

## Notes of Recovery Residence Taskforce November 30, 2023

- **Meeting Details**

- Date and Time: Thursday, November 30, 2023
- Location: Zoom
- Attendees: Dora Radford, Rachel Thaxton, Nick Stuchell, Dawson, Bryanna Hodge, Angel Hightower, Brent Wolfingbarger, Allen Siegler, James Phillips, Kristen Tiedeman, Bailey, Sarah, Gregor H, Jostin Holmes, Christina Mullins, Phil Shimer, Jon Dower, Bob Hansen, Greg Holcum, Emily Birckhead

- **Finalize recommendation documents**

- **Recommendation 1**
  - Counsel for ODCP reviewed this recommendation for the group.
- **Recommendation 2**
  - Counsel for ODCP reviewed this recommendation for the group.
- **Recommendation 3**
  - Counsel for ODCP reviewed this recommendation for the group.
    - Counsel for ODCP discussed his hesitation with this recommendation because it is not compliant with fair housing laws. The only way to remain compliant was to require all houses in the state to register.
    - Huntington created a rental registry to avoid this issue; an issues exists with enforcement
    - If there is a change to require the Life and Health inspection as in Recommendation 8, this may eliminate the need for this recommendation
    - There might be a way to track through Secretary of State or insurance requirements to eliminate this requirement;
      - There could be a separate designation for homes
      - This would not capture sole proprietorships
      - This requirement would give some enforcement when an entity does not accurately report to the Secretary of State
      - Would also provide a list of entities

- **Recommendation 4**
  - Counsel for ODCP reviewed this recommendation for the group.
    - Discussion was had surrounding going through some risk based screening process that BMS currently has for new providers.
      - Brent Wolfingbarger would email ODCP Counsel regarding the details of this comment.
- **Recommendation 5**
  - Counsel for ODCP reviewed this recommendation for the group.
- **Recommendation 6**
  - Counsel for ODCP reviewed this recommendation for the group.
- **Recommendation 7**
  - Counsel for ODCP reviewed this recommendation for the group.
- **Recommendation 8**
  - Counsel for ODCP reviewed this recommendation for the group.
    - Discussion of adding to certification language if they offer clinical services
    - Would not be a full licensure and would not eliminate WVARR certification
    - Deputy Secretary Mullins discussed her experiences with visiting larger recovery housing and the issues with living conditions in some residences.
      - Currently there is no mechanism to trigger intervention in these residences and take action to improve these circumstances.
      - This recommendation would create this action that currently does not exist.
      - This recommendation could also invoke OHFLAC rules.
      - This does not intend to increase operating expense for houses
      - There is room for discussion on other mechanisms to obtain the safety needed for recovery houses.
    - Discussion was had on the actionability and sustainability of these recommendations due to funding issues, burden on operators, and unintended consequences.
    - Concerns were expressed over specific language in recommendations to legislators to avoid unintended consequences.
    - The language in this recommendation is not consistent with the intent of this recommendation due to wording on clinical issues.
    - In addition concerns were expressed on mirroring or including OHFLAC due to costs.
      - Some of these issues such as sprinkler systems are covered by zoning issues already
    - NARR standards address number of residents and health and safety
    - WVARR expressed that basing this recommendation on number of residents
      - It would be better to base on “use class” of the building and level of services

- There is overlap between ASSAM and NARR requirements
- One strategy could change word license
- Counsel advised that basing on bed count would capture uncertified residences; discussion was had on this issue
  - This could be captured by fire code and other regulations
  - However this issues does not appear to be capturing these residences
  - Discussion of using definition of single family dwelling instead of bed count which met with some support
  - Discussion was had on fair housing standards and if this recommendation is in violation of those regulations
  - Counsel for ODCP discussed intent of this Recommendation as keeping residents safe
  - Could require everyone to be on state registry and then define standards and then would need an enforcement tool to maintain those requirements.
  - Fire marshall reviews determine if a residence is a single or double family dwelling
  - Registration could require a residence to identify themselves as a single or double occupancy
  - Major concern is uncertified homes
  - Could change to requiring that homes who are unwilling to be certified then they must submit to a life and health inspection/licensing
    - There was good support for this change
    - Could include that there is a continuation of legislature involvement to continue to evolve these recommendation through the Task Force
    - Could also require that there is no additional cost to operators in order to remove barriers and achieve the goal of protecting recovery residents
    - Brent Wolfingbarger recommends that language like including licensing requirements in a manner that is consistent with the fair housing laws.
  - There was discussion on requiring all residences to be certified
    - Concern was fair housing
  - Deputy Secretary Mullins expressed that there is a shortage of certified recovery homes
  - Deputy Secretary Mullins opened the floor for discussion by recovery residents and their views
    - Smaller group/bed counts can make recovery experience have more unity and home-like feeling and less clinical and is a good transition for when residents move out into their own space.

- Other residents agreed with the benefits of a smaller number of residents; smaller bed counts eliminate the “corporate” feeling of recovery housing.
- Resident also reflected that the atmosphere of smaller than 16 beds is more family feel and larger numbers of residents can create more interpersonal issues and a less mentally safe space

- **Recommendation 9**

- Counsel for ODCP reviewed this recommendation for the group.

- **Discussion on presentation to LOCHHRA**

- Counsel for ODCP reviewed the current timeline for presenting these recommendations to the legislature.
- Interim Director Thaxton asked recovery residents to come to presentation and WVARR Director

- **Discussion on next steps of Task Force**

- There was support to continue this Task Force and include more outside entities