

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Community Engagement and Supports Subcommittee Housing Workgroup Tuesday, October 7, 2025, Approved

Attendees:

Workgroup Members Attending: Emily Birckhead, Danny Hale, Bob Hansen (chair), Matt Johnson, Joey McComas, Jay Phillips, David Sanders, Kristen Tiedeman

Workgroup Members Not Attending: Krista White

Guests Attending: Jessica Whitmore

Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) Staff Attending: Rick Dempsey, Olivia Fox, Justin Smith

SOR Regional Coordinators Attending: Christina Adkins, Jill Poe

Marshall University Staff Attending: 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, October 7, 2025, and was conducted by Google Meet conference. Bob Hansen approved the September meeting minutes. There was no further discussion. The motion passed with all in favor. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss Subcommittee Reorganization and the 2026 State Plan.

Agenda Items:

Community Conversations

- Bradley McCoy updated the Workgroup on three virtual and the four in-person Community Conversation meetings. Meeting notes have been compiled and sent for review and will be distributed to all Subcommittees. Stigma and transportation were identified as high priorities across all sessions. Another priority identified was the lack of youth treatment and general youth services across the state.

2026 Subcommittee Reorganization and the 2026 State Plan

- Richard Dempsey, Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP), provided future recommendations which includes combining Subcommittees. The Housing Workgroup, Transportation and Employment Workgroup, and Public Education Subcommittee would combine into one Community Supports Subcommittee. In order to address tasks specific to topic areas, Workgroups would be allowed to meet as they see fit outside of the regularly scheduled combined meetings.
- The newly proposed structure has four main Subcommittees: 1) Children and Families 2) Community Supports 3) Justice-Involved Populations 4) Recovery Ecosystem. The goal of the

restructuring is to incentivize cross-collaboration as one group and eliminate key performance indicators (KPIs) that require planning for cross-collaboration that will already be happening.

- The KPI development will remain the same. If a KPI developed by a Subcommittee will fit into another new Subcommittee's category of topics better, it will live there in the written State Plan.
- There was concern about the size of the collapsed Subcommittees and time constraints to work on the meetings.
- Bradley McCoy and Rick Dempsey went over the timeline of 2026 State Plan submission. The Housing portion of the plan will be finalized on the November 4, 2025 meeting, sent to ODCP by December, and the plan will be submitted to the legislature in January 2026.
- The Workgroup discussed future funding opportunities for recovery housing. There also needs to be further education for gaining certification.
- The existing recovery residences would also need to maintain or increase staffing needs if they choose to expand. The support staff can include licensed behavioral health centers. There may be an outlet for behavioral health centers to transition into recovery housing. The Fletcher Group is an informative resource for rehabilitative and recovery housing.

Additional Discussion

- David Sanders shared the following link to a funding announcement for youth recovery housing.
https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/20250825/samhsa-announces-43m-supplemental-funding-support-youth-recovery-housing-services?utm_source=SAMHSA&utm_campaign=c7dea054d8-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2025_08_25_04_22&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-c7dea054d8-169883807

Adjournment:

Bob Hansen closed the meeting by thanking all the Workgroup members for their attendance and participation. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at 1:00 PM.