

# Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Youth Subcommittee Wednesday October 2, 2024, Approved

## Attendees:

**Subcommittee Members Attending:** Misty Atkins, Rebecca Crowder, Marty Hatfield, Ej Jenkins, Tiffany Pittman, Elizabeth Shahan, JoAnna Vance

**Subcommittee Members Unable to Attend:** Tahnee Bryant, Cindy Hill, Michael Mitcheff

**ODCP Staff:** Jostin Holmes

**Marshall University Staff:** Bradley McCoy

## Opening:

Bradley McCoy 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 Wednesday October 2, 2024, and was conducted by Zoom conference. Subcommittee membership has not yet been established for a quorum or motions to accept previous meeting minutes. The purpose of this meeting was to formalize the goals and strategies of the Youth Subcommittee

## Agenda Items:

### Review of Data and Documents Shared

- The group discussed the documents shared previously via email with all subcommittee members. Some have not had the chance to review everything, but those who did submitted their biggest takeaways to the SurveyMonkey for the next agenda item.
- While reviewing the Town Hall Meeting information from the past, the group discussed general subcommittee business and how they need to consider attainable and measurable goals while developing their plan for next year.

### Review of Goals Sent by Each Subcommittee Member

- Bradley McCoy provided a review of the goals sent by each subcommittee member.
- The group discussed how to support youth summits and conferences that already exist and how they could invite the leaders of those to future subcommittee meetings. Try This WV is a youth conference that occurs in June in Buckhannon, West Virginia. JoAnna Vance also has a list of other youth conferences, such as the Youth Leading for Justice meeting on October 15, 2024 at 6:00 PM via Zoom.
- The state already employees 16 prevention specialists.
- Youth engagement with clubs and extracurriculars has waned. Prevention specialists are working to learn why via parent surveys.

- Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) has also lost momentum.
- This group needs to focus on vapes, nicotine, alcohol, prescription pills such as Adderall, and inhalants because that is what is popular amongst youth.
- Peer-to-peer interventions have worked in schools since youth do not feel comfortable talking to adults.
- Teen Issues Day is an event that occurs in a few counties across the state where kids can come and talk about substance use, recovery, bullying, etc.
- It would be ideal to teach kids harm reduction in opposition of “just say no” policies.
- Elizabeth Shahan shared that 97% of schools in her region use evidence-based prevention programs.

### **Establishment of Goals and Strategies**

- The group will still consider young adults as part of youth when developing their plan.
- The Department of Education cannot mandate the use of statewide prevention programs, but they can suggest the use of evidence-based programs. The legislature, however, can mandate their usage. This group would like to bring together school leadership in one place to present what already exists in the prevention space. They could work with the Prevention Subcommittee to do that. There is an annual statewide superintendent meeting, but it is difficult to be asked to present at and they want very concise and specific information such as what exists, who will pay for it, and who will do the work. A toolkit presentation that lists all the legislature mandated prevention efforts and the existing programs that qualify to meet those requirements would have to be developed that succinctly answers all of those questions. Even if this toolkit presentation is not successfully submitted to the annual superintendent meeting, it can still be presented other places such as to individual school board meetings or the school counselor conference.
- The above conversation led to the group drafting an early example of a Goal, Strategy, and accompanied KPIs.
- Goal 1: Share statewide prevention efforts with key stakeholders.
  - Strategy 1: Gather those with existing prevention information and develop a dissemination plan.
    - KPI 1: have a joint meeting with the Prevention Subcommittee to discuss the existing prevention framework.
    - KPI 2: develop prevention toolkit for youth that reflects legislative mandates and what evidence-based prevention programs meet those requirements.
    - KPI 3: ask to present toolkits to the Superintendent Conference
    - KPI 4: identify other areas to present youth prevention toolkits such as BOE, school counselor conference, principals, and legislators

### **Confirm Subcommittee Membership**

- Elizabeth Shahan is going to reach out to Casey Jo Cottrill about joining the subcommittee. A few people offered to co-chair the subcommittee and that will be confirmed next time. The group also discussed how to define the Youth Subcommittee so that it is not just a duplication of the Prevention Subcommittee. While this will likely lean towards prevention because of the timeline of one’s life, there are members with experience in other areas

that affect youth such as the judicial system or access to treatment and recovery residences. The group suggested that maybe development of a one-pager would be helpful to describe the Governor's Council and this individual subcommittee to describe what it is/does when inviting others to join.

**Action Items, Review of Timeline, Next Steps**

- At the next meeting, the group will confirm the co-chairs of the subcommittee and discuss membership and voting for a quorum. The group will also work to formalize the goals and strategies that have already been discussed.

**Adjournment:**

Bradley McCoy closed the meeting by thanking all subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. The subcommittee will meet again on Wednesday November 6, 2024, at 11:00 AM.