



Marshall Health

## 2019 GREAT RIVERS REGIONAL SYSTEM FOR ADDICTION CARE & SOUTHERN WV CONSORTIUM ANNUAL MEETING EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The central purpose of the 2019 Great Rivers Regional System for Addiction Care and Southern WV Consortium annual meeting, sponsored by Marshall Health, was to strengthen strategic efforts across nine counties in WV that have been hardest hit by the opioid epidemic. These counties include: Cabell, Jackson, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Putnam and Wyoming.

A key focus of the annual meeting was to engage participants in discussion on opportunities around:

- Best Practices in Tele-Behavior Health
- The Kentucky State Police Angel Initiative
- Creating Opportunities for Recovery Employment (CORE)
- Recovery Friendly Businesses, Lifesavers and Engaging the Power of Arts
- The Specialized Community Health Worker-Recovery Coach Model

To accomplish this, the Great Rivers Regional System for Addiction Care and the Southern WV Consortium brought together over 120 community partners from public health, substance abuse prevention coalitions, local public health departments, federally qualified health centers, behavior health centers, medication assisted treatment providers, recovery residences, hospitals, law enforcement, family resource networks, faith-based communities, insurance payers, county commissioners, board of education, universities and first responders. These key stakeholders represented more than 80 organizations from nine counties in West Virginia. Speakers included national, state and local partners and experts on tele-behavioral health, law enforcement partnership with recovery, opportunities for recovery employment, recovery friendly businesses, community naloxone distribution, fostering creativity with those in recovery and specialized community health worker/peer recovery coach model.

Opening remarks were provided by Bob Hansen, Director, WV Office of Drug Control Policy, Dr. Lyn O'Connell, Director of Addiction Sciences, Marshall Health and Leslie Hardy, Merck Foundation. Mr. Hansen provided a history of the Great Rivers Regional System for Addiction Care. Dr. O'Connell provided an overview of Marshall Health's Addiction Science Division. Leslie Hardy spoke about the role of the Merck Foundation and the innovative efforts of Great Rivers Regional System for Addiction Care. Following the meeting, all PowerPoint presentations were made available on the Marshall Health website at <https://marshallhealth.org/greatrivers>.

## Next Steps

The Great Rivers Regional System for Addiction Care and Southern West Virginia Opioid Consortium are open to any individual interested in participating in regional health improvement collaboration related to the substance use epidemic, including but not limited to health care professionals, nonprofit organizations, community partners and academic partners. A second combined meeting will be scheduled in early 2020. Look for future details on <https://marshallhealth.org/greatrivers> or follow [Great Rivers Regional System for Addiction Care on Facebook](#).