

Cumberland County ROSC Recovery Housing Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

October 27th, 2024

5:30 pm

Zoom

Attendees: Kristina Drum, Kyle Houser, Sara Ruholl, Russell Thomas

Minutes

Overview: The group explored plans for to potentially establish a men's residential facility in Toledo, with discussions about property acquisition and funding options. The team concluded by planning community engagement initiatives, including educational sessions and a December community meeting to address NIMBY concerns and provide information about recovery housing in Cumberland County.

Property Options for Recovery Home: Kyle discussed exploring options for securing a property for a recovery home, including a potential purchase from a property owner offering it for \$180,000. Sara suggested subscribing to the Department of Human Services newsletter for updates on grant opportunities, while also mentioning that First Neighbor Bank lists foreclosed properties on its website. The group discussed the possibility of negotiating with banks for favorable terms on foreclosed properties to support community recovery initiatives.

Bank-Owned Property Short Sale Discussion: Sara explained the process of purchasing bank-owned properties through short sales, which typically require cash payments and are often in poor condition due to neglect by previous owners. Kyle expressed interest in helping initiate searches for such properties, while Sara mentioned that banks are required by the FDIC to reinvest profits into their communities through various initiatives. The group discussed the potential for acquiring properties for a recovery home project, with Kyle emphasizing the need to find the right individuals for such an endeavor.

Treatment Housing Level Selection: The group discussed different housing levels for a treatment program, with Level 1 being peer-run (similar to Oxford House) and Level 2 being monitored housing with structure. They determined that Level 2 would be most suitable for their area, as Level 1 might be too risky due to stigma, and Level 3 with supervised staff would not be feasible.

Toledo Community Session Planning: The group discussed plans for a community session in Toledo, with Sara suggesting several venue options including churches, the Life Center, and the county boardroom. Kristina expressed interest in having Sean lead the "not-in-my-backyard" discussion, and the team agreed to host it in Toledo to make it more accessible. Sara shared her

experience working with parolees in Illinois prisons, highlighting challenges with parole location restrictions and the difficulty of finding suitable housing for released offenders.

Cumberland County Recovery Housing Plans: The group discussed plans for recovery housing in Cumberland County, focusing on educational sessions and community engagement. They agreed to hold a community meeting in early December to address NIMBY concerns and provide information about recovery housing. The team decided to develop educational materials, potentially using existing resources from other communities, before the meeting. They scheduled a follow-up meeting for November 10th at 5:30 PM to further plan the educational sessions and community meeting. The group also discussed the need to find a landlord willing to participate in recovery housing, though they noted this goal may be challenging given current housing market conditions.

Next Meeting: November 10th, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. via zoom