

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Community Engagement and Supports Subcommittee Housing Workgroup Tuesday, November 4, 2025, Approved

Attendees:

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

Workgroup Members Not Attending: Emily Birkhead, David Sanders, Krista White

Guests Attending: Heidi Cork, Justin Titlow, 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, November 4, 2025, and was conducted by Google Meet conference. Bob Hansen approved the October 7, 2025 meeting minutes. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss finalization of the 2026 State Plan.

Agenda Items:

2026 Subcommittee

- Bob Hansen met with Bradley McCoy to create an initial draft of the 2026 State Plan using the current 2025 State Plan and updating it where necessary. They presented this draft to the Workgroup for member input and real time edits. Many key performance indicators (KPI) remained the same; however dates were updated to continue working on them in 2026.
- Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 1: This KPI will remain the same, however the Workgroup discussed strategies related to measuring capacity. A map exists on the West Virginia Alliance of Recovery Residences (WVARR) website of certified recovery residences, however needs to be promoted. This Workgroup is waiting to see who was funded by the West Virginia First Foundation for the needs assessment to see if their work will meet the desired goals of measuring capacity.
- Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 2: The West Virginia First Foundation was added to the list of collaborators.
- Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 4 and 5: These KPIs were removed. Both dealt with the increase in recovery residences and available beds. While these numbers are important to monitor and will continue to be a point of discussion for this Workgroup, it is outside their scope of work and funding to be able to increase capacity themselves and given the discussions around capacity's variability in the current 2025 State Plan, it does not fit going forward.

- Goal 1, Strategy 2, KPI 1: This was updated to host the fourth annual conference; however, Rick Dempsey discussed that this may be subject to change. There are internal discussions with The West Virginia Association of Addiction and Prevention Professionals (WVAAPP) about potential collaboration to make the conference even longer but maintain the Peer Recovery Support Specialist (PRSS) track. If ownership of the conference shifts, this KPI may be removed from the final version of the Plan.
- Goal 1, Strategy 2, KPI 2: Autumn McGraw has started certification readiness technical assistance meetings. These will fulfill that coaching component, however, it needs to be promoted and discussed through the next year.
- Goal 1, Strategy 3, KPI 1: The data collection component in the 2025 State Plan is already being met in the use of Behave Health by certified recovery residences. This changed this KPI from data collection to promoting and increasing the usage of Behave Health. Not everyone uses it currently, but it will become mandatory for certification in the spring. Residences that prefer their own case management system are a barrier to having everyone use one database for available recovery beds. Having more providers use this will in turn help with Goal 1, Strategy 3, KPI 2 in strengthening linkages with treatment providers so they will have access to recovery bed availability. It can also be promoted on WVARR's website.

Additional Discussion

- There is a Governor's Council meeting on November 19, 2025 and an in-person meeting of Subcommittee chairs in Charleston, West Virginia on December 4, 2025 for chairs to present their sections of the Plan to one another and ODCP.

Adjournment:

Bob Hansen closed the meeting by thanking all the Workgroup members for their attendance and participation. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 1:00 PM.

Housing Workforce 2026 State Plan

Goal 1: Advocate for increasing the capacity of recovery housing in West Virginia.

Strategy 1: Advocate for long-term funding to help strengthen and grow all levels and types of recovery housing in West Virginia where it is needed.

KPI 1: Through December 31, 2026, determine the capacity needs for all types of recovery housing.

KPI 2: Through March 31, 2026, collaborate with the West Virginia First Foundation, the Office of Drug Control Policy, and Bureau for Behavioral Health to identify funding needed in FY 2026 for the development of new recovery housing residences to meet capacity needs in West Virginia as identified in KPI 1.

KPI 3: By June 30, 2026, submit recommended strategies to the Governor's Council on sustainably funding certified recovery.

Strategy 2: Facilitate ongoing training and technical assistance for current and future recovery residence operators and staff.

KPI 1: By September 30, 2026, conduct the fourth annual conference for recovery residence operators and staff, in collaboration with the West Virginia Association of Recovery Residences, the Office of Drug Control Policy, and Bureau for Behavioral Health.

KPI 2: Through December 31, 2026, implement monthly promotion of the availability of technical assistance and resources (i.e., toolkits) for recovery residence operators and staff through multiple partners and outlets, including social media.

KPI 3: By July 1, 2026, partner with the West Virginia Alliance of Recovery Residences and the Fletcher Group to assure development, implementation, and evaluation of a coaching/mentoring process for new and existing recovery residence operators and staff.

KPI 4: Through December 31, 2026, report quarterly the number of current and future residence operators and staff that receive coaching/mentoring and/or technical assistance.

Strategy 3: Facilitate the development and improvement of the utilization of recovery residences in a strong viable continuum of support for people in recovery.

KPI 1: Through December 31, 2026, increase number of providers using Behave Health for data collection.

KPI 2: By July 1, 2026, conduct outreach and data collection among residential treatment providers and payers (i.e., managed care organizations), to identify barriers, perceptions, and opportunities to strengthen linkages with recovery residences.

KPI 3: By October 1, 2026, develop a written report that summarizes the data collected and provides recommendations based on the findings.