

REGIONAL TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS, ADDICTION, AND MENTAL HEALTH

Location: Phil Gainer Community Center
Date: April 23, 2026
Time: 1:00 pm
Meeting called to order by: Travis Bennett

IN ATTENDANCE

S. Baker, T. Bennett, L. Boone, M. Goins, L. Hall, M. Jeffries, K. Keplinger, J. Kittle, J. Marco, R. Marstiller, S. Marteney, M. Payne, S. Pennington, J. Powers, K. Shreve, A. Starkey, & S. Trudell.

AGENDA DISCUSSION

- Markie Jeffreis – PEER Training Report
 - WV Sober living started a training on Monday
 - peers being trained and getting the required 500 hours to be place across WV
- Jessie Kittle – Report
 - Building in Elkins that has been inhabited and vandalized by the unhoused population
 - Will be demolished by the end of the year
 - Unoccupied buildings have not been properly secured by property owners
 - Buildings vandalized
 - Working with property owners to secure the buildings to prevent further vandalism and potentially hazardous situations
 - Reach out to Jessie regarding any additional buildings that are unoccupied and damaged (attractive nuisance) to be added to the demo list
 - jessiekittle@cityofelkinswv.gov
- Homeless Coalition – status report
 - From RCHA (letter attached)
 - Coalition oversees the coordinated re-entry system – Trent Clem is the local liaison
 - 75% of funding for the year has been expended
 - No immediate or emergency housing available
- Transportation – Routes to Recovery
 - Our House is working with the Pallottine Foundation of Buckhannon and Recovery Point: Routes to Recovery to bring a location to Buckhannon (flyer attached)
 - Need an all-wheel drive vehicle to start with
 - Reach out to Megan Payne with ideas: ourhousewv@gmail.com
 - Shawn Pennington - Transportation Proposal (attached)
 - Strict hiring process with released felons
 - 18-24 months in recovery with a sponsor
 - Still looking into the insurance process
 - Looking at potential funding opportunities

REPORTS

- Our House
 - End the Stigma, May 2nd 9am – 5pm, Jawbone Park (Flyer attached)
 - Pies for Progress, 3-5pm (Flyer attached)
 - Prescription Take Back, 1-3pm (Flyer attached)
 - Spring Raffle available on the Facebook page (Flyer attached)
- United Way
 - Raffle available on website
- Jobs & Hope
 - Conducting Job fairs inside prisons
 - Contact Leah Hall if you would like to have a resource table: leah.hall@wvesc.org
- Parson PD
 - Marijuana has been testing positive for Methamphetamine

- Pallotine Foundation
 - Funding Grants will be coming available
- Community Care West Virginia
 - West Care Men's Facility ribbon Cutting May 8th
- WV Prevention Solutions
 - Icelandic Model
 - Working to get support letters from school superintendents
 - 5 year project
- Catholic Charities
 - Case management assistance available for emergency, "non-chronic" issues
 - Working to complete the criteria and guidelines
- FRN – rcfrndirector@gmail.com
 - Community Membership meetings – email to be added to distribution list
 - Next food truck in June
 - Randolph County Partners in prevention – email to join the team
 - Connection Tuesdays – training programs
 - Lean on Me, May 26th

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting May 28, 2026, 1:00 pm at the Phil Gainer Community Center.

Update for task force meeting

From Courtney Champ <cchamp@rchawv.org>
Date Thu 4/23/2026 9:54 AM
To Mikayla Goins <mgoins@cityofelkinswv.gov>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Contact Help Desk for assistance.

Good Morning Mikayla! Unfortunately, my coworker Sam and I are unavailable to attend today's task force meeting but wanted to provide an update that can be shared. We look forward to being there at the next meeting and if anyone has any questions please feel to reach out to Samatha or I either one

Dear Community Partners,

I wanted to provide a clear and current update regarding homeless services and housing resources in Elkins and Randolph County.

The Randolph County Housing Authority (RCHA) continues to work in close partnership with the West Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness to support individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

While RCHA administers housing programs locally, the Coalition oversees the Coordinated Entry System (CES), which is the required starting point for anyone seeking homeless assistance.

At this time, all individuals experiencing homelessness must contact Coordinated Entry at 304-842-9522 (Option 1) or ces@wvceh.org.

Through this process, individuals are assessed, prioritized, and referred to available programs, including RCHA, during monthly case conferencing based on eligibility and funding availability.

RCHA currently operates a Rapid Rehousing program funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Continuum of Care (CoC) grant.

This program may provide short- to medium-term rental assistance, security deposits, and case management services to support long-term housing stability.

At present, a large chunk or approximate 75% of our program funding has been expended for the year.

We are in the process of determining how many additional households we can assist with the remaining funds.

Due to these limitations, resources are very limited, and assistance is being carefully prioritized.

In addition to homeless services, RCHA offers public housing and Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) programs, as well as supportive services such as life skills development, employment readiness, and housing stability education. These programs are waitlist-based and not immediate housing solutions. RCHA also supports youth-focused development through its YouthBuild program, which serves young adults in our area by combining hands-on construction training with education and workforce readiness. Participants have the opportunity to earn their GED while receiving stipends as they gain valuable, real-world experience working on local housing projects, including the development and rehabilitation of

affordable housing. In addition to job training, the program emphasizes leadership development, personal growth, and long-term stability, helping youth build a strong foundation toward self-sufficiency and meaningful career pathways.

The Coalition may also have limited flexible funding available at the moment to assist with certain needs; however, all individuals must still begin with Coordinated Entry, and assistance is not guaranteed. Trent Clem is the local coalition outreach worker who is here in the area twice a week going to the park and lunch with friends to meet with the local homeless as he can.

It is important to clarify that there is currently no immediate or emergency housing available through RCHA. Additionally, temporary hotel placement is not a general housing resource. It is reserved only for specific, medically necessary situations involving individuals transitioning from a healthcare setting who require short-term placement due to life-sustaining needs there must be a sustainable housing plan in place for exit as well as help for resources while in the hotel as well

Statewide data from HUD and the West Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness indicates that approximately 1,300 to 1,500 individuals experience homelessness on any given night in West Virginia. Rural communities like ours continue to face unique challenges, including limited housing inventory, lack of emergency shelter options, and transportation barriers.

RCHA remains committed to working collaboratively with the Coalition and community partners to maximize available resources and support individuals on their path to stable housing.

If you have questions or need to connect me regarding services, please feel free to reach out:

Randolph County Housing Authority

Main Office: 304-636-6495

Rapid Rehousing (CoC Program)

Samatha Hedrick, Housing Case Manager

304-636-6495 ext. 137

Thank you for your continued partnership and support in addressing homelessness in our community.

Sincerely,

Samatha Hedrick

Randolph County Housing Authority

Courtney Champ

Supportive Services Program Assistant

Randolph County Housing Authority

O: 304-636-6495 ext 135

Cell: 304-940-3966

RANDOLPH COUNTY



HOUSING AUTHORITY

Building Strong Communities Since 1979

RECOVERY POINT

ROUTES TO RECOVERY

**NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL
TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER**

**When it comes to your health,
Routes to Recovery gets you
there.**



About Us

Recovery Point's transportation initiative, Routes to Recovery, addresses the need for access to services using NEMT (non-emergency medical transport).

Experience the Difference

- Accessibility
- Qualified Drivers
- Flexible Scheduling
- Local & Long Distance Travel
- Safety & Security
- Clean & Comfortable Travel
- Dedicated Customer Service



- Huntington
- Charleston
- Parkersburg
- Bluefield

**We are dedicated to ensuring your
journey to healthcare is safe,
comfortable, and stress-free.**



RecoveryPointWV.org/rtr
(304) 962-7918

CALL US TODAY!

Recovery Transportation Service Proposal

Executive Summary

This proposal outlines the establishment of a Non-Emergency Recovery Transportation service based in Randolph County, West Virginia. The service will address critical transportation gaps for individuals seeking recovery treatment while providing structured employment opportunities for individuals in stable recovery.

Business Overview

The company will provide reliable, scheduled, and on-demand transportation for individuals traveling to recovery centers, medical appointments, and behavioral health services throughout Region 5, including Randolph, Upshur, Barbour, and Tucker counties.

Mission Statement

To improve access to recovery services while creating accountable employment pathways for individuals committed to long-term sobriety and reintegration into the workforce.

Services Offered

- Intake transportation to recovery centers
- Discharge transportation
- Medical and counseling appointment transport
- Long-distance recovery transport
- Contracted facility transportation services

Community Need

Rural communities in Region 5 face significant transportation barriers, particularly for individuals seeking recovery services. Limited public transit options and geographic distance create a strong demand for reliable transportation providers.

Recovery-Focused Employment Model

The company will employ individuals in stable recovery, providing structured, supervised, and accountable job opportunities while maintaining strict safety standards.

Hiring Standards

- Minimum 12–24 months documented sobriety
- Completion of a recovery program
- Background checks
- Clean driving record for drivers
- Professional references

Risk Management & Safety

- Commercial auto and liability insurance
- Drug-free workplace policy
- Random drug testing
- Driver training and supervision
- Incident reporting and compliance protocols

Operations Plan

The business will begin with one to two vehicles and expand based on demand. Initial operations will focus on private-pay and facility contracts, with future expansion into Medicaid transportation services.

Financial Overview

Startup costs are estimated between \$10,000–\$50,000 depending on vehicle acquisition and insurance. Revenue streams will include private pay transport, facility contracts, and Medicaid reimbursement upon approval.

Community Impact

- Increased access to recovery services
- Reduced missed appointments
- Employment opportunities for individuals in recovery
- Strengthened regional healthcare support

Conclusion

This proposal presents a sustainable business model that addresses both transportation gaps and workforce reintegration. With appropriate safeguards and partnerships, this service will provide measurable benefits to the Region 5 community.

One Unique Recovery House

END THE STIGMA

JAWBONE PARK MAY 2ND 9AM - 5PM

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

MENTAL HEALTH

TRAININGS

PREVENTION

HIV TESTING

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Follow on Facebook for Updates



PRESCRIPTION DRUG

TAKE BACK 1PM - 3PM

DROP OFF YOUR UNUSED OR EXPIRED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS TO BE APPROPRIATELY DISPOSED OF!

THANK YOU BUCKHANNON CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT & FIRST CHOICE SERVICES

PIES FOR PROGRESS

3PM - 5PM

Proceeds Donated to One Unique Recovery House

PIE YOUR FAVORITE RECOVERY ADVOCATE IN THE FACE WITH A WHIPPED CREAM PIE FOR ONLY \$5

More Info To Come

www.ourhousewv.com



PIES FOR PROGRESS

END THE STIGMA EVENT

SATURDAY, MAY 2ND 3-5PM

PIE YOUR FAVORITE RECOVERY ADVOCATE



Megan Payne, OUR House



**Andrew Pinkney, Lewis/Upshur
Community Recovery Centers**



Bobbie Nixon, OUR House



**Cary Bennett, Community Care of West
Virginia**



Jordan Rahming, OUR House



Erica Bennett, First Choice Services



**David Taylor, Wise Path Recovery
Centers**

Only \$5.00 Per Pie

Proceeds Donated to One Unique Recovery House



PRESCRIPTION

TAKE BACK

MAY 2ND

1PM-3PM



DURING THE END THE STIGMA EVENT
JAWBONE PARK, BUCKHANNON, WV

ONE UNIQUE RECOVERY HOUSE

SPRING RAFFLE



1ST PRIZE: \$899.99 VALUE
DR POWER PRO-XL WALK-BEHIND
TRIMMER MOWER WITH ELECTRIC
START, 190CC, 22IN. CUTTING WIDTH



2ND PRIZE - \$599.99 VALUE
EGO POWER+ 56-VOLT 21-IN SELF-
PROPELLED CORDLESS LAWN MOWER
7.5 AH (BATTERY & CHARGER
INCLUDED)

3RD PRIZE - \$349.99 VALUE
CORE EQUIPMENT 10-PERSON
INSTANT CABIN TENT



**THREE WINNERS AND THREE WAYS
TO PURCHASE TICKETS**

- FROM ANY OUR HOUSE BOARD MEMBER
- STOP BY EITHER OF "OUR" LOCATIONS
- PAYPAL (PLEASE INCLUDE SPRING RAFFLE, NAME, PHONE NUMBER)

SCAN ME



\$5 EACH/6 FOR \$25 - DRAWING MAY 29TH