

# **Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Community Engagement and Supports Subcommittee Housing Workgroup Tuesday, June 3, 2025, Approved**

## **Attendees:**

**Subcommittee Members Attending:** Emily Birkhead, Danny Hale, Bob Hansen (chair), Matt Johnson, Joey McComas, Jay Phillips, Josh Sapp, Nick Stuchell, Kristen Tiedeman

**Guests Attending:** Mark Lanyon, Gwynn McGee, Dave Sanders, Nick Stuchell

**Subcommittee Members and Guests Invited, Not Attending:** Amber Blankenship, Julian Levine

**ODCP Staff Attending:** Dr. Stephen Loyd

**Marshall University Staff:** Bradley McCoy

## **Opening:**

Bob Hansen (chair) provided welcome and opening remarks for this meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Community Engagement and Supports Subcommittee - Housing Workgroup (Workgroup). The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was present to approve May 2025 meeting minutes. Danny Hale made a motion to approve without changes, and Jay Phillips seconded with all in favor and none opposed. There was no further discussion. The motion passed with all in favor. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss key performance indicator (KPI) updates.

## **Agenda Items:**

### **2025 KPI Updates, and Performance Management Spreadsheet Review**

- The Workgroup discussed a project converting a hotel into recovery housing. Michelle and John Connor from Franklin, West Virginia are writing a grant to secure funding through Pittsburgh Federal Home Loan Grants.
- Emily Birkhead and The Fletcher Group, Inc. did not have any new updates about a needs assessment since last month's meeting. The First Foundation has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a needs assessment. The Workgroup discussed how comprehensive this monumental task could become and debated the urgency versus practicality of data collection. The Workgroup discussed developing a survey that could at least quickly inform this group. Emily will meet with Kristen Tiedeman to discuss what variables need tracked.
- Danny Hale and Emily Birkhead discussed recovery residence certification trends. A few have had their certification revoked or are in the process of appealing for it. There have only been a handful of new applications, but positively they are in rural or traditionally underserved areas. The Workgroup discussed how to positively empower organizations rather than to focus on negative areas.

- Certification renewals primarily occur during this April-June period, so West Virginia Alliance is very busy during this time. They discussed potentially staggering recertifications in the future.
- The reasons why residences choose not to renew or fail to renew their certification is individual to each one. WVARR is exploring how they would navigate changes to their current extension policy for recertification. State Opioid Response (SOR) grant dollars can only be given to WVARR certified residences so that is an incentive. The Workgroup also discussed ways to prevent late recertification planning by residences. There is a two-year recertification option for residences in good standing so they will still receive an annual on-site visit but will not need to resubmit. The Workgroup also discussed suspension of funding notices as a way to improve timeliness of recertification submissions. One-on-one business management from staff repeatedly encouraging recertification submission is not sustainable. The Workgroup discussed setting up a mentor system of experienced organizations that could help newer organizations submit what is required for certification. They would also like to offer more regularly scheduled group support training rather than solve the same issues repeatedly one-on-one.
- The Recovery Housing and Peer Recovery Support Specialist Conference is still scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup> in Charleston with updates to come soon. Regular planning meetings are still occurring.

#### **Town Hall Meetings**

- Bradley McCoy provided an overview of the Town Hall Meetings and their schedule. Town Hall Meetings will also be held in-person throughout a two-week period in Logan, Wheeling, the Eastern panhandle, and Charleston with more details about the date and location to come. The virtual format will be the same as in previous years. The virtual Town Hall Meetings are scheduled for:
  - Wednesday August 27th 10:00-12:00 (Virtual)
  - Wednesday September 3rd 1:00-3:00 (Virtual)
  - Wednesday September 10th 10:00-12:00 (Virtual)

#### **Adjournment:**

Bob Hansen closed the meeting by thanking all the Workgroup members for their attendance and participation. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 1, 2025, at 1:00 PM.