

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

Attendees:

Emily Birckhead, Danny Hale, Bob Hansen (chair), Julian Levine, Joey McComas, Gywnn McGee, David Sanders, Nick Stuchell, 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, March 5, 2024 and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was present to approve February meeting minutes. Danny made the motion for approval and Julian seconded the motion. The objective of this meeting was to discuss 2024 implementation planning.

Agenda Items:

Update on the Status of the Community Engagement and Supports Subcommittee and Governor's Council Update

- Bob mentions that the community engagement and supports subcommittee has seen the resignation of both its co-chairs, Kim Tieman and Beverly Sharp, from the broader council. Rachel adds that discussions are underway to identify candidates for the chairmanship. She has consulted with Secretaries Young and Persily on the selection process and plans to submit candidate recommendations to the Governor's Office, with the hope that post-legislative session, there will be increased focus on the Governor's Council.
- The Governor's Council is scheduled to convene on Wednesday, March 20th, with the agenda to approve the 2024 strategic plan. Rachel mentions that this meeting is open to the public, inviting anyone with interest or questions to attend.
- Until a new chair is appointed, Rachel will temporarily lead the Community Engagement Subcommittee. Bob has advocated for enhanced cooperation with the transportation and employment workgroup going forward. Rachel intends to coordinate with leaders of the workgroups within the subcommittee to discuss potential synergies.

HUD Funding Status and Process

- Emily conducted extensive training sessions and was available for office hours every Friday in February to assist with economic development. A comprehensive all-day training session was held last week, during which a step-by-step guide was provided to streamline the process. Currently, all plans are considered proposals pending validation of their effectiveness. The initiative is beginning with a pilot phase, targeting programs that already meet the specified criteria and have certification. Participation requires the use of the ARMS system to qualify for funding, with provisions made to retroactively compensate from January to facilitate tracking of individuals throughout their participation.
- The pilot program offers funding at a rate of \$20 per day for up to 45 days as an initial benchmark. The aim is to actively engage participants and monitor the implementation's effectiveness. For reimbursement processes through HUD, submissions will be made monthly, and Emily's team will handle the payments. So far, three organizations have applied for reimbursements. This funding approach aligns with the DHHR's per diem rates and Medicaid, simplifying the tracking of expenditures on behalf of individuals.
- A challenge identified is the participation of organizations that do not charge entry fees. The funding is intended to lower the barriers to housing access, and while navigation around this issue is still in progress, there is openness to including such organizations in the program.

Legislative News

- SB 515, which relates to the certification of recovery residences for housing, is currently stalled in the judiciary committee. The legislative session is set to conclude this Saturday. Although the bill was not included in today's agenda, there's a possibility it might be considered tomorrow. Nick points out that any proposals not discussed today will not progress further.
- Implementing compulsory registration would enable the tracking of recovery residence locations and grant OHFLAC the power to close down any programs that fail to meet the established requirements.

2024 KPI Implementation Discussion

Goal 1

- Strategy 1, KPI 2 Bob plans to set up a dedicated conference call to allow BBH, Medicaid, and ODCP representatives to discuss KPI 2 focused on the sustainability of certified recovery residences.
- Strategy 1, KPI 3/4: The group will conduct a needs assessment. There's a recognized need for support and participation from the state level. Danny mentions that Brandon has obtained a quote for conducting a needs assessment from a professional at SAMHSA responsible for developing the tool. Emily suggests conducting a quarterly survey involving operators and referral sources to gather necessary information, with Rachel and ODCP staff handling its distribution. Gwyn mentions that BBH is working with WVU's evaluation team to shift focus from tallies to outcomes analysis and suggests selecting a few programs for initial examination, proposing that this workgroup could engage in such a project. She also recommends

incorporating recovery residence data into quarterly program reports. Emily highlights the efficiency of adding data collection tasks to existing activities to reduce costs, while suggesting hiring additional support for the assessment piece. Bob proposes organizing another meeting to delve deeper into these strategies before the April workgroup gathering, ensuring thorough discussion and planning.

Adjournment:

Bob expressed his gratitude to all the workgroup members for their participation. The work group is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, April 2nd at 1 PM.