

**Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on
Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment
Community Engagement and Supports Subcommittee
Housing Workgroup
Tuesday September 10, 2024, Approved**

Attendees:

Workgroup Members: Emily Birckhead, Danny Hale, Bob Hansen (chair), Matt Johnson, Tennysa Mace, Joey McComas, Autumn McCraw, Gwynn McGee, Jay Phillips, David Sanders, Nick Stuchell, Rachel Thaxton, Kristin Tiedeman
Staff: Bradley McCoy

Opening:

Bob Hansen (chair) provided welcome and opening remarks of this meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Community Engagement and Supports Subcommittee - Housing Workgroup. The meeting was called to order on Tuesday September 10, 2024, and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was present to approve the August 2024 meeting minutes. Jay Phillips made a motion to approve without changes, and Emily Birckhead seconded with all in favor, and none opposed, and the minutes were approved. The purpose of this meeting was to review KPI progress and discuss plans for a winter 2024 Housing and Recovery Conference.

Agenda Items:

Town Hall Meeting Update

- Rachel Thaxton and Bradley McCoy provided an update from the Town Hall Meetings. They talked about the timeline of disseminating the report to subcommittees to develop their plan in October and have it finalized in November. Themes that stuck out to Rachel from the report outs were more certified recovery residences, reentry housing, and target/population housing for families.

Update on Plans for Conference

- Rachel Thaxton provided updates on plans to host a Recovery Housing Conference later this year. A date has been set for December 12th at the Embassy Suites in Charleston. A save the date is being finalized and will be sent out soon. Planning meetings for the conference are happening every two weeks. There will be two plenary sessions and three breakout sessions based on two tracks: PRSSs and Residences. It will be a one-day conference.

- The group discussed suggestions for conference topics such as: funding and sustainability, a how-to for getting certified, communication between recovery residences for collaborative learning opportunities, community engagement, stigma reduction and coding/zoning. The Fletcher Group is beginning a program in Kentucky of fathership training at men's recovery residences for reunification and getting them in contact with legal aid which folks would likely want to learn more about. They also want to invite their budget and cost analysis contacts from Ohio.

KPI Q3 Progress

- Bob Hansen will work on the percentages in the Progress Report document and return it to Bradley McCoy by September 27, 2024.

Establish Fall Planning Schedule

- This was touched on during the timeline of the Town Hall Meeting Report dissemination, but the group did not discuss extending meetings or having a full meeting of the Community Engagement and Supports Subcommittee.

Additional Business

- Recovery Point unveiled a new mural in Charleston, West Virginia today.
- The group discussed how to seek funding and sustainability at large since they are only a workgroup who discusses current issues but find it difficult to inflict positive change. Many issues were discussed such as the necessity of specialized homes for target populations but those come at a higher price. The group hopes that the Ohio cost analysis and budgeting tool would be a great help to residences. While cutting the capacity of housing for those who are not willing to move forward with certification, they must find ways to supplement, support, and stabilize those who are willing to explore that avenue. The group wants to determine the exact capacity of those who need recovery residences because for example, women need recovery residences, but many beds sit empty due to the barriers women face to seeking treatment and recovery. The Fletcher Group is doing a survey that can accurately determine return on investment (ROI) and cost. It would be helpful to have the data to compare correctional costs versus recovery residence costs for individuals.
- Medicaid attempted to allow billing for level 3 and level 4 residences, but CMS said no to level 3 and then level 4 is basically encroaching on treatment. There are discussions of this at a high level. Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) need to be made aware of the treatment and recovery continuum.

Adjournment:

Bob closed the meeting by thanking all workgroup members for their attendance and participation. The subcommittee will meet again on October 1, 2024, at 1:00 PM.