

**Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on
Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment
Community Engagement and Supports Subcommittee
Housing Workgroup
Tuesday November 5, 2024, Approved**

Attendees:

Workgroup Members Attending: Emily Birckhead, Danny Hale, Bob Hansen (chair), Matt Johnson, Jay Phillips, Kristin Tiedeman

Not Attending: Amber Blankenship, Jostin Holmes Julian Levine, Joey McComas, Gwyn McGee, Nick Stuchell, David Sanders, Jessica Smith, Jana Stoner, Krista White

Marshall University Staff: Deb Koester, 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 November 5, 2024, and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was not present to approve September and October 2024 meeting minutes. Matt Johnson 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 work on the 2025 State Plan Draft.

Agenda Items:

Reconfirm Workgroup Membership

- The Subcommittee reconfirmed membership of the Workgroup.

2025 State Plan Draft Due November 15, 2024

- The Subcommittee actively worked on editing the current 2024 State Plan for 2025.
- Goal 1: They agreed to leave the language of Goal 1 broad related to increasing the capacity of recovery housing.
- Goal 1, Strategy 1: The Subcommittee agreed to leave this as is.
- Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 1: The Subcommittee would like to continue compiling information about the capacity of recovery housing. This will be done using surveys completed in 2024 but will need to continue through next year. This became KPI 1 as this initial information around capacity will inform the amount of funding needed in an ongoing manner through 2025.
- Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 2: This was deleted as it will be captured in the new KPI 1.
- For the new Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 2: Kristin Tiedeman took notes around the discussion about funding which are included here: "to use the results of the Fletcher Group, Inc.'s financial landscape survey as part of the paper, compare the new landscape survey to the prior survey to see whether the additional Housing and Urban Development funding has helped to increase capacity and link that to the benefit that additional funding can bring". They will possibly get

anecdotal statements from recovery housing operators regarding the improvements/benefits that the Housing and Urban Development funding has brought about, do a short survey with the recovery houses receiving that funding, and ask them what has changed in their program since receiving the funding. They will also possibly look at working with the First foundation to make the application process less complicated.

- The Subcommittee would like to meet with Dr. Stephen Loyd to understand his experience working in the recovery residence space.
- Regarding the final KPIs of Strategy 1, the State is moving forward on residence capacity again for the first time this year since losing certification of some of its largest facilities. West Virginia is now five residences lower than the initial goal rather than 16 residences.
- Goal 1 Strategy 2: The Subcommittee agreed to leave as is.
- Goal 1, Strategy 2, KPI 2: The Subcommittee discussed what technical assistance resources already exist and what they need to develop and implement. They agreed to leave the KPI as written to promote what exists but acknowledged that they will have to promote anything else implemented in the next year as well such as engaging grant resource centers.
- Goal 1, Strategy 3: This strategy and KPIs were not changed. The dates for the KPIs were updated for 2025. The Subcommittee discussed potentially adding something about awareness for target populations like pregnant and parenting women. They mentioned how recovery housing for this population has closed due to not staying full and they acknowledged that it cannot be from a lack of need, but from an existence of barriers to women recovery.
- Bradley McCoy will send today's draft to the group for input before finalizing it. The draft is also included here in the minutes.

Update on Housing Conference

- This agenda item was not addressed.

Establish Full Community Engagements and Supports Subcommittee Meeting

- This agenda item was not addressed.

Adjournment:

Bob Hansen closed the meeting by thanking all the workgroup members for their attendance and participation. The subcommittee will meet again on December 3, 2024, at 1:00 PM.

Housing Workgroup State Plan 2025 Draft

Goal 1: Increase capacity of recovery housing in West Virginia.

Strategy 1: Advocate for long-term funding to help strengthen and grow all levels and types of recovery housing in West Virginia where it is needed.

- KPI 1: Through December 31, 2025, ~~establish a work group that includes representatives from ODCP, BBH, WVARR, and recovery residence operators, and meets monthly, to~~ determine the capacity needs for all types of recovery housing.
- KPI 2: By February 28, 2025, collaborate with the Office of Drug Control Policy and Bureau of Behavioral Health to identify funding needed in FY 2025 for the development of new recovery housing residences to meet capacity needs in West Virginia.
- KPI 3: By June 30, 2025, submit recommended strategies to the Community Engagement chair on how certified recovery residences may be sustainably funded.
- ~~KPI 2: By March 31, 2024, work with WVARR, ODCP and BBH to determine funding needed to support the sustainability of existing certified recovery residences.~~
- KPI 4: By December 31, 2025, increase the number of certified recovery residence facilities by 15%.
- KPI 5: By December 31, 2025, increase the number of certified recovery residence beds by 20%.

Strategy 2: Facilitate ongoing training and technical assistance for current and future recovery residence operators and staff.

- KPI 1: By September 1, 2025, conduct the third annual conference for recovery residence operators and staff, in collaboration with the West Virginia Association of Recovery Residences, Office of Drug Control Policy, and Bureau for Behavioral Health.
- KPI 2: By March 31, 2025, implement monthly promotion of the availability of technical assistance and resources (i.e., toolkits) for recovery residence operators and staff through multiple partners and outlets, including social media.
- KPI 3: By July 1, 2025, partner with the West Virginia Association of Recovery Residences and the Fletcher Group to assure development, implementation, and evaluation of a coaching/mentoring process for new and existing recovery residence operators.

Strategy 3: Facilitate the development and improvement of the utilization of recovery residences in a strong viable continuum of support for people in recovery.

- KPI 1: By March 31, 2025, develop recommendations for strategies that promote comprehensive, uniform data collection processes among recovery housing residences.
- KPI 2: By July 1, 2025, conduct outreach and data collection among residential treatment providers and payers (i.e., managed care organizations), to identify barriers, perceptions, and opportunities to strengthen linkages with recovery residences.
- KPI 3: By October 1, 2025, develop a written report that summarizes the data collected and provides recommendations based on the findings **and present to Governor's Council.**