

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

## **Attendees:**

**Subcommittee Members Attending:** Tahnee Bryant, Christina Chill, Tammy Collins, Lori Garrett-Bumba, Jenny Lancaster, Amy Saunders (co-chair), Elizabeth Shahan

**Subcommittee Members Not Attending:** Michele Bowles, Stephanie Hayes (co-chair), Nancy Hoffman, Greg Puckett, Gig Robinson,

**ODCP Staff:** Rick Dempsey, Dr. Stephen Loyd, Jessica Smith

**Marshall University Staff:** Bradley McCoy

## **Opening:**

Amy Saunders (co-chair) 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, June 19, 2025, at 9:00 AM and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was not present at the beginning of the meeting, so the May meeting minutes were tabled until the next meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to review progress on the 2025 State Plan key performance indicators (KPIs) with goal leaders reporting out.

## **Agenda Items:**

### **Welcome and Introductions**

- Rick Dempsey, Assistant Director of the Office of Drug Control Policy, attended the meeting. The Subcommittee introduced themselves and provided an overview of the Prevention Subcommittee's work to date.

### **2025 Plan KPIs and Goal Leader Report Out**

- Amy Saunders and Stephanie Hayes will have the Quarter 2 Progress Report to Bradley McCoy by June 27, 2025.
- Goal 1 Report Out:
  - Tammy Collins and Elizabeth Shahan provided an overview of the Community Readiness Model.
  - Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 1: All regions are on track to complete the interviews of the Community Readiness Assessment by the end of June. Some are already scoring their assessments with Carol Mangone. Most are ahead of schedule so the Subcommittee does not believe that flooding in the state will affect deadlines. Vaping/THC were identified as the primary topic of choice. This means that communities are already aware of this as a problem so there should be a shift in focus from awareness to intervention and policy. By next year, Prevention Lead Organizations (PLOs) will be able to score assessments independently with some review and additional resources.
- Goal 2 Report Out:
  - Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 1: Christina Chill has contacted tobacco coalitions about policy, particularly regarding youth. The Catch My Breath program will be active through

October, then seek additional funding. This program started two years ago. It is a four-week program that teachers implement once a week. There is a teacher evaluation and a pre- and post- test. There is, at minimum, one middle school in each county across the state that has implemented this program. They want to expand it so that it is in at least one elementary and high school in each county as well if not every school. There is a free version of Catch My Breath that exists as well.

- Jenny Lancaster shared a link to Marshall University's data dashboard.  
<https://dashboard.mucenterofexcellence.org/>
- Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 2: Raze youth tobacco prevention is in local communities with monthly events.
- Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 3: Raze youth ambassadors have collaborated with universities.
- Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 4: Christina Chill has communicated with various cities, counties, and communities that have utilized nuisance ordinances and zoning to limit vape shops opening.
- Goal 2, Strategy 2: No updates.
- Goal 3 Report Out:
  - Goal 3, Strategy 1, KPI 1: A workgroup is going to develop a standardized training in all three chosen topic areas of substance use, body safety, and suicide prevention. A survey about training needs is almost complete and will be launched in the fall for school personnel.
  - Goal 3, Strategy 1, KPI 2: Subcommittee members are already preemptively preparing training materials to be provided in the fall.
- Goal 4 Report Out:
  - The WV Credentialing Board for Addiction and Prevention Professionals have now streamlined the Prevention Specialist Application and Recertification Application, and they are now available through an online portal. They have also updated the Prevention Specialist Manual.
  - The Marshall University Research Corporation and the WV Bureau for Behavioral Health (BBH) have been working with the Central East Prevention Technology Transfer Center (PTTC) Network to develop a Prevention Onboarding and Orientation Guide for new preventionists in the state. The Guide is completed and has received the approval of the Prevention Committee of the WV Credentialing Board for Addiction and Prevention Professionals. It is awaiting final approval from WV BBH prior to being made available to the public.
  - The Prevention Committee of the WV Credentialing Board for Addiction and Prevention Professionals has started to draft requirements, an application, and a manual for a prevention paraprofessional certification.
  - The Marshall University Research Corporation is offering a scholarship to cover the application and testing fees for anyone applying for the Prevention Specialist certification. This scholarship is available through September 2025 and was made possible from the WV Higher Education Policy Council and the Department of Labor.
  - Lori Garrett-Bumba is working to find a pathway to education leading towards a paraprofessional certification for high school students.
  - Lori explained that it takes 2-4 years to become a Prevention Specialist in West Virginia due to the requirements in place.
  - The Marshall University Research Corporation and the WV Bureau for Behavioral Health have offered several trainings over the past 2-4 years for those interested in becoming Prevention Specialists. Trainings on how to complete the application, on the testing for

the certification, and on Prevention Ethics are all available. These trainings were led by Dr. Tammy Collins, JoAnne McNemar, and Lori Garrett-Bumba.

**Town Hall Meeting Information:**

- Bradley McCoy and Jenny Lancaster provided an overview of the Town Hall Meetings and their schedule. Town Hall Meetings will also be held in-person throughout a two-week period in Logan, Wheeling, the Eastern panhandle, and Charleston with more details about the date and location to come. The virtual format will be the same as in previous years. The virtual Town Hall Meetings are scheduled for:
  - Wednesday August 27th 10:00-12:00 (Virtual)
  - Wednesday September 3rd 1:00-3:00 (Virtual)
  - Wednesday September 10th 10:00-12:00 (Virtual)

**Additional Discussion:**

- None.

**Adjournment:**

Amy closed the meeting by thanking all Subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. The Subcommittee will meet again on Thursday, July 17, 2025, at 9:00 AM.