

**Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on
Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment
Community Engagement and Supports Subcommittee
Housing Workgroup
July 12, 2023, Approved**

Attendees:

Danny Hale, Bob Hansen, Deb Koester, Joey McComas, James Phillips, Beverly Sharp (co-chair), Kim Tieman (co-chair)

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 Wednesday, July 12, 2023 and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was present to approve April and June meeting minutes. James made the motion for approval and Danny seconded the motion. The objective of this meeting was to give feedback on the Peer Support and Housing Conference and review Quarter 2 2023 KPIs for the Housing Workgroup of the State Plan.

Agenda Items:

WV Peer Recovery Support Services and Recovery Housing Conference

- The three-day conference, which commenced on 6/23, aimed to provide education about the significance of peer recovery coaches and peer housing.
- According to James and Danny, the conference had an excellent lineup of presenters, and attendees traveled from various parts of the country to participate. Kim shared the same sentiment but expressed a desire for improved integration of workforce, housing, and transportation, emphasizing that these aspects are interconnected. Bob suggested that next year, they could recommend to the Council and DHHR to address this issue and explore funding options at an earlier stage. Kim also proposed involving community individuals as moderators to lighten the workload of state employees.
- To advance funding and planning efforts for next year's conference, Dr. Koester will request attendance figures and attendee evaluations from Jenny Lancaster.

- Bob acknowledged that his panel should have been divided into two, but overall, it received a positive response.

2023 Q2 KPIs

Goal 1

- Strategy 2, KPI 1: Danny offered to compile the data for this metric. Dr. Koester suggested including a summary of the number of available beds in recovery residences for 2021 and 2022 to provide context.
- Strategy 2, KPI 2: James volunteered to request information on the individuals who have completed the LMS Recovery Housing trainings. Kim recommended providing examples of which trainings are included, and Dr. Koester proposed that the KPI should specify the required number of trainings.
- Strategy 2, KPI 8: Danny mentioned that the Fletcher group is currently working on a white paper, and he will contact them to track its progress.
- Strategy 2, KPI 9: Unlike some other states, West Virginia has not protected any funds specifically for residence housing. Workgroup members expressed their support for lobbying in favor of this cause. Bev highlighted that her organization has invested significant funds to facilitate the transition of individuals exiting incarceration into recovery housing, which is also a requirement by the parole board—an issue affecting vulnerable transitions. However, Bev emphasized that when advocating for funding, the workgroup must ensure to include data not only from WVAAR-certified housing but also from various housing programs throughout the state. Additionally, there should be a mechanism to track the needs and requirements of each housing program, which can inform this KPI and potentially become a separate KPI. James suggested that providing training on funding sources for operators would be beneficial.

Additional Discussion

- Dr. Koester informed the workgroup that the 2023 Town Hall Meetings are scheduled for August 9th, 15th, 16th, and 31st, running from 10 am to 2 pm. These meetings will involve all eight subcommittees, and attendees will have the opportunity to participate in breakout sessions to gather additional insights for shaping the priorities of the 2024 State Plan.
- Bob suggested that workgroup members should reach out to people they know to expand the workgroup, particularly focusing on incorporating individuals involved in non-WVAAR certified housing data collection.

Adjournment:

A meeting between Bob, Danny, Rachel, Emily, and Dr. Koester will be scheduled to review data collection to establish a baseline for each KPI and a subsequent housing workgroup meeting will follow in August. Bob thanked all members for their attendance.