

**Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on
Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment
Community Engagement and Supports Subcommittee
Housing Workgroup
June 4, 2024, Approved**

Attendees:

Workgroup Members: Emily Birkhead, Danny Hale, Bob Hansen (chair), Matt Johnson, Tennysa Mace, Joseph McComas, Gwynn McGee, James Phillips, Kritina Tiedeman
Additional Attendees: Carly Glover, 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 June 4, 2024, and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was present to approve the May 7, 2024, meeting minutes. James Phillips made a motion to approve, and Matt Johnson seconded with all in favor and none opposed and the minutes were approved. The purpose of this meeting was to provide an update on the Governor's Council activities as well as the annual Town Hall Meetings scheduled in August, discuss funding sources, and review KPI progress.

Agenda Items:

Update on Governor's Council Activities

- Carly Glover provided an update that the annual Town Hall Meetings will be held on the four Wednesdays in August in a similar format to last year with a qualitative analysis after the fact to inform the 2025 Substance Use Response Plan. All four meetings will have nine breakout sessions for each Subcommittee topic.
- Two Subcommittees will be selected for each meeting of the Governor's Council to provide updates on their work and engage with the Council.

Update on the Status of the Community Engagement and Supports Subcommittee

- Bob has met with Rachel Thaxton, Deb Harris, and Ashley Shaw. There is a meeting scheduled for July 16th for all Subcommittee members.

Funding Group and Next Steps

- Bob Hansen recommended scheduling a meeting with ODCP as a next step.

HUD Funding Rollout

- Emily has not been reimbursed by Economic Development and has had to pay up front for services.
- 10 organizations invoiced last month with a positive upward trend in the number of organizations requesting services.
- Funding is available to all providers, but those who need help with cost of admittance to recovery housing most will hopefully receive priority.
- There are 31 certified organizations currently. Emily and Autumn will have a breakdown to report at the July 2, 2024 workgroup meeting.

KPI Review

- Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 1: A small internal group will continue to work to secure funds.
- Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 2: The deadline of March 31, 2024, for this KPI was not met. The group is open to partnering with other groups to determine exact capacity necessary in the state. They want to better understand target populations such as parenting and pregnant women that require special accommodations so the capacity can account for them as well.
- Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 3: This can be run concurrently with KPI 2. The group wants to work with existing research groups who have already surveyed capacity and target populations such as representatives from Ohio. After calculating necessary capacity, then they can determine cost and necessary funds to meet that need. Ohio already has a cost analysis calculation that can be tweaked for West Virginia rather than invent a new one. A virtual call needs to be set up with the Ohio researchers, this Subcommittee, ODCP, WVARR, and BBH.
- Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 4: This meeting is very closely related to the one mentioned in KPI 3.
- Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 5 and 6: These are difficult numbers to improve because changes cannot be made to certification requirements. Members cannot make recovery residences apply for certification or amend requirements for them.
- Goal 1, Strategy 2, KPI 1: The group still needs to start planning an annual conference and will likely not meet the deadline of September 1, 2024. It was suggested that it should be moved to November when things are not as busy as in September for National Recovery Month. Funding sources for this need to be identified as well.

Additional Business

- The group discussed the court action with the Justice Department that is affecting the recovery housing community regarding requirements around recovery residence certification, with an injunction being issued to stop the removal of individuals who have moved from DCR to uncertified recovery residences. Mountain State Justice is taking action for impacted individuals. The group does not have a lot of information on it yet and members would like a summary of its implications.

Adjournment:

Bob closed the meeting by thanking all workgroup members for their attendance and participation. The subcommittee will meet again on July 2nd at 1:00 PM.