

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Youth Subcommittee Thursday July 24, 2025, Approved

Attendees:

Subcommittee Members Attending: Misty Atkins, Tahnee Bryant, Jo Anne McNemar, Tiffany Pittman, Elizabeth Shahan (co-chair)

Invited Subcommittee Members, Not Attending: Rebecca Crowder, EJ Jenkins, Amy Sadler, Josh VanBibber

Guests Attending: Tracy Murphy

SOR Coordinators: Mark Lanyon

ODCP Regional Coordinators: Elizabeth Hardy, Jill Poe

Marshall University Staff: Rachel Bledsoe, Bradley McCoy

Opening:

Elizabeth Shahan 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, July 24, 2025, and was conducted by Zoom conference. There was a quorum present to approve June 26, 2025 minutes and July 14 minutes (meeting with Aetna). Tahnee Bryant made the motion to approve the June and July meeting minutes. Tiffany Pittman 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 the recent Subcommittee co-chair in-person meeting.

Agenda Items:

June 26, 2025 In Person Subcommittee Chair Meeting

- Elizabeth Shahan, Dr. Stephen Loyd, and Bradley McCoy provided an overview of the in-person Subcommittee Chair meeting. Dr. Loyd discussed the Recovery Ecosystem Model he presented and how cross-Subcommittee collaboration will develop shared goals, develop measurable indicators, and fill the gaps in service.
- There is a known gap in West Virginia for youth in-patient treatment. Rebecca Crowder has contacted providers on the provider's list, and they only offer outpatient treatment.
- Substance use disorder (SUD) is not the same for children/youth as it is for adults. The adult model cannot be replicated to treat children in the same manner as the state is treating adults.
- The Youth Subcommittee is compiling a report which includes the local agencies and youth services centers along with recommendations.
- Another gap the Subcommittee has identified is that in-patient referral information is not easy to obtain. Providers do not have the staffing capacity needed to provide in-patient youth treatment, as youth services have greater liability and additional costs associated with providing services.

- The Aetna survey presented at the July 14, 2025 meeting can be used to understand what services can be expanded to better serve populations. Bradley McCoy will forward the Aetna PowerPoint to all Subcommittee members.
- Dr. Deb Koester can set up Subcommittee meetings with Managed Care Organizations (MCOs).
- The ESMH website and regional youth service centers have the most accurate and up-to-date information on providers.
- The group would like to avoid sending youth out-of-state to receive care. A high percentage of children are sent out of state due to a mental health diagnosis. Many children also have parents with substance use disorder (SUD) so even in the event they do not have it themselves, they have been placed in others' care because of their exposure to SUD.
- A link was provided for the Child Welfare Data Dashboard:
<https://dhhr.wv.gov/Pages/childwelfaredatadashboard.aspx>

2025 KPI Progress

- **Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** The Youth Subcommittee is waiting to meet again with the Prevention Subcommittee until they have more to share. Elizabeth Shahan and Tahnee Bryant are both on the Prevention Subcommittee and have met with their respective chairs recently as well so there is still synergy between the two Subcommittees.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 1:** Some of the data requested is not available for public dissemination. Suicide dashboard data does exist, but the latest data is from 2023, and some counties are suppressed due to low numbers. Tahnee Bryant is going to ask if they can share data trends even if discrete data is not allowed to be shared. They will also utilize publicly available dashboards.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 2:** Amy Sadler is to present existing services both in-state and out-of-state to the Subcommittee chairs.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 3:** The Subcommittee will determine the next steps after reviewing Aetna data. They will contact Deb Koester about meeting with Managed Care Organizations (MCOs).
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 4:** The Subcommittee has met with Stephanie Thornton from the Courts Subcommittee and Elizabeth Shahan is now attending all Subcommittee meetings as a regional coordinator.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 5:** Rebecca has compiled lists of substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and recovery options. Additional information is forthcoming from Amy Sadler and MCOs.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 6:** This KPI can only be completed following previous KPIs.
- **Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 7:** This KPI can only be completed following previous KPIs.

Community Conversations (Formerly Town Hall Meetings)

- Bradley McCoy provided an overview of the Town Hall Meetings (using the new term of Community Conversations this year) and the schedule. The virtual format will be the same as in previous years. The three virtual and four-in-person Community Conversations are scheduled for:
 - Wednesday August 27th 10:00-12:00 (virtual)
 - Wednesday September 3rd 1:00-3:00 (virtual)
 - Friday September 5th 1:00-3:00 (virtual)
 - Tuesday September 9th 3:45-5:15 (in person, Charleston, WV)
 - Thursday September 11th 6:00-8:00 (in person, Logan, WV)

- Monday September 15th 4:00-6:00 (in person, Moorefield, WV)
 - Tuesday September 16th (4:00-6:00) (in person, Wheeling (WV)
- Bradley shared the link for volunteers/participants to register:
<https://helpandhopewv.org/odcp/>

Adjournment:

Elizabeth closed the meeting by thanking all Subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. The Youth Subcommittee will meet again Thursday, August 28, 2025, at 9:00 AM.