

**Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on  
Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment  
Community Engagement and Supports Subcommittee  
Housing Workgroup  
August 6, 2024, Approved**

**Attendees:**

Workgroup Members: Bob Hansen (chair), Joey McComas, Jay Phillips, David Sanders, Nick Stuchell, Rachel Thaxton  
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 August 6, 2024, and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was present to approve the June 2024 meeting minutes. Joey McComas made a motion to approve without changes, and Jay Phillips 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:**

**Update on Meeting with Ohio Housing Group**

- Rachel Thaxton provided an update on a meeting she and Emily Birckhead held with a housing group from Ohio. This group has developed a Cost Analysis Tool for recovery residences and housing. It covers the return on investment and monthly costs to run a recovery residence for Levels 1 to Level 4. Rachel would like to ask them to present this at a future conference. They even cover general housing maintenance and depreciation such as wear and tear on appliances like washers and dryers, food, and utilities. Rachel shared the Excel spreadsheet with the present group.

**Update on Plans for Conference**

- Rachel Thaxton provided updates on plans to host a Recovery Housing Conference later this year. Funding has been secured and they will hold the conference the first week of December. The first planning meeting was held on August 2<sup>nd</sup> to discuss the meeting space and presenters.

There will be two plenary sessions, and three breakout sessions based on two tracks: PRSSs and Residences. It will be a one-day conference.

- Rachel asked the group for conference suggestions. They discussed how it can be difficult to get sustainable funding without becoming a treatment facility as well and that should be touched on in a presentation. Presenters should share success stories of recovery residences and give a step-by-step on how to be successful. Other areas for success are how to share data, narrative sharing, and translating those two things into grant work/the community. This would include administrative duties like data, utilities, and general business. Well-meaning people can get involved in recovery housing, but they need experience with running a business and/or grant management, or at least the tools and help to do so. The transportation and employment group should be included in the conference as well. There should be some conversation around how fair recovery housing relates to fair housing overall.

#### **Town Hall Meeting Reminder**

- Rachel Thaxton provided a reminder of the Town Hall Meetings occurring every Wednesday in August from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

#### **KPI Review**

- Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 1: Bob Hansen, Jay Phillips, and Matt Johnson worked on preliminary recommendations. Bob thinks it needs additional collaboration before Rachel takes them to the Governor's Council.
- Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 2: Everyone agreed it is difficult to determine funding needs. Rachel attends these agency level meetings though and can communicate needs to ODCP and the Governor's Council.
- Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 3: The group wants to use a needs assessment process or tool. They would like to use one that has been successfully utilized already in another state. They would like to establish some baseline data on the percent of people who go to recovery residences post-treatment. The First Foundation is working on that now, but they do not think it exists at a national level. The group would like to identify needs versus oversaturation areas. It was suggested that referral sources are the best way to get data around the continuum of care and why they leave (voluntarily leaving versus ineligibility versus graduation of a program). There needs to be more residences for familial living, but they want data to make more informed decisions. Rachel shared a link/PDF of ODCP's definition differentiating treatment and recovery beds. Legislators and key stakeholders need repeatedly trained and reminded of this. ODCP provides this information to legislators as part of a continuing education process. Court-ordered treatment needs to be clear and informed. Probation and parole officers need to be informed as well.
- Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 5 and 6: Someone is working on getting this data to the group.
- Goal 1, Strategy 2: This strategy refers to the housing conference.
- Goal 1, Strategy 3: Emily Birkhead's data expertise will inform this strategy. The group talked about new data collection applications and the process of migrating already existing data and

training on a new data collection system that is a user-friendly platform to collect residential treatment and recovery housing data.

**Additional Business**

- Rachel Thaxton provided a reminder to the group regarding the Recovery Residence Rule. SB475 changes registration with OHFLAC and data systems. It is posted for public comment on ODCP and OHFLAC's websites. Comments close on August 30<sup>th</sup> and then will be evaluated to see if changes are adopted into the rule. Rules will be bundled into legislation in the next session. It would be passed and then made enforceable around fall 2025. OHFLAC is incentivizing WVARR certification by making their registration easier for residences that are already WVARR certified.

**Adjournment:**

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