

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Youth Subcommittee Thursday, May 28, 2026, Approved

Attendees:

Subcommittee Members Attending: Tahnee Bryant, Rebecca Crowder (co-chair), Jo Anne McNemar, Tiffany Pittman, Amy Sadler

Subcommittee Members Not Attending: Misty Atkins, Danny Anderson, EJ Jenkins, Garrett Keefer, Elizabeth Shahan (co-chair), Tristram Spitsnaugle

Guests Attending: Amber Blankenship, Cadence Spires

Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) Staff Attending: Dr. Stephen Loyd, Jessica Smith

State Opioid Response (SOR) Staff Attending: Mark Lanyon

State Opioid Response (SOR) Regional Coordinators Attending: Jill Poe

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, May 28, 2026, and was conducted by Google Meet conference. Rebecca Crowder approved the April 23, 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 sent Bradley McCoy a lengthy report in a PDF but would like to summarize the document and send it to the Subcommittee.
- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** The Subcommittee will seek updates from Elizabeth on the status of a focus group with partners and services providers.
- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 3:** Amy Sadler was present at today's meeting. She confirmed inpatient treatment for youth is lacking in West Virginia. There are some outpatient services, but they are often at capacity. A further in-depth conversation is scheduled to happen, and a formal document is being prepared. The Subcommittee was updated about an inpatient youth facility plan at OVP Health in Cabell County.
- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 4:** The Subcommittee will research further information on how the OVP model will be structured to serve youth in the state. OVP Health may be a scalable model for other facilities in the state.
- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 5:** No updates.
- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 6:** AETNA has provided a list of providers who billed, but not facilities.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** The public facing document is being prepared with a final piece from SAMHSA being added. Then it will just need formalized by ODCP communications. It will be sent to Bradley when ready.

- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** The distribution is forthcoming after all information has been compiled from other KPI completions.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** The research-informed document has been sent by Dr. Deb Koester to ODCP and is currently pending review.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** Dissemination is dependent on the review from ODCP.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 2, KPI 1:** The West Virginia Regional Council only obtained four responses to their survey. The Barnes Community Center also provided Rebecca with an informational packet. The Subcommittee is planning to follow up by contacting community centers directly.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 2, KPI 2:** The dissemination is pending review by ODCP.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 2, KPI 3:** Anita Perdue from the Barnes Community Center has been identified as a second guest speaker, as this community center was identified as a model of best practice by the West Virginia Regional Council.

Next Steps:

- Elizabeth Shahan will summarize the Sequential Intercept Mapping document from G1, S1, KPI 1.
- Elizabeth will send Bradley McCoy and Deb Koester a draft of focus group questions for G1, S1, KPI 2.
- Rebecca Crowder will formalize a document from her conversation with Amy Sadler in G1, S1, KPI 3.
- Rebecca will reach out to OVP Health about their model for G1, S1, KPI 4.
- Rebecca will formalize and share the list of out-of-state facilities for G1, S1, KPI 6.
- Elizabeth will send Bradley and Deb the formal treatment list from G2, S1, KPI 1.
- Rebecca will follow up with community centers directly from G3, S2, KPI 1.
- Now that guest speakers have been identified for G3, S2, KPI 3, the Subcommittee and Deb Koester can decide how to best utilize them and consider a presentation to the Governor's Council.

Additional Discussion

- Amber Blankenship from the Recovery Subcommittee joined the meeting to discuss the gaps in youth treatment and recovery and learn from the Youth Subcommittee to complete KPIs in their section of the State Plan.
- Cadence Spires spoke about Westbrook Youth Recovery Center in Wood County. This 6-week program is modeled after an adult substance use program but is formatted for youth treatment. They collaborate with the school system and juvenile drug court.
- On August 6, 2026, there will be a Youth Empowerment Summit (name pending) at Heritage Farm in Huntington, WV where statewide youth will be able to speak about what they want to see out of youth-led coalitions. Information was shared with the Subcommittee to share with partners.

Adjournment:

Rebecca closed the meeting by thanking all Subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. The Youth Subcommittee will meet again on June 25, 2026 at 9:00 AM.

