

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Subcommittee Chair Meeting Wednesday March 5, 2025, *Unapproved*

Attendees:

Subcommittee Chairs: Dr. Jim Becker, Rebecca Crowder, Bob Hansen, Deb Harris, Stephanie Hayes, Dr. Stefan Maxwell, Dan McCawley, Dr. Lyn O'Connell, Ashley Payne, Amy Saunders, Shawn Schwertfeger, Elizabeth Shahan, Stephanie Thornton

Additional Attendees: Janine Breyel, Dr. David Didden

Marshall University Staff: Rachel Bledsoe, Bradley McCoy

ODCP Staff: Dr. Stephen Loyd, Jessica Smith

Invited, Not Attending: Amber Blankenship, Dr. Michael Kilkenny, , Laura McGuire, Dora Radford, Amy Tolliver

Opening:

Bradley McCoy provided welcome and opening remarks of this meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Subcommittee Chairs. The meeting was called to order on Monday, March 10, 2025, and was conducted by Zoom conference. The purpose of the meeting was to for all Subcommittee Chairs to provide input for the Pregnant and Parenting Women(PPW) and Youth Subcommittees and identify opportunities for future collaboration.

Agenda Items

Overview

- Bradley McCoy provided an overview of the meeting structure, the groups present, what input they were seeking from the meeting, and the specific key performance indicators they related to in the 2025 State Plan after welcome and introductions.

Pregnant and Parenting Women Subcommittee (Dr. Stefan Maxwell, Dr. David Didden, and Janine Breyel)

- Dr. Stefan Maxwell provided an overview of The Prenatal Risk Screening Instrument (PRSI) and the efforts of the PPW Subcommittee and the West Virginia Perinatal Partnership to increase its usage by obstetrics providers. Traditionally it has only been used by about 60% of providers, but after engaging 95% of obstetrics providers in the state about it via their latest survey, they hope to increase this. One managed care organization (MCO) had previously provided an incentive for use of the PRSI. The group discussed general barriers to filling out the PRSI and how to make filling out forms more user friendly. The Perinatal Partnership will share their PRSI screening survey data with all of those who are interested. The group discussed having a roundtable discussion with MCOs to discuss screening requirements and incentives. A Perinatal Payer Workgroup already meets on this quarterly.
- The group discussed how to destigmatize screening for pregnant women. There is some fear of scaring away patients by offering something like the PRSI at their first visit. Moms fear losing their children and fear involvement with Child Protective Services (CPS). Providers will need guidance on how to communicate that the intent is to keep the mom and baby together. The Courts and Justice-Involved Populations Subcommittee also has key performance indicators (KPIs) focused on increasing awareness/education around services for moms that emphasize non-punitive care. The group discussed how to compassionately communicate medical and legal ramifications of prenatal substance use. Seeking prenatal care for substance use disorder is better for all implications and keeps the parents engaged in their own care.

- The group discussed education campaigns for substance use and pregnancy. There has been a recent opioid focus with alcohol and marijuana education being neglected. The group voiced concerns about cannabinoid concentrations in new products and the effects of their use prenatally on child development. Charleston Area Medical Center (CAMC) found that alcohol usage in the third trimester was higher than Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS). Its usage can cause Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder which has no physical markers but is discovered at school age when kids begin to show signs of autism, oppositional defiant disorder, or Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).
- Dr. David Didden provided a link to “A Guide to Implementing a Social Norms Media Campaign for Substance Use Prevention in Secondary Schools”. <https://www.hidta.org/adapt/>. Prevention efforts in the state already use social norm campaigns and have found them effective with youth.
- Amy Saunders has recent student survey data on substances she will share with the group. This survey could easily be adapted to the information desired by Dr. Didden. Preliminary analyses show that students perceived very high prevalence of substance use but actually usage is much less.
- The PPW Subcommittee emphasized their need to understand treatment and recovery options for PPW but also acknowledged that it is a moving target. Bob Hansen let them know that they are working on a gap analysis and PPW as a group will be included in that. Data will be forthcoming later this year.
- Amy Saunders suggested the involvement of Dr. Hendrée Jones, who presented at the 2025 WV Polysubstance Summit.

Youth Subcommittee (Rebecca Crowder and Elizabeth Shahan)

- The group discussed the difficulty in concretely defining “youth” since different fields of study use different age ranges to describe it. They also discussed that the literature will often describe using prevention, treatment, and recovery for ages 12 and older but they know they can be at risk even much younger than that.
- The Courts and Justice-Involved Populations Subcommittee also has KPIs that address youth. The Treatment, Health Systems, and Research Subcommittee will also be looking at general substance use disorder data that will include youth. They want to have a separate meeting for all three Subcommittees to come together and map treatment and recovery options for youth in the state. Before the meeting, all respective Subcommittee Chairs will prepare a list of their known barriers for youth treatment.
- The group discussed how funding exists for youth treatment but there are implementation and operation barriers that exist even beyond funding.
- Data should be compiled on all services available to the adolescent population and mapping could be beneficial to track data.
- Rebecca Crowder and Elizabeth Shahan asked everyone present to send any known existing resource lists they have for youth because while they work to compile this information this year, it is possible that others have already worked to list these things, but they are not advertised well.

Next Steps

- The PPW Subcommittee will potentially plan a roundtable discussion with the PPW Subcommittee, Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP), and MCOs.
- Amy Saunders will share survey data with the PPW Subcommittee.
- Bob Hansen will share housing data with the PPW Subcommittee later this year after it is collected.
- Bradley McCoy will schedule a joint Subcommittee meeting for Youth, PPW, Courts and Justice-Involved Populations and Treatment, Health Systems, and Research.

Adjournment

Bradley McCoy closed the meeting by thanking all attendees and will follow up with the next steps.