

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Youth Subcommittee Thursday June 26, 2025, Approved

Attendees:

Subcommittee Members Attending: Rebecca Crowder, EJ Jenkins, Amy Sadler, Elizabeth Shahan, Josh VanBibber

Invited Subcommittee Members, Not Attending: Misty Atkins, Tahnee Bryant, Jo McNemar, Tiffany Pittman

Invited Guests, Not Attending: Cindy Hill, Michael Mitcheff, JoAnna Vance

Marshall University Staff: Rachel Bledsoe and Bradley McCoy

Opening:

Rebecca Crowder provided welcome and opening remarks at this meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Youth Subcommittee. The meeting was called to order on Thursday, June 26, 2025, and was conducted by Zoom conference. There was a quorum present to approve the May 2025 meeting minutes. EJ Jenkins made the motion to approve the May meeting minutes. Elizabeth Shahan seconded the motion. There was no further discussion or changes. The minutes were approved with all in favor, and none opposed. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss key performance indicator (KPI) progress and welcome new group member, Amy Sadler.

Agenda Items:

Welcome and Introductions

- The Subcommittee welcomed a new member, Amy Sadler. Amy works at the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia under Cindy Hill. Cindy Hill was originally recommended to serve on this Subcommittee from the Courts and Justice-Involved Populations Subcommittee but appointed Amy in her place.
- She described her current position and how it aligns with youth coordination and referrals to facilities. She does on-site visits and speaks regularly to the youth population. The Subcommittee described how they are creating an ecosystem surrounding what is available for the youth population in West Virginia who have substance use disorder (SUD) or at risk for it.
- There is a central focus on why teens and youth are being sent out of state for treatment. The base components of treatment are available in West Virginia but go unfunded and underutilized.
- The Youth Health Associates based in Utah have a model which works in treating children and teenagers with both behavioral/mental health as well as substance use disorder.
- According to Amy, West Virginia averages having 250 youth out-of-state for youth treatment services at any given time. These children are often young and have substantial mental health and behavioral disruptions.
- The Subcommittee discussed with Amy how severe behavioral issues can lead to SUD and need to be addressed and recognized as that trajectory, rather than wait to treat them for SUD once

they meet criteria for a diagnosis later in life. Child Protective Services (CPS) struggles to identify how these cases should be referenced and managed as well.

- Amy Sadler will share a list of her resources with co-chairs Elizabeth and Rebecca, and they will share this with the Subcommittee at the July meeting.

2025 KPI Progress

- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** 50% complete, The Subcommittee Chair in-person meeting will offer the Chairs the opportunity to meet with the Prevention Co-chairs and plan next steps for how the Subcommittees can collaborate.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** 25% complete, Misty Atkins is still awaiting the data profile for WV youth with indicators such as suspected overdoses, suicide, etc. She will share with the Subcommittee when she receives it.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** 50% complete, Rebecca Crowder and Elizabeth Shahan are meeting with Amy Sadler to discuss both in-state and out-of-state resources. They will add this to the existing list started by Rebecca.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 3:** 25% complete, Bradley McCoy has reached out to Aetna representatives to present their data to the Youth Subcommittee, possibly July 14 at 10:00 AM. A formal summary report may also be requested to further inform the completion of this KPI.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 4:** 50% complete, The Subcommittee will collaborate with other Subcommittees at the in-person meeting of all Chairs. No Treatment Subcommittee Co-chair has been appointed at this time.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 5:** 25% complete, Rebecca has compiled lists of SUD treatment and recovery options. These lists will be updated after Rebecca and Elizabeth's meeting with Amy Sadler.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 6:** This KPI can be completed following previous KPIS.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 7:** This KPI can be completed following previous KPIS.

Town Hall Meetings:

- Bradley McCoy discussed the upcoming Town Hall Meetings (which will be referred to as Community Conversations) scheduled for August and September. There is a town hall planning meeting scheduled for the first week of July. Bradley will send facilitator requests once new dates are confirmed. Online registration will be open beginning July 9, 2025. Flyers will be available.

Adjournment:

Elizabeth closed the meeting by thanking all Subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. The Youth Subcommittee will meet again on July 24, 2025, at 9:00 AM.