

WV Hope in Action Alliance

Annual Report

An annual review of West Virginia's state coalition for mental health and substance use disorders.



Explore More



Executive Director's Note

Dear Stakeholders:

The Alliance experienced exponential growth during 2023. Conversations with members, results from the Members' Feedback Survey, and an analysis of existing initiatives guided the Alliance to further develop its strategic plan. We embraced many changes and will continue to pivot to meet the needs of the state.

Thank you for supporting me as the Executive Director as I acclimated to this role. The past ten months have been busy, and it was a pleasure visiting 3/4 of the membership across 30+ counties. I look forward to strengthening our partnerships and expanding the Alliance's capacity. Great work, WV!

Mary Newlyn

Executive Director - WVHIAA



Organization Information

Fiscal Agent:

United Way Alliance of the Mid-Ohio Valley

Website:

wwhopeinaction.org

Mission:

To connect community sectors across West Virginia through collaboration, communication, and facilitation of innovative solutions to address mental health and substance use disorder and their effects in the state.

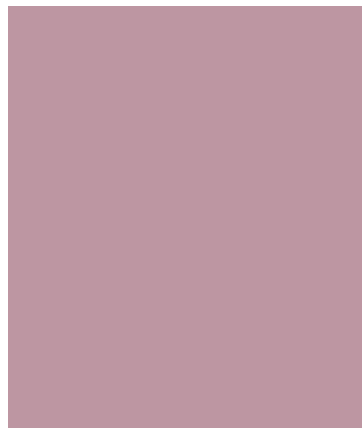
Vision:

Communities in West Virginia will be stronger by fostering connections and building environments where everyone will have the opportunity to thrive.

Core Values:

We believe and are dedicated to...

- Moving beyond the status quo because change is possible.
- Seeking opportunities to work with community stakeholders through creating strong partnerships.
- Cultivating an inclusive environment resulting in innovative long-term solutions; representation across sectors, lived experiences, content expertise, cultures, and geographic regions.



Staff, Steering Committee, & Contracted Labor

Staff

Mary Newlyn, Executive Director (hired 02/27/2023)

Steering Committee

Angie Gray

Bob Hansen, Chair, Co-founder

Jimeca Iyomere

John Leite

Autumn McCraw

Josh McGill, Treasurer

Dr. Garrett Moran

Jeremiah Nelson

Dr. Cathy Slempe, Vice Chair, Co-founder

Amy Snodgrass

Lee Storrow

Stephanie Stout

JoAnna Vance



Contracted Labor

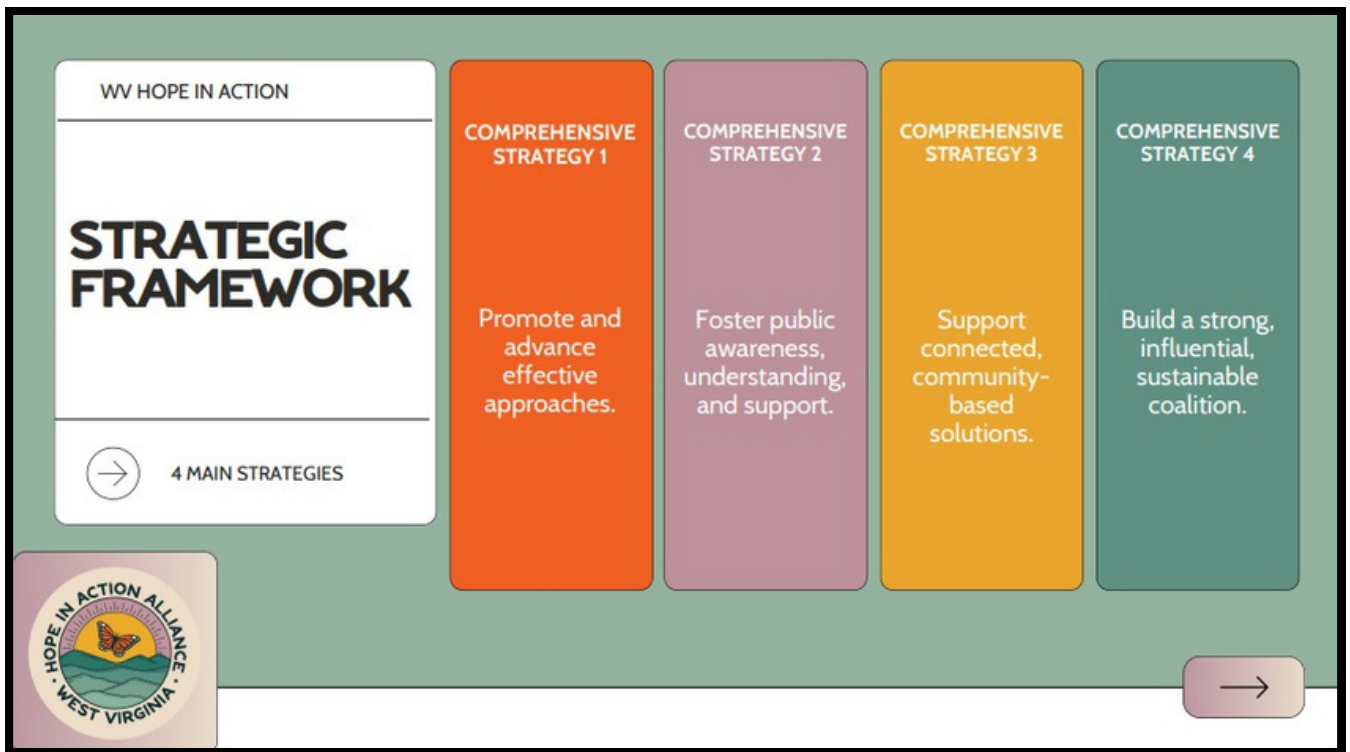
Jami Bamberger, AmeriCorps VISTA

Taylor Butts, Communications Support

Jackie Calhoun, Facilitation/Strategic Planning

Becky King, Facilitation/Strategic Planning

Strategic Framework

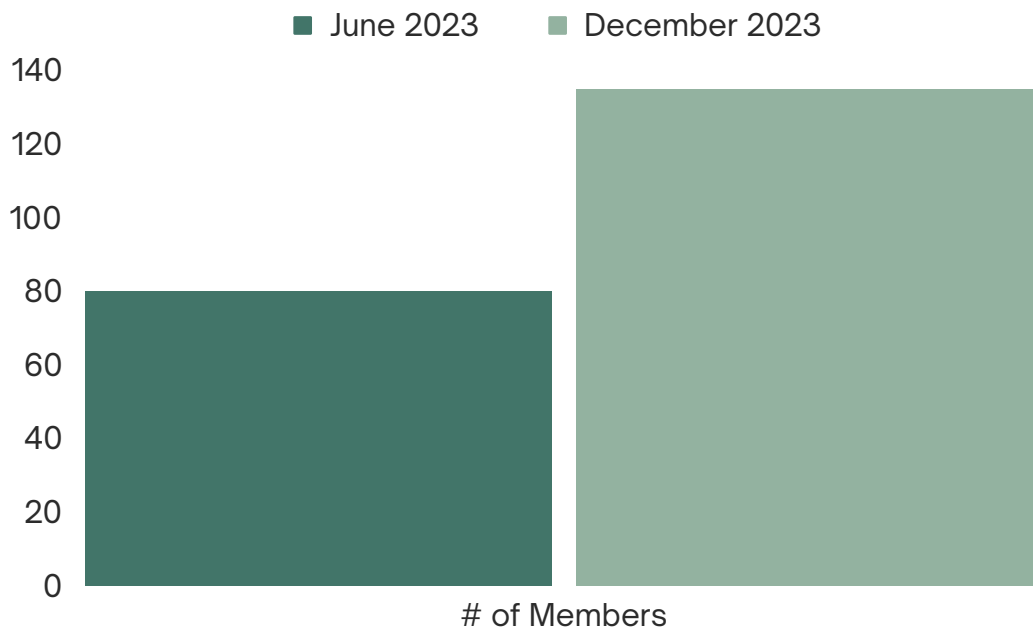


[Learn more!](#)

The Executive Director and Steering Committee attended a strategic planning retreat at Fairmont State University on July 25, 2023. The retreat was facilitated by Becky King and resulted in updates to the charter and strategic plan. Expert guidance from CADCA and two comprehensive surveys were utilized in this process.

Membership

The WV Hope in Action Alliance follows proven strategies recommended by CADCA and SAMHSA. The twelve community sectors needed for a successful coalition include business, civic/volunteer groups, community members, government, health, law enforcement, media, religious/fraternal organizations, schools (including higher ed), substance use organizations, youth, and youth-serving organizations.



Increase in Active Membership
June - December

59.3%



Community Sectors
Represented

10 of 12

Regions Represented

6 of 6

Organizations Represented in the Alliance

Academy for Integrating Behavioral Health & Primary Care
American Friends Service Committee
Barbour Community Health Association
Becky King Consulting
Benedum Foundation
Bureau for Behavioral Health
Bureau for Public Health
Cabell-Huntington Health Department
Calhoun Family Resource Network
CAMC, Vandalia Health
Center for Rural Health Development
Clarksburg Mission, Celebrate Recovery at Clarksburg Baptist Church
Clay Family Support Center
Communities of Shalom
Community Connections, Inc.
Community Education Group
Community Health Improvement Associates
Concord University
County Commissioners' Association of WV
Department of Behavioral Medicine and Psychiatry
Eastridge Health Systems
Fayette Health Department
First Choice Services
Future Generations
Grant County (Regional) P.I.T.A.R.
Great Rivers/Marshall Health
Greenbrier County Commission
Huntington Police Department
Indivior
Jackson County Health Department

Organizations Represented in the Alliance

Jefferson-Berkeley Alliance
Jefferson Day Report Center, Inc.
Jobs & Hope WV
Life or Drugs, Tri-State Support
Marshall Health
Marshall University Research Corporation
Marshall University - WV Collegiate Recovery Network
ModivCare
Morgan County Partnership
Nicholas County Health Department
Office of Drug Control Policy
Potomac Highlands Guild
Prestera Center
ProFuse Solutions
Quality Insights
Raleigh County Family Support Center
Raleigh County Prevention Coalition
RCCR
Youth Services System, Inc.
Semper Liberi
Seneca
Shepherd University
Sisters Health Foundation
Southern Highlands Crisis Mental Health Center
Southwestern Regional Day Report Center
Speak Sobriety, LLC
The EdVenture Group
The Manahan Group
The Martinsburg Initiative
The REACH Initiative

Organizations Represented in the Alliance

Think Kids
Try This WV
Valley Healthcare System
Victoria's House Child Advocacy Center
West Virginia Drug Intervention Institute
West Virginia Perinatal Partnership
West Virginia Primary Care Association
West Virginia Sober Living Solutions
West Virginia University School of Medicine
Westbrook Health Services
Williamson Health & Wellness Center, Inc.
WV Alliance of Recovery Residences (WVARR)
WV Association of Counties
WV BOP
WV DHHR
WV Judicial and Lawyer Assistance Program
WV Office of Maternal, Child, & Family Health
WV Prevention Solutions
WVU Behavioral Medicine and Psychiatry
WVU Health Affairs Institute
WVU Institute For Community and Rural Health
WVU Medicine, Thomas Hospitals
WVU Medicine, Berkeley Medical Center
YWCA Wheeling



Membership Support

The Alliance provided facilitation, marketing, and sponsorships for members and their organizations. These initiatives supported various community sectors across the state.

- Recovery Advocacy Day at the Capitol
- Appalachian Save a Life Day
- Statewide CIT training for Communications Specialists (31 dispatchers trained)
- Life, Hope, and Recovery Block Party
- Transtheoretical Model of Change presentation
- Civic Engagement Education Toolkit
- Glow Run for Recovery
- WVCRN Concord University's Sober Halloween Party
- WVABCA PEEP Conference
- WVAAPP Annual Professional Development Summit
- Regrounding Our Response WV fall series
- Resource guides for opioid settlement spending
- Advocacy webinars
- Opioid Response Network Regional Summit
- Leading for Justice - Youth Track Conference
- "December to Remember" event

*There may be additional support measures not included in this list.

\$8,950

Spent on Sponsorships



Coalition Support

As the state coalition, the Alliance provided advocacy, facilitation, technical assistance, and sponsorships for community coalitions and prevention programs. In 2023, the Alliance prioritized removing barriers for community coalitions and advocated for funding to increase local capacity.

- Bridges 2.0: Community Coalition Building conference
- Listening sessions for community coalitions
- Strategic planning session for prevention leads and coalition leaders
- CADCA WV State Forum

*There may be additional support measures not included in this list.

\$11,227.80

Spent on Coalition Support

Funding Sources

These sources fund one full-time staff position and operationalize the Alliance’s strategic framework. The Alliance’s fiscal year runs from April 1st through March 31st. Financial reports are available upon request.

2023 Funders

The Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation	\$105,000
The Bernard McDonough Foundation	\$20,000
Community Education Group	\$10,000
The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation	\$5,000
Community Connections, Inc.	\$54,167
Legend	In Progress Funding Ended by 12/31/2023



Increased Communication with Members

- The Hope Scope
 - Monthly newsletter with an average of 150 clicks per month
- Best of West
 - Podcast, for professionals by professionals, with 6 episodes
- Active Facebook, Instagram, and Linked-In pages



Looking Ahead

Nearly half of the membership completed the anonymous Members' Feedback Survey in June 2023. The following quotes were provided.

As the Alliance enters its next phase of development, I would like to see the Alliance become:

"A leader who takes a stance on tough issues and focuses on supporting the people working in this field. We need people to support us at the state level."

"Better able to attract money to do important work in the communities."

"The voice of advocacy for substance use disorders - prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery."

"A prominent advocate in the state taking a stance on policies and leading members to create significant change."

"Continue to further strengthen its role as a catalyst for stronger ways to address the SU issue as a state. This includes, but is not limited to, assuring more coordination across sectors and being a venue for innovative ideas to be sparked and operationalized."

JOIN US
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2023
12 PM VIRTUAL LUNCH & LEARN
1 FREE CE*

ADVOCACY IN ACTION
WITH REV. JOHN UNGER
co-hosted by WVAAPP & WVHIAA

Creating change is difficult work, especially at a policy and systemic level and it begins with us. Join us with Rev. John Unger to learn more about how to prepare for success. With his experience in all three branches of government (legislative, judiciary, and executive) as well as three different levels of government (state, local, and federal) government he brings a unique skill set to our conversation. We will discuss the fundamentals of how to approach policymakers and legislators, the best ways to connect, learn what they want to know, and how we can best help them to make informed decisions that impact us all.

Rev. Unger is a former WV State Senator, founder of @RACE (Racial Recovery and Community Engagement), and currently serves as Senior Advisor to the White House Executive Office of the President/Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). Additionally, he served the local community as a magistrate and Drug Treatment Court judge. He is also a member of the WVAAPP Board.

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONALS ARE AMAZING!
NATIONAL ADDICTION PROFESSIONALS WEEK
September 18-22, 2023

*Free CE for those with WVAAPP Credentials

[Click here to register here!](#)

Communications Specialist CIT

The 8-hour online course is tailored to equip communications specialists in the WVAAPP field to their special role in the state response network. Conducted by live instructors, this course will be delivered virtually in two 4-hour sessions on consecutive days.

The curriculum empowers students to recognize potential mental health related calls, employ de-escalation techniques, and assess calls to dispatch appropriate services to facilitate a smoother transition with crisis intervention. Students gain insights to determine when to involve a CIT officer and understand which details are necessary to collect and relay to the responding officer.

The course will feature the new skills with role-play simulations modeled after real-world calls. These scenarios provide participants with an opportunity to learn from their own call logs.

Overview of course:

- Components of CIT
- Mental Health
- Suicide Intervention
- Verbal De-escalation
- Role Play Exercises

Who is eligible for this free opportunity?

Nominations from Supervisors Supervisors can nominate an employee from their call logs.	2+ Years of Experience Applicants must have a minimum of two years of experience in a Communications Specialist role.
Train-the-Trainer Nominations must be coming from individuals attending the Train-the-Trainer course following their completion of CIT.	Complete the Form!

Sponsored by:

2023 ARC INSPIRE WORKSHOP

Wednesday, November 8
10:00 AM to 3:30 PM

EVENT: ARC INSPIRE Readiness Workshop

SPONSORED BY: Boreman Foundation, WV Hope in Action Alliance, WV Partnership for Health Innovation

LOCATION: Flatwoods Days Inn & Suites and Conference Center

Limited to 50 organizations
2 participants from each

What people will get from this workshop:

- An Understanding of ARC INSPIRE
- Opportunity to develop a project concept
- Development of a list of potential partners, their roles, and how to engage them in your project and request letters of commitment
- Ideas for funding sources to meet funding match requirements
- A timeline for readiness prior to and following the release of the 2024 funding announcement

TO REGISTER: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HMYSYGL>

LISTENING SESSIONS: COMMUNITY COALITIONS

Community coalition members are invited to share their feedback and discuss community needs.

Region 1 Monday, October 30 6:30 - 7:30 PM	Region 2 Wednesday, November 1 6:30 - 7:30 PM
Region 3 Thursday, November 2 6:30 - 7:30 PM	Region 4 Monday, November 6 6:30 - 7:30 PM
Region 5 Tuesday, November 7 6:30 - 7:30 PM	Region 6 Thursday, November 9 6:30 - 7:30 PM

FACILITATED BY:

Scan the QR code or register [here!](#)