

# **Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Prevention Subcommittee Thursday July 17, 2025, Approved**

## **Attendees:**

**Subcommittee Members Attending:** Tahnee Bryant, Christina Chill, Tammy Collins, Stephanie Hayes (co-chair), Amy Saunders (co-chair), Elizabeth Shahan

**Subcommittee Members Not Attending:** Michele Bowles, Lori Garrett-Bumba, Stephanie Hayes, Nancy Hoffman, Jenny Lancaster, Greg Puckett, Gig Robinson

**SOR Staff:** Mark Lanyon

**ODCP Staff:** Dora Radford

**ODCP Prevention Coordinators:** Christina Adkins, Lauren Kotz, Jessica Martinez, Jill Poe, Kim Shoemake

**Marshall University Staff:** Rachel Bledsoe and 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, July 17, 2025, at 9:00 AM and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was not present to approve the May and June 2025 meeting minutes. The purpose of this meeting was to review progress of the 2025 State Plan key performance indicators (KPIs) and goal leader reports outs.

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

- Goal 1: Elizabeth Shahan
  - Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 1: The community readiness models are completed. Most or all of them focused on vaping and THC products.
  - Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 2: Scores have been returned to coalitions and are in the process of being shared with community stakeholders with recommendations.
  - Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 3: Coalitions have been provided with resources for targeted campaigns. They are making recommendations with an educational focus.
- Goal 2: Christina Chill
  - Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 2: The Subcommittee would like to host peer-to-peer discussion meetings for counties who have been successful in getting/enforcing their tobacco and vape product ordinances. Community leaders and coalitions would participate. These meetings could also be virtual-based training with breakout sessions around policy and advocacy.
- Goal 3: Amy Saunders and Stephanie Hayes
  - Goal 3, Strategy 1, KPI 1: The three prevention topic areas have been chosen. They will focus on the intersection of substance use, suicide, and body safety.
  - Goal 3, Strategy 1, KPI 2: Dates should be made available soon to begin training sessions for coalitions. Training materials are being made now.
  - West Virginia University (WVU) is offering Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) training for enriching skill-building with behavioral health professionals. The training will be

launched later in the fall after school is back in session. Marshall University and WVU are partnering to survey schools about their training needs.

- Goal 4:
  - Goal 4, Strategy 1, KPI 1 and 2: The launching of the certification process for the WV Credentialing Board for Addiction and Prevention Professionals online has been beneficial in completing previous applications. They are on track to complete these KPIs within the calendar year.

#### **In-Person Subcommittee Chairs Meeting Discussion:**

- Amy Saunders, Stephanie Hayes, Dora Radford, and Bradley McCoy provided a brief overview of the in-person meeting of the Subcommittee Chairs. The Chairs will meet again soon to develop measurable indicators they provide in cross-collaboration of the Recovery Ecosystem Model. Additionally, they will determine priority items for the next legislative session.
- The Subcommittee each listed their top three priorities for the next legislative session and 2026 State Plan.
  - Responses included: funding, defining what is and is not considered prevention, certified prevention specialists should be required to provide primary prevention, a data platform to collect outcomes, collaboration with the First Foundation, increased involvement in youth coalitions, documentation of return on investment (ROI) and how to share it with key stakeholders, and showing the impact of prevention on the Recovery Ecosystem model.
  - Amy Saunders will synthesize results and share them with the group.
- National conferences look at West Virginia as a leader in substance use disorder and response. Overdoses have decreased across the state and while those data points are the most sought after, it will be important to display prevention's role in the big picture.
- The Subcommittee would like more cross-collaboration with other Subcommittees already participating in trainings similar to or utilizing prevention.
- The Subcommittee defined a college age gap which could be improved upon in generating better outcomes for the youth population.
- The Subcommittee discussed how to saturate news and social media with their successes. Multiple prevention organizations already employ or collaborate with communications and marketing directors. There needs to be a more uniform strategy in how to utilize them as a resource.

#### **Adjournment:**

Amy closed the meeting by thanking all Subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. The Subcommittee will meet again on Thursday, August 21, 2025, at 9:00 AM.