

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Youth Subcommittee Thursday, August 28, 2025, Approved

Attendees:

Subcommittee Members Attending: Rebecca Crowder, Amy Sadler, Elizabeth Shahan (co-chair), Josh VanBibber

Invited Subcommittee Members, Not Attending: Misty Atkins, Tahnee Bryant, EJ Jenkins, Jo Anne McNemar, Tiffany Pittman

Guests Attending: Jessica Whitmore

Office of Drug Control Policy Staff: Dr. Stephen Loyd, Jessica Smith

SOR Regional Coordinators: Barbra Masih, Raj Masih

Marshall University Staff: Rachel Bledsoe, Bradley McCoy

Opening:

Rebecca Crowder provided welcome and opening remarks of this meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Youth Subcommittee. The meeting was called to order on Thursday, August 28, 2025, and was conducted by Zoom conference. The July meeting minutes were approved by a quorum via email on July 31, 2025. Tahnee Bryant made a motion by email to approve the meeting minutes, which was seconded by Jo Anne McNemar, with all in favor and none opposed. Five additional subcommittee members responded to support the motion by email for a total of seven. There was no further discussion. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss key performance indicator (KPI) progress.

Agenda Items:

Welcome and Introductions

- Josh VanBibber has accepted a new position and will no longer be on the Subcommittee.

Meeting Minutes Approval Process

- Bradley McCoy informed the Subcommittee about the new meeting minutes approval process. If a quorum is not present at the meeting, meeting minutes will be shared via email, and a quorum of Subcommittee members will respond with their edits/motions for approval. All previous meeting minutes have been approved.

2025 KPI Progress

- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** The Youth Subcommittee Chairs have met with all Subcommittee Chairs multiple times but want to schedule another meeting with entire Prevention Subcommittee.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** Rebecca Crowder is meeting with Amy Sadler and Lata Menon from First Choice Services to complete the data profile by the next meeting. Brad Story with the West Virginia Behavioral Healthcare Providers Association is another potential contact for information.

- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** The West Virginia Certification Board for Addiction Professionals is working to develop a Youth Peer Recovery Support Specialist certification but is currently researching best practices. Peers will not be under 18 so they are not a direct peer-to-peer experience, but it will be someone with lived youth experience or experience working with youth. They are researching models in other states. This Subcommittee is still documenting behavioral health services even if they do not provide substance use disorder (SUD) treatment to document the difference. The Office of Drug Control Policy's Treatment map will be launched in September.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 3:** In lieu of a survey, the Chairs would like to coordinate with Deb Koester to meet with representatives from the managed care organizations (MCOs).
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 4:** Elizabeth Shahan joins all Subcommittee meetings now.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 5:** Rebecca Crowder's list of resources will be complete by the September meeting.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 6:** This KPI can only be completed following previous KPIs. They will use the fall to develop recommendations.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 7:** This KPI can only be completed following previous KPIs. They will likely present this at the January Governor's Council meeting.

Fall Meeting Planning

- The Subcommittee changed the September date of their meeting to now be Friday, September 26, 2025 at 12:00 PM. They will still need to reschedule the November and December dates due to holidays.

Subcommittee Chair Meeting Updates

- The Subcommittee Chairs have had meetings in July and August to work outside of the State Plan but serve as subject matter experts for Dr. Stephen Loyd to develop measurable indicators for his Recovery Ecosystem Model. They will use this data to inform policy and show it to the legislature next year.

Community Conversations

- Bradley McCoy provided an overview of the Community Conversations and the schedule. The virtual format will be the same as in previous years with the addition of an Open Discussion breakout. The three virtual and four-in-person Community Conversations are scheduled for:
 - Wednesday September 3rd 1:00-3:00 (virtual)
 - Friday September 5th 1:00-3:00 (virtual)
 - Tuesday September 9th 3:45-5:15 (in person, Charleston, WV)
 - Thursday September 11th 6:00-8:00 (in person, Logan, WV)
 - Monday September 15th 4:00-6:00 (in person, Moorefield, WV)
 - Tuesday September 16th (4:00-6:00) (in person, Wheeling (WV)
- Elizabeth Shahan shared her experience as a facilitator for the virtual Community Conversation that already occurred on August 27, 2025 and gave a brief overview of topics discussed such as barriers to youth treatment which included funding, professional capacity, and providers' hesitancy to diagnose SUD in youth.

Additional Discussion

- Josh VanBibber sent multiple links for resources.

- The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Agency Directors has youth coordinators for every state. <https://nasadad.org/sysacc/>
- West Virginia University's Center for Excellence in Disabilities offers Regional Transition Navigator Services (RTNS) to teach youth successful life skills. <https://rtn.cedwvu.org/>
- The following link is a list of Juvenile Reporting Centers: <https://dcr.wv.gov/facilities/Pages/Juvenile-Facilities-and-Reporting-Centers.aspx>
- Pathways is a collection of resources, tools and people to help students with disabilities, through the journey from youth to adulthood. <https://www.pathwayswv.org/>
- The following link is for the state Family Support Centers. <https://bfa.wv.gov/bfa-community-programs/family-support-centers>

Adjournment:

Rebecca closed the meeting by thanking all Subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. The Youth Subcommittee will meet again Friday, September 26, 2025 at 12:00 PM.