



# Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Community Engagement and Supports Subcommittee Housing Workgroup December 5, 2023, Approved

## Attendees:

Emily Birckhead, Danny Hale, Bob Hansen (chair), Deb Koester, Joey McComas, James Phillips, Rachel Thaxton

## Opening:

Bob Hansen 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, December 5, 2023 and was conducted by Zoom conference. The objective of this meeting was to finalize goals, strategies, and KPIs for the Housing section of the 2024 State Plan.

## Agenda Items:

### Review of Draft Strategies

- Goal 1, Strategy 1: With a focus on sustainability, Jay, as an operator, advocates for incorporating the term 'sustainable' into the strategy, addressing the current non-sustainability of recovery housing. Bob expresses concerns about the alignment with the Governor's Council goals. Deb proposes developing KPIs and revisiting the suitability of 'sustainable' for the strategy. To gain insights, Emily noted she has examined HUD funding levels, and mentions ongoing efforts in Oklahoma to compile training-related costs. She plans to collaborate with staff and can further provide this information to the workgroup for potential KPI guidance.
- Goal 1, Strategy 2: This strategy will include the annual conference, with KPIs outlining steps for attendee participation and funding. Emily, having conducted a training on Medicaid cost control, expresses hesitancy about conducting independent training without council permission, which could impact the scope of the KPIs. Bob proposes the formation of partnerships between organizations verbally in KPIs to navigate this challenge. Emily further suggests a joint conference with the Recovery subcommittee for increased collaboration and cost-effectiveness. Bob introduces the idea of a mentoring program to assist both existing and new providers in addressing operational challenges, while Emily recommends creating a toolkit/manual and providing one-on-one training for these providers.

- Goal 1, Strategy 3: Strategy 3 focuses on implementing data collection, with an additional emphasis on the need for long-term support rather than short-term treatment, although concerns are raised about the limited available data on this aspect. The discussion touches on determining the percentage of individuals receiving long-term support. Joey brings attention to the issue of housing individuals' post-incarceration who do not require a recovery component, expressing a need for re-entry resources beyond the scope of substance use disorder. Emily recommends including referrals as a KPI to track individuals who receive placement in recovery housing and those who do not.

#### **Development of 2024 KPIs**

- Bob will prepare an initial version of the KPIs for distribution to the team, and members of the workgroup are encouraged to collaborate in refining and enhancing them.

#### **Discussion on Proposed Change in WV Code, RE: Funding for Recovery Residences**

- Brian Gallagher has crafted language to amend the bill, aiming to cease funding for new facilities. Bob will share this language with workgroup members, though feedback has not been received since its formulation. With an impending legislative session, the discussion on this matter is scheduled for December 15th at the Governor's Council meeting, focusing on policy considerations.

#### **Next Steps:**

- Bob will develop KPIs for each strategy, intending to distribute them to workgroup members for review by Monday and seek approval through email correspondence.

#### **Adjournment:**

Bob expressed his gratitude to all the workgroup members for their participation. The previously scheduled meeting for next Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> was canceled. The work group is expected to meet again in the new year.