

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Youth Subcommittee Wednesday September 11, 2024, Approved

Attendees:

Subcommittee Members Attending: Misty Atkins, Tahnee Bryant, Rebecca Crowder, , Ej Jenkins, Elizabeth Shahan, Rachel Thaxton, JoAnna Vance

Subcommittee Members Unable to Attend: Marty Hatfield, Cindy Hill, Michael Mitcheff

Staff: Bradley McCoy

Opening:

Bradley McCoy provided welcome and opening remarks of this kickoff meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Youth Subcommittee. The meeting was called to order on Wednesday September 11, 2024, and was conducted by Zoom conference. The purpose of this meeting was to have a kickoff of the Youth Subcommittee and determine the next steps and goals.

Agenda Items:

Overview of the Governor's Council and State Substance Use Response Plan

- Bradley McCoy and Rachel Thaxton discussed the logistics of how the subcommittees for the Substance Use Response Plan work. The subcommittee will need to decide on a Chair for administrative tasks. They explained the role of Marshall University, Dr. Deb Koester, and Bradley McCoy as their academic and support partners. This subcommittee will also need to decide on a schedule to meet monthly to create a plan for 2025. Most in attendance already sit on other subcommittees in the plan and had good suggestions for how to make this work based on what already works for their other subcommittees.
- Rachel Thaxton also provided the update that she has submitted her resignation to ODCP and will be assuming a new role at the First Foundation. Another staff member from ODCP will serve as the ODCP representative for this subcommittee.
- The group discussed who else needed to be involved in this subcommittee to make sure people from all fields were represented. The following are discussion points from this discussion:
 - The group would like someone in treatment to be involved.
 - Tahnee Bryant reached out to Cassandra Toliver.
 - Elizabeth Shahan is reaching out to Casey Jo Cottrill, a child psychologist.
 - The group wants to ask Amy Saunders again if she would like to be involved.
 - JoAnna Vance is reaching out to Kristal Straub, a Regional Youth Service Center Coordinator.
 - The group would like Deb Koester to consider reaching out to Tiffany Pitman.

- The group discussed how to involve youth directly with the subcommittee without making them participate in the subcommittee. Youth's feedback is necessary to know the right issues are being addressed but they cannot participate in the subcommittee. The group mentioned asking Lori Garrett-Bumba about potential collegiate representatives. The group also mentioned having a separate Youth Workgroup that gets feedback directly from youth then reports it back to the full subcommittee. The group also discussed how the subcommittee could develop a plan and have it approved by a youth focus group.

Substance Use Disorder in Youth in West Virginia

- Bradley McCoy shared the emerging themes from the Youth Town Hall Meeting in 2023. This document along with the data information from that Town Hall Meeting PowerPoint were shared with the group prior to the meeting.
- Tahnee Bryant is sharing "Listening to West Virginia Youth: A Youth Focus Group Report" and summary notes from Hope in Action Alliance's Listening Sessions with the group.
- JoAnna Vance is willing to provide feedback from the September 17, 2024 Leading For Youth Justice call where youth ages 11-22 will talk about issues they are facing if it is available before the next meeting.

Development of Goals

- The group decided to read through all the documents shared from Bradley McCoy, Tahnee Bryant, and JoAnna Vance. By the next meeting on October 2, everyone will identify their top three goals derived from the data and information shared. Bradley McCoy will work with Deb Koester to send out a SurveyMonkey asking each subcommittee member their top three goals and compile them for the next meeting. In October, the group will finalize these goals and begin developing strategies and KPIs.

Additional Discussion and Future Goals/Strategies/KPIs

- JoAnna Vance has a list of many youth-centered events happening in the state which include a Youth Conference in January and a Youth Advocacy Day at the Capitol during legislative session.
- The group wants to develop a communication plan of dissemination to youth, youth coalitions, and prevention lead organizations (PLOs).
- A long-term goal of the group is to be able to do a cost/benefit analysis of prevention efforts to give to the state.
- The group wants to define the roles of things already occurring in the state (such as needs assessments) so they are not duplicating work. If a service is already provided, this subcommittee can increase communication about it.
- The group would like to develop educational pieces to distribute to youth about stigma, harm reduction, and the Good Samaritan Law.
- They want to increase student feedback to efforts, particularly this subcommittee's efforts.
- Youth who are prescribed pain medication should be educated on the medication and risk of substance use disorder. This should particularly be targeted in sports injuries/medicine.

Next Steps

- It is difficult to meet in person with so many grants ending in September and final year-end things happening in Quarter 4. The group discussed dates that worked for the most people on the call and decided that Wednesday, October 2, at 12:00 works the best for everyone. Bradley McCoy will send the invite after consulting with Deb Koester.
- The group members listed under the first bullet point will reach out to their respective subcommittee prospects for future participation.
- All subcommittee members will read the documents and information shared by Bradley McCoy, Tahnee Bryant, and JoAnna Vance. They will use this information to answer a SurveyMonkey prioritizing their top three areas for goals in the State Plan.

Adjournment:

Bradley McCoy closed the meeting by thanking all subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. The subcommittee will meet again on Wednesday October 2, 2024, at 12:00 PM.