

Notes of Recovery Residence Taskforce September 29, 2023

- **Meeting Details**

- Date and Time: Thursday, September 29, 2023
- Location: Zoom
- Attendees: Rachel Thaxton, Curtis Johnson, Dawn Frohna, Dora Radford, Christina Mullins, Whitney Wetzel, Jostin Holmes, Brent Wolfingbarger, Beverly Sharp, Joey McComas, James Phillips, Nick Stuchell, Kristin Tiedeman, Phil Shimer, Emily Birckhead, Jessica Holstein, Robert Hansen

- Welcome and review of notes last meeting

- The Chair verbally reviewed the notes of the last meeting

- Review of Findings to be submitted to LOCHHRA Oct. 1

- General Counsel for ODCP shared a powerpoint and overview of the Task Force's current recommendations.
- Discussion was had on tracking the number of recovery residences in the state.
- Counsel also reviewed the inquiries and research that the Task Force had undertaken to date.
- Discussion was had on the role and reach of MFCU surrounding fraud.
- Discussion was had on the human trafficking recommendations. It was noted that some of the residences engaging in these practices were not residences that solely handled recovery.
- Discussion was had on how to define a successful residence due to different starting points and social supports of the residents. However, there are some markers, such as transportation and access to primary care that can be looked at to evaluate the potential success of a residence. Some of these markers can be tracked through the Rec Cap program. Counsel suggested adding that a completion rate is not necessarily indicative of a successful recovery residence. This recommendation can also help track successful outcomes and the associated actions that influence the same. The Task Force also decided to add the number of recovery residences already using Rec Cap. One barrier to implementation of a Rec Cap mandate is that some operators have been using their own systems and would risk losing their existing data. However, the program is open to all certified residences.
- Discussion was had on violations of recovery residences receiving improper referrals. It is a misdemeanor in the code. However, there is no enforcement mechanism.
- Discussion was had on developing a system of tracking referrals. The Task Force would add

that West Virginia does not currently have a mechanism for tracking and recording recovery residence referrals.

- Discussion was had on patient brokering and adding uniform informed consent to the recommendations. The group discussed adding a separate finding on uniform informed consent. Discussion was had on existing informed consent measures. WVARR reported that MFCU would be training the recovery residence operators on informed consent. WVARR asks for MOUs in order to provide guidance on these issues.
- Discussion was had on SNAP and other benefit fraud. WVARR had received complaints of this activity. WVARR then involved the USDA and developed a process for handling payments by using a point of sale system to track payments and data. However, some operators do not have a system in place so this finding remains relevant. Certified residences are required to use WVARR's system. WVARR would train non-certified residences on these procedures.
- Discussion was had on a single authority to handle complaints and refer them to the proper authority.
- Discussion was had on confusion about current laws and jurisdiction of the various entities involved in complaints. In addition some municipalities and other geographic areas have different requirements for recovery residences. Florida has also faced this barrier and emphasized its importance. Discussion was had on adding language to delineate between medicaid and PRSS services and the difference between treatment and recovery residences.