

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Youth Subcommittee Friday, September 26, 2025, Approved

Attendees:

Subcommittee Members Attending: Misty Atkins, Tahnee Bryant, Rebecca Crowder, Jo Anne McNemar, Elizabeth Shahan (co-chair)

Invited Subcommittee Members, Not Attending: EJ Jenkins, Tiffany Pittman, Amy Sadler,

Guests Attending: Danny Anderson, Jessica Whitmore

Office of Drug Control Policy Staff: Olivia Fox

State Opioid Response (SOR) Regional Coordinators: Christina Adkins

Marshall University Staff: 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 Friday September 26, 2025, and was conducted by Google Meet conference. Co-chairs Rebecca Crowder and Elizabeth Shahan approved the August meeting minutes. There was no further discussion. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss key performance indicator (KPI) progress.

Agenda Items:

Meeting Minutes Approval Process

- Bradley McCoy informed the Subcommittee about the new meeting minutes approval process. Chairs will now approve previous meeting minutes.

2025 KPI Progress and Quarter 3 Report

- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** The Subcommittee has met quarterly with the Prevention Subcommittee to discuss existing frameworks. A meeting was held in February 2025 with the Prevention Subcommittee and Co-Chair meetings occurring in June 2025. The Youth Subcommittee also has Prevention Subcommittee representation among their members. The KPI 1 is 100% complete.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** The Subcommittee is developing a data profile for WV youth to present indicators regarding suicide, overdose, and other factors. This list is compiled but is not publicly available for dissemination. The Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) also has historical information for the last three years. This data does show trends for youth by gender and age. The KPI 1 for Goal 2 is 75% complete.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** The Subcommittee is documenting existing treatment and recovery services for youth. There is centralized focused on behavioral health services available for youth, but these are not necessarily inclusive of substance use treatment. In-patient treatment services and program for youth have a long waiting list. The Subcommittee was also able to identify youth emergency mobile crisis services. KPI 2 is 85% complete.

- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 3:** The Subcommittee has identified key stakeholders such as Aetna. There is a discrepancy in how private payer insurance denies treatments versus Medicaid billing. Private-pay insurance is not being documented as youth are denied these services. There is a lack of behavioral health services in the state; this may be a causal effect for young people using substances (i.e. they do not have the same level of equal access to behavioral health care). Adult services are using a large percentage of behavioral services which directly causes youth services to have fewer resources and access. Individual research has been completed. Prevention Lead Organizations (PLOs) have also been in the community conducting Community Readiness Assessments and these serve as a resource of what services are available in the areas. Comparison will be completed and this KPI is 90% complete.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 4:** The Subcommittee has attended recovery ecosystem meetings with other Subcommittee chairs. The group will seek a final conclusion meeting to ensure feedback and final conclusions. KPI 4 is at 75% complete.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 5:** The Subcommittee has established a list defining all available services including behavioral health centers, youth drug court treatments, and in-patient services as an overall ecosystem. KPI 5 is at 90% complete.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 6:** The Subcommittee has found data from 2023 stating about 15-20% of youth are experiencing a substance use disorder. Updated data is available, and the Subcommittee will combine this new data. The Subcommittee has identified stigma surrounding behavioral health in the youth population. There is also confusion in enforcement and regulations. KPI 6 is at 0% complete.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 7:** The subcommittee discussed recommending sharing school information (Expanded School Mental Health- ESMH) findings with parents/guardians. A final report should bridge information across informational loops to ensure all have availability to review findings and recommendations. A state family advisory board member was present at today's Subcommittee meeting and would like to be involved further. KPI 7 is at 0% complete.

Fall Meeting Planning

- The Subcommittee will discuss the 2026 State Plan development during their October meeting.

Community Conversations

- This agenda item was not discussed.

Additional Discussion

- Community centers may be a resource to be re-established in local communities as a hub for both families and as informational points. These centers are a positive alternative for youth and provide safe places for children. Many provide meals and can provide a mentorship program.

Adjournment:

Rebecca closed the meeting by thanking all Subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. The Youth Subcommittee will meet again Thursday, October 23, 2025, at 9:00 AM.