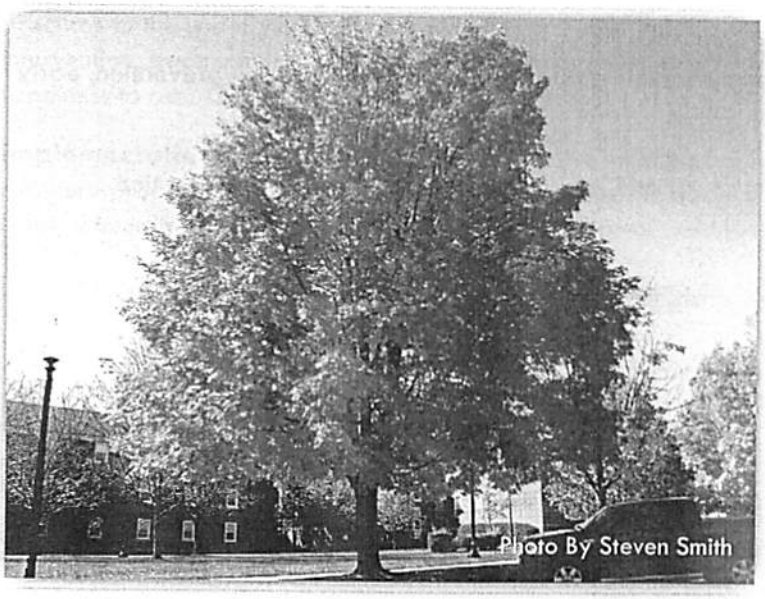
INVESTMENT PLAN

West Virginia lacks adequate investment to solve its substance abuse problems. Therefore, new funds will be necessary to substantially impact the substance abuse issues in the state and reduce the financial burden. The WV Partnership recommends that the Legislature invest 5% of the direct financial burden of substance abuse in West Virginia (estimated at $470 million per year), which amounts to approximately $23.5 million annually.

The WV Partnership proposes allocating these funds in the following way: 75% for programs and practices, 20% for infrastructure (which includes administration and management), and 5% for assessment, research, and evaluation, as follows:

Funding Area	Amount	Target
Programs & Projects	$17,625,000	Community, regional, statewide programs
Infrastructure	$4,700,000	Community support, technical assistance, workforce development, management and administration
Assessment/Research/ Evaluation	$1,175,000	Evaluation, epidemiology, community research

The majority of funding for programs and projects will go directly to County Prevention Partnerships to conduct comprehensive prevention programs throughout their counties. In addition to community-based prevention, a number of treatment and early intervention programs will be funded across the state where the need is highest. Recovery programs will also be funded across the state according to need.



Funding for infrastructure will allow the WV Partnership to maintain a system of training, workforce development, technical assistance, and communications with every county in the state. These funds will also cover the administration and management of the state system. Research and evaluation funds will allow the WV Partnership to operate as the official state repository of data concerning the social and financial aspects of substance abuse. It will also enable the WV Partnership to conduct research to identify and develop the best practices for the system to use in reducing the social and financial burden to the state.

The disbursement of funds towards prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery programs as well as infrastructure and assessment/evaluation will be determined annually by the WV Partnership based upon data and system information. These decisions will be incorporated in the WV Partnership's annual reports to the Governor, the Legislature, and the public.

MISSION AND GOALS

For five years, the WV Partnership has worked toward its mission: To build and support a sustainable effort to reduce substance abuse and related problems in West Virginia.

The WV Partnership believes that the most promising way to meet its mission is by developing a full statewide system to address substance abuse through comprehensive and inter-related efforts that incorporate a continuum of care from prevention through addiction recovery. As such, the intent of the WV Partnership is two-fold: (1) continue to develop this statewide system, and (2) build the capacity of this system to produce results using data-driven planning processes and evidence-based programs, policies, and practices.

The WV Partnership realizes that substance abuse is a complex problem that defies simple classification. It is an insidious social and public health issue that crosses age, gender, economic, social, racial, cultural, and other boundaries and is a significant issue for all major departments of state government. No individual, community, agency, or organization can prevent substance abuse on its own. Instead, it requires a comprehensive, targeted, multi-disciplinary approach involving local communities, government, and professional expertise. The causes of substance abuse are multifaceted, complex, and involve more than one factor. Therefore, any single approach or strategy has little, if any, chance of being able to change substance abuse.

The "comprehensive approach" supported by the WV Partnership means addressing substance abuse issues from cradle to grave at all levels of severity. The Institute of Medicine's Continuum of Care designates four broad strategies for addressing substance abuse: *prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery.*

The WV Partnership puts forth the following goals to accomplish its mission:

Goal 1: Develop and implement a system of comprehensive substance abuse strategies in prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery

Goal 2: Improve the coordination of alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery services

Goal 3: Increase the availability of prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery programs

Goal 4: Increase the quality of prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery workforce and the services it provides

The WV Partnership's prevention initiative is community-based in each county of the state using strategic data-driven planning and evidence-based practices. The early intervention initiative targets young people in the early onset stage of substance abuse whose behavior has brought them to the attention of court, school, DHHR or other authorities. Early intervention programs serve the young substance user and their families. Programs will serve multi-county regions. The WV Partnership will explore new venues for treatment services not available in the past. Finally, the WV Partnership's recovery initiative will develop small peer-to-peer, mutual help recovery programs in multi-county regions.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES

This Comprehensive Strategic Plan rests upon two interdependent parts: Guiding Principles and Guiding Practices.

Guiding Principles inform the general public about the beliefs they can expect to be upheld by the work of the WV Partnership and the state system to guide the efforts of state agencies, local organizations, and all their programs in everyday practice, as they evolve.

- Local people solve local problems best.
- People support what they help create.
- Science matters, therefore decision making at all levels of the system must be driven by data and implementation strategies must be evidence based.
- Context matters.
- The state's role is to provide a system of support and processes for continual learning.
- Communication must be open, rigorous, and reciprocal.
- There must be representation and leadership from the Governor's office and Legislature.
- State prevention efforts must focus on a public health model, i.e. focus on population change.

Guiding Practices are best practices in developing data-driven, evidenced-based efforts at the local or state level:

Assessment is the practice of determining the nature, magnitude, and extent of the substance abuse problem; the readiness at the state and local level to address substance abuse; and the assets and gaps in services and resources available for prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery efforts. For the purposes of this guiding practice, resources refer to the areas of physical/fiscal capital, human capital, and social capital.

Planning, based on reliable assessment results, is used to determine what specific issues to address along with the best approaches to addressing them comprehensively. To ensure effectiveness, comprehensive plans must include logic models that conceptually link prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery programs, policies, or practices to the underlying factors/conditions that contribute to substance abuse problems. Also, prevention, early intervention, treatment, recovery programs, and policies or practices must fit with the capacity, resources, or readiness to act. Otherwise, they are unlikely to succeed.

Implementation refers to carrying out the actions or implementing the prevention, early intervention, treatment, recovery programs, and policies or practices identified in comprehensive plans. Implementation must occur at a level of intensity that most likely will lead to sought-after results.

Evaluation is conducted to provide the essential feedback to determine what is working, what is not, and with what outcomes.

These four practices are necessary for any prevention, early intervention, treatment, or recovery effort to be effective. In addition, the WV Partnership believes in the value of cultural competency to understand, respect, and effectively work with persons and/or groups with various age, gender, economic, social, racial, cultural, and other boundaries. Furthermore, sustainability can only be achieved through on-going capacity-building efforts. The WV Partnership sees these guiding practices as the overall core effort it supports.

CONCLUSION

Substance abuse is arguably the most pervasive problem facing West Virginia and the nation. In West Virginia, substance abuse problems cost us more than $1.8 billion in direct and indirect costs in 2006 alone. Addressing substance abuse is therefore a crucial issue for West Virginia and its communities.

Governor Joe Manchin and The West Virginia Partnership To Promote Community Well-Being present this Comprehensive Strategic Plan to the West Virginia Legislature and the citizens of West Virginia as a guide for all substance abuse efforts in our state.

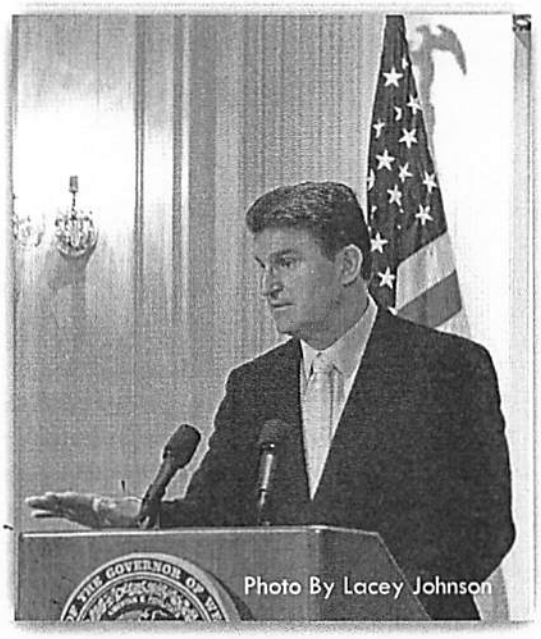


Photo By Lacey Johnson