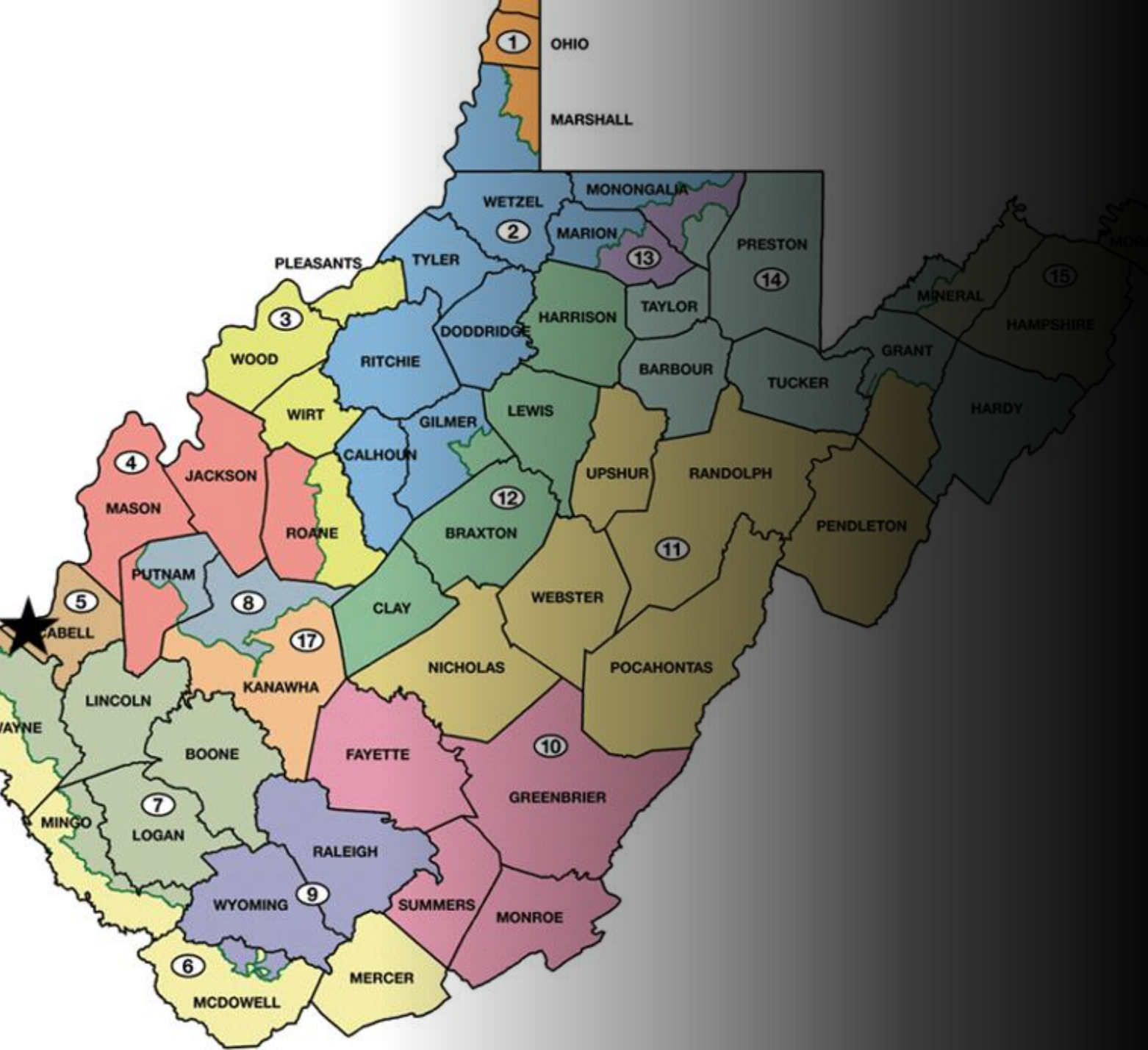


“City of Solutions” Adjustments to COVID-19

Mayor Steve Williams

Fire Chief Jan Rader





Huntington, West Virginia

- Second largest city in West Virginia (population of 45,110)
- County seat of Cabell County (population of 91,945)
- Home to Marshall University
- Two Level 2 Trauma Centers – Cabell Huntington Hospital, St. Mary's Medical Center

Public Health System

Mayor's Office of Drug Control Policy

- Formed by Mayor Steve Williams in the Fall of 2014
- Involved individuals on the frontlines to analyze the problem and develop strategies
- Broke down the silos & united the community to make positive change
- Facilitated many successful programs to assist those suffering from substance use disorder



Huntington's Road to Recovery

City of Solutions



- Harm Reduction
- Drug Court Expansion
- Quick Response Team
- Proact – Comprehensive Treatment Hub
- Compass Navigating Wellness
- Project Hope for Women & Children

Barriers Due to COVID-19

Leadership/Community Barriers

- PPE for first responders and healthcare facility staff
- Need for policy changes
- Fear of the unknown
- Funding
- Revenue losses

Individuals with Substance Use Disorder and/or Mental Illness

- Isolation – relapse without human interaction
- Fear of healthcare facilities
- Financial hardships, job loss, food security, eviction, etc.
- Homeless do not have a way to self-quarantine or isolate

Adjustments to COVID-19

Non-Congregate Housing

Immediate need for those in the community who cannot self-quarantine or isolate

Cabell-Huntington Health Dept. & Coalition for the Homeless partnered

- Working group formed to advise: City of Huntington, United Way, Mountain Health, Domestic Violence Shelter, City Mission, and State of WV
- Helped slow the spread of the virus
- Preserved hospital capacity

Adjustments to COVID-19 *Non-Congregate Housing*

22 rooms were rented at a local hotel

- Substance use disorder treatment offered including MAT
- Staffed 24/7
- Persons residing in shelter are exited to permanent housing

Start-up funding: State of WV, Cabell-Huntington Health Dept., the Pallottine Foundation, City of Huntington

FEMA & CARES Act continue to fund

Adjustments to COVID-19 *Congregate Shelter*

Huntington City Mission

- Opened Chapel with cots (properly spaced) to the unsheltered at night who refused to stay in regular side of Mission due to rules
- An overflow emergency shelter was established through a local recovery agency

Day Shelter for the homeless began using telehealth services to provide basic healthcare and access to therapy and medication management for MAT.

Utilized Marshall University staff to provide emotional support to clients through non-clinical conversations by phone.

Adjustments to COVID-19

QRT – Quick Response Team

Due to inability to avoid close contact with clients, began leaving support kits on porches.

Once the data showed there was a spike in ODs, naloxone was added to kits.

Counseling and support provided over the phone.

Once proper PPE was acquired, QRT began meeting with individuals if requested.

Adjustments to COVID-19 *Overdose Data*

