

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Prevention Subcommittee Thursday, March 19, 2025, Approved

Attendees:

Subcommittee Members Attending: Tahnee Bryant, Jaime Cantley, Tammy Collins, Lori Garrett-Bumba, Katelyn Fowler, Nancy Hoffman, Jenny Lancaster, Greg Puckett, Amy Saunders (co-chair), Elizabeth Shahan

Subcommittee Members Not Attending: Christina Chill, Stephanie Hayes (co-chair), Gig Robinson

Guests Attending: Alex Alston, Katie Rose Garden, Doug Hogan, Christina Mickey, Teresa Mills, Sarah Sanders, Jessica Whitmore

Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) Staff Attending: Olivia Fox, Jessica Smith

State Opioid Response (SOR) Staff Attending: Renee Harris

State Opioid Response (SOR) Regional Coordinators Attending: Barbra Masih, Raj Masih, Jill Poe

Marshall University Staff Attending: Bradley McCoy

Opening:

Amy Saunders provided welcome and opening remarks of this meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Prevention Subcommittee. The meeting was called to order on Thursday, March 19, 2026 and was conducted by Google Meet conference. Amy Saunders approved the February 19, 2026 meeting minutes and there was no further discussion. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss legislation and data affecting the implementation of the 2026 State Plan implementation.

Agenda Items:

Tobacco Legislative Updates

- Representatives from Tobacco Free West Virginia and the American Cancer Society joined the meeting to provide legislative updates.
- There will be an update as soon as later today on the Governor signing HB5691 which will provide supplemental appropriations from Juul settlement funds to youth prevention to occur over 6-7 years.
- State Code still requires the Governor's Tobacco Task Force to provide recommendations on how funding is allocated.
- Additional legislative updates were provided regarding the following from the Vape Safety Bill:
 - Blinking light and signage requirements
 - Kid-targeted messaging
 - Licensing fees and citizenship requirements
 - Location provisions around distance from a school or daycare
 - Minimum age to sell tobacco products
 - Not allowing vape shops to also be a residence
 - Vape shop manufacturers

- The Subcommittee requested a one-pager of these updates to share.
- Amy Saunders invited them to join future meetings and provided a brief overview of the Subcommittee's work in the 2026 State Plan.

2026 State Plan, Data Collection Toolkits:

- The Subcommittee is compiling data from various sources. Youth data is available from the Centers for Disease Control. There is a PowerPoint which will be shared with the group. There is a difference between tobacco frequency versus vape usage.
- West Virginia Department of Education has collected 'School Learning Environment' surveys. The survey information is not gathered from a requirement and is collected voluntarily. These reports can be used for assessment and evaluation purposes.
- There is data which was compiled from the most recent 2026 Prevention Day available. Tammy Collins shared a PDF with the Subcommittee showcasing data from various organizations.
- The Subcommittee would like to compile the data from different regions. The next step would be to correlate the different graphics and information for representative patterns in the collected information.
- The question was posed - if departments are under state control, who owns their data and research?
- There is a need for local grassroots data collection as advertisements are in circulation with unfounded claims. The advertised data is not accurate related to the youth population.
- The K-12 data survey had over 1,255 youth respond. The information collected from this survey includes four topics: substance use, body safety, sexual violence prevention, and suicide intervention/prevention. These topics are studied for implementation and training needs across schools. The survey data also explores if the schools are using evidence-based programs and screening tools in school settings.
 - The K-12 data survey did have representatives from all 55 counties which included teachers, counselors, education personnel as well as training professionals. The data collected is detailed and expansive to include needs and barriers.
- Data is requested for correlation between substance abuse and sexual violence as well as suicide. These areas are overlapping however further studies need to be assessed.
- There is WVU data on children's mental health which shows an intersection in children being removed from the home and substance use. The Subcommittee is seeking the preliminary results from this data to share with the group.
- Data collection was discussed in how the methodology is reported back to educational systems. This technique can be useful in implementation in programs.
- The Department of Education has set standards for information and policies addressed. The Subcommittee will review current policies and standards.
- The Subcommittee is utilizing AI analyzation for qualitative data. It is noted that AI reports have to be reviewed and edited for accuracy.

Quarter 1 Progress Report

- Bradley McCoy will share a template with Amy Saunders and Stephanie Hayes for reporting due March 27, 2026.

Additional Discussion

- The “Share the Vision” Conference is scheduled for April 14-16, 2026, in Huntington, West Virginia. The keynote speakers have been selected, and workshops are currently being developed. More information can be found at <https://site.pheedloop.com/event/2026SharetheVision/home>

Adjournment:

Amy Saunders closed the meeting by thanking all Subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. The Subcommittee will meet again on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 9:00 AM.