

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Youth Subcommittee Thursday, April 23, 2026, Approved

Attendees:

Subcommittee Members Attending: Rebecca Crowder (co-chair), Stephen Keefer, Jo Anne McNemar, Elizabeth Shahan (co-chair), Tristram Spitsnaugle

Subcommittee Members Not Attending: Misty Atkins, Tahnee Bryant, Danny Anderson, EJ Jenkins, Tiffany Pittman, Amy Sadler

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

State Opioid Response (SOR) Regional Coordinators Attending: Greg Puckett

Marshall University Staff Attending: 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, April 23, 2026, and was conducted by Google Meet conference. Co-chairs Rebecca Crowder and Elizabeth Shahan approved the March 26, 2026 meeting minutes. There was no further discussion. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss 2026 State Plan key performance indicator (KPI) progress.

Agenda Items:

2026 State Plan KPI Progress

- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** Elizabeth Shahan can send an Early Diversion Grant Sequential Intercept Mapping Project document to the Subcommittee along with highlights prior to being disseminated to others.
- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** The Subcommittee has worked with local board members and developed a list of agencies who are able to participate in the statewide focus group. Parents whose children are outside of the judicial system and are not adjudicated are also available to participate. A draft of questions has been developed and will be sent Dr. Deb Koester and Bradley McCoy.
- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 3:** The Subcommittee has not found any inpatient treatment systems which are not related to the judicial system. They have contacted AETNA which also confirms the lack of treatment centers available for children outside of the state's custody. There is not an operating system for all open access available to the state. The group is contacting Westbrook prevention services about their treatment and referral system for further development into this KPI.
- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 4:** The best model for youth is to retain them with their family. The existing programs do require state custody and court procedures to gain access to care. Residential facilities are in Fairmont and Elkins.
- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 6:** AETNA does screen out of state providers, and the Subcommittee will continue to communicate with them about treatment facilities. Also,

Amy Sadler is a point of contact for further information and education about these facilities.

- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** The Subcommittee is researching the Navigating Addiction policy and resources from Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). A document with finalized state programs and dissemination will be discussed at the next meeting.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** The research informed document about community centers has been sent to the Subcommittee and is being forwarded to Office of Drug Control Policy.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** Once it is approved by the Subcommittee and sent to ODCP, a dissemination plan will be developed.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 2, KPI 1:** The Subcommittee has been in contact with Tyler Ferrell and will continue to evaluate surveys in identifying resources and organizations.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 2, KPI 2:** No new updates.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 2, KPI 3:** Ben Newhouse is identified as a guest speaker to provide education about the importance of community centers.

Additional Discussion

- Community centers will still struggle with lack of transportation as a barrier to attendance. If the centers are rural, children may be unable to obtain access to the center. A few counties, Upshur is an example, have overcome this barrier by partnering with transportation facilities to provide after school services. They have also written transportation into their model.
- Schools which have closed due to redistricting could be used as community centers.
- The Subcommittee discussed informing pediatricians on the nicotine model of care and addressing withdrawal symptoms to alleviate their provider hesitancy to prescribe something like nicotine patches to youth.

Adjournment:

Rebecca closed the meeting by thanking all Subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. The Youth Subcommittee will meet again on May 28, 2026 at 9:00 AM.