

# Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Youth Subcommittee Thursday April 24, 2025, *Unapproved*

## Attendees:

**Subcommittee Members Attending:** Misty Atkins, Tahnee Bryant, Rebecca Crowder (co-chair), Jo McNemar, Elizabeth Shahan

**Invited, Not Attending:** Cindy Hill, EJ Jenkins, Michael Mitcheff, Tiffany Pittman, JoAnna Vance

**Marshall University Staff:** Rachel Bledsoe and 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 24, 2025, and was conducted by Zoom conference. There was not a quorum present to approve minutes from December 2024, January 2025, February 2025, and March 2025. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss current progress towards the 2025 Plan Goals.

## Agenda Items:

### 2025 KPI Progress and Quarterly Progress Report

- New group members were discussed, and the group added Jo McNemar to their Subcommittee.
- Rebecca Crowder provided an updated list for youth provider services this week via email. The list is being updated as some services listed on various databases do not serve youth populations. Misty Atkins has also been contacting providers.
  - Rebecca's list included outpatient and in-patient regional youth service centers. However, in-patient centers are rarely available for youth services.
  - There is a need for these centers to exist as the overall goal is to serve youth in their home communities with options available.
  - The feedback has been ascertained stating that if a child does require in-patient services, they are being sent out of state to receive the treatment. Many patients already travel to more populated counties to receive services.
  - The adult programming for in-patient services doesn't fit the youth's needs. There are more costs to be expected, and services cannot be clustered together.
- Elizabeth Shahan is compiling a list of juvenile drug courts and other support organizations over the next week to determine the gaps which exist in the youth population.
- The group discussed the criteria for being a youth service center.
  - Youth Service Centers primarily treat young adults from the ages of 12 until 25 years old.

- They provide substance use treatment, which include early detection and recovery support services as well as support services for family and mental health care.
- Rebecca Crowder shared there are currently 6 Regional Youth Service Centers.
- Many children are seeking mental health treatment. However, the group questions, “Which comes first, the substance use or depression?” A possible solution may be reliant on primary health providers to survey mental health in the youth population as a screening to prevent substance use.
- Primary prevention is knowing when the referrals are needed. The referral should be followed up by recovery and maintenance.
  - Rebecca Crowder will add a mental health resource list to accompany the regional youth services information.
  - There is a smart recovery group available in Clarksburg, West Virginia, for youth ages 12 and up. Elizabeth is reaching out to gain more information.

#### **Next Steps**

- Rebecca will continue to reach out to regionals services to inquire about their youth services as well as young adults/teenagers’ access to mental health services.
  - Tahnee has reviewed Rebecca’s current list and provided that it is accurate for the 6 available regional youth service centers.
  - Tahnee shared the link: [Comprehensive Behavioral Health Centers](#).
- Misty is following up with the Mortality Review Board for data.
- Once services are provided, the Subcommittee will follow up with providers to inquire about waiting lists and additional services available. This may include an inquiry about private providers which are not listed.
- A Subcommittee member will reach out to Child Crisis over the next month.
- The Subcommittee should create questions to gain insight and information about effectiveness and utilization of youth services by facilities that claim to provide these youth services for the next meeting, as well as to discern any barriers.
- The group should focus on disseminating their information to reach a targeted audience who will benefit from their information.

#### **Adjournment:**

Rebecca closed the meeting by thanking all subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. The Youth Subcommittee will meet again on Thursday May 22, 2025 at 9:00 AM.