



**Bucks County Recovery
Residence Oversight Committee
(BC-ROC)**



Contact Info:

Brian Wilson CRS, BA, BHS
Case Manager/Recovery Housing Coordinator
Bucks County Drug & Alcohol Commission, Inc.
55 E. Court Street, 4th Floor, Doylestown, PA 18901

Cell: 215-907-0629

Office: 215-444-2711

Email: bwilson@buckscounty.org

BC-ROC General Mailbox: BCROC@buckscounty.org

BC-ROC Fax: 267-885-1336

Office Hours: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Objectives

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Identify the need for rental subsidies leading to increased positive outcomes for individuals transferring to a Recovery House
- Identify common challenges that are prevalent to individuals residing within a Recovery House setting
- Identify the positive outcomes associated with those who received the BC-ROC Scholarship

This is my story ...

Personal Story

Identified Need

- Bucks County's Division of Human Service had, and continues to have, a vision to create a community where all individuals and families thrive and saw the need to address the immediate housing needs of a set of its most vulnerable residents
- These individuals, upon completion of differing forms of treatment, needed a residence specifically designed to support their recovery
- This may be related to homelessness or that a previous living arrangement would undermine abstinence from drug and alcohol use

Recovery Housing Works!

According to a 2021 report published by 'The National Council for Mental Wellbeing,' Recovery Housing contributes to improved outcomes and addresses upstream determinants of health compared to usual care:

- Substance use decreased: 65% 31%
- Reduces the probability of recurrence: 47% 22%
- Lowers rate of incarceration: 9% 3%
- Increases employment: 49% 76%

Bucks County Recovery Housing

- Prior to Recovery House licensure, which became effective 6/2022, there was both BC-ROC and the Bucks County Recovery House Association (BCRHA), which served to oversee Recovery Housing
- BCRHA (www.bucksrecoveryhouses.com) consists of Recovery House owners and mental health professionals, along with drug and alcohol treatment professionals. Every Recovery House had to adhere to the following guidelines: inspection, proper permits, policies and procedures, and also a grievance process
- 95 recovery houses (2016 count) in Bristol Township alone (17 square miles)
- Very robust recovery community, especially in Lower Bucks

Housing Fund

- In 2019, a Drug and Alcohol Recovery Housing Fund was started, which provides a rental subsidy for use in designated Recovery Houses
- The subsidy will pay up to 60 days rent per individual, at which time individuals are expected to be able to fund their own rent

Housing Fund (Reinvestment Funds)

- In PA, the MA program is referred to as HealthChoices. The HealthChoices Medicaid Behavioral Health Agreement is a Capitation agreement with Counties, for which many subcontract to a licensed Managed Care Organization
- A per member per month (PMPM) amount is paid for covered services costs, whether or not those members utilize the covered services. If the program has remaining funds from this Capitation agreement at the end of the calendar year, these funds can be reinvested into behavioral health system services and support

Partnership



Bucks County



- Bucks County Behavioral Health and Developmental Programs (BH/DP) entered into a partnership with Bucks County Drug and Alcohol Commission, Inc. (BCDAC, Inc.), the county's Single County Authority (SCA)
 - To receive state and federal administrative, treatment and prevention funding, Pennsylvania counties are required to designate an agency to function as the single county authority
- BCDAC, Inc. acts as the Recovery House Rental Assistance Fund administrator, and was also responsible for hiring a Recovery Housing Coordinator to carry out day-to-day duties and requirements

Recovery Housing Coordinator

- Reviews referrals and applications
- Develops housing availability
- Notifies recipients of the subsidy allowance and ensures completion of all required program activities, which includes treatment at an accredited facility and participation in their designated recovery pathway
- Ensures that approved Recovery Houses participating in the project are in compliance with municipal and county zoning regulations, as well as any applicable certification legislation which may be state or federally mandated

Recovery Housing Coordinator

- As a CRS, uses lived experience to develop a relationship based on mutual understanding, which helps to foster trust and compassion throughout the scholarship
- Works as residents' case manager throughout their scholarship and connects them to whatever resources may be needed. Will work directly via phone, text, email or in-person to ensure all connections are made
- Works with residents to seek and gain employment, determining what barriers are present and how to work towards overcoming those barriers

Challenges for Recovery Housing Coordinator

- Individuals applying are in the pre-contemplative/contemplative stages of change, which can be challenging as it relates to their readiness for recovery
- Incoming applications from the correctional facility – many are looking solely for a home plan
- Lower number of female recovery houses as compared to male recovery houses
- DDAP Licensing has decreased our network of approved recovery houses
- Limited ability to collaborate with other Recovery Housing Coordinators

Recovery House Oversight

- In 2021, Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) initiated a licensure program for drug and alcohol Recovery Houses that receive funding or referrals from public sources, which was enforced on June 9, 2022. As of that date, all BC-ROC houses are required to be PA State Licensed:
<https://www.ddap.pa.gov/Get%20Help%20Now/Pages/License-d-Recovery-Houses.aspx>
- Such homes will be expected to be maintained and habitable, and to have owners participate in trainings on issues such as drug testing, employment opportunities, Medication Assisted Treatment, invoicing and reporting requirements, etc.

Recovery House Oversight

- Participating Recovery Houses will be expected to supply a minimum of 4 dinners each week and to post a schedule of chores and expectations to be completed by residents
- Monitoring is performed once yearly and random visits, both announced or unannounced, can be completed at any time

Monitoring

In addition to visual inspection of each house, we review:

- Policies and Procedures
- Residency Agreements
- Resident Participation in Self Help groups, recovery supports
- Safeguards to ensure protection of residents
- Drug testing compliance
- Protocols regarding the use and security of medication
- Resident recurrence procedures
- Smoking policy
- Community relationships
- Overdose policy

Target Population

- MA/HealthChoices-eligible adults 18 and older, having a diagnosis of a substance use disorder or co-occurring substance use/mental health disorders, and in need of safe, sober and affordable housing
- Of particular priority are adults transitioning to the community from hospital and non-hospital detox, short- and long-term rehabilitation, halfway house or acute inpatient mental health levels of care, those receiving Medication Assisted Treatment, those having a criminal justice history or those with the above histories who are homeless or at risk of homelessness

DDAP Priority Populations

DDAP Priority populations in need of assistance will get preferred consideration in the selection of scholarship funding recipients.

Priority populations include:

- Pregnant women who inject drugs
- Pregnant substance users
- Persons Who Inject Drugs (PWID)
- Veterans
- Overdose survivors

Qualifications for Funding

- Must be referred by a field professional from an accredited provider
- Must complete the BC-ROC Scholarship application in full
- Must be a resident of Bucks County
- Must be actively enrolled in, or eligible for, HealthChoices/Magellan in Bucks County
- Must engage, or have an appointment for, aftercare services such as a Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP), Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP), General Outpatient Program (GOP), Certified Recovery Specialist services, etc.

Maintaining Funding

- Must be in continued compliance with all house rules and regulations
- Must actively participate in their continued treatment and other goals, as clinically recommended
- Must attend outside support meetings
- Must secure employment or show evidence of actively working toward obtaining education, employment, job training or volunteering

Online Application Process



https://www.bcdac.org/recovery/bcroc_recovery_house_scholarship_program.php

TO APPLY FOR BC-ROC SCHOLARSHIP

- NEW! [Click here to submit all application materials](#)
 - **Applications must be filled out by a referring professional**
 - View the BC-ROC application process training video [here](#)
- Inquiries can be submitted via email to BCROC@buckscounty.org.
- [BC-ROC Approved Recovery Houses*](#) This list is periodically updated. Please check back for the most updated copy. DDAP began enforcing the recovery house licensing requirement on June 9, 2022. Details about recovery house licensing, including a link to the published regulations in the Pennsylvania Code & Bulletin, can be found [here](#).

Names, locations, and additional details about each DDAP-licensed recovery house in Pennsylvania are regularly updated [here](#). You can select “Recovery House” under the Facility Type Search drop-down on the left-hand panel, and narrow your search by location if desired.

To qualify for BC-ROC scholarship funding, an individual must:

- Be referred by a field professional from an accredited provider.
- Complete the [BC-ROC Scholarship Recipient Application](#) in full.
- Be a resident of Bucks County.
- Be actively enrolled in Medical Assistance/Health Choices/Magellan in Bucks County.

To maintain BC-ROC funding, an individual must:

- Be in continued compliance with all house rules and regulations.
- Actively participate in their continued treatment and other goals, as clinically recommended.
- Attend outside support meetings.
- Secure employment or show evidence of actively working toward obtaining education, employment, job training or volunteering.

Resident Responsibilities

- The scholarship recipient must contact the BCDAC, Inc. Recovery Housing Coordinator (RHC) to complete the BC-ROC Scholarship Recipient Orientation
- At this time, program expectations and funding structure will be explained to the participant, and information will be gathered regarding potential barriers pertaining to social determinants of health
- Referrals to additional services will also be initiated at this time

Common Challenges to Employment

- Transportation
- Identification
- Criminal Record
- Disability (Physical or Intellectual)
- Willingness
- Lack of skills/experience
- No phone/phone service
- Physical restrictions

Recovery House Owner Responsibilities

- Recovery House staff are individually trained in REDCap, which is the database we use for record keeping and allows real-time data sharing to occur which allows us to communicate throughout the scholarship process
- Via REDCap, the owner completes an arrival form, a subsequent month request, a completion questionnaire and, if needed, a discharge report

Online Forms

Paperwork/Item Name	Purpose of the Paperwork/Item	When the Paperwork/Item Should Be Completed
Arrival Form	Inform the Recovery House Coordinator of the individual's arrival	Within 72 hours of arrival to the recovery house
Subsequent Month Funding Request	Request Subsequent Funding for an additional 30 days	As you receive the automated reminder from REDCap or within a few days before the subsequent month begins
Completion Questionnaire	Notify Recovery House Coordinator that the individual has received the full 60-day scholarship under BC-ROC	When the individual completes the full 60 days of funding
Discharge Form	Notify Recovery House Coordinator of irregular discharges (moving out, leaving the house without warning, behavioral issues, etc.)	Within 72 hours of discharging from the recovery house

REDCap

Record ID	Arrival Form	Subsequent Month Funding Request	Completion Questionnaire	Discharge Form	Fiscal Invoice	BC-ROC Orientation
274 Mickey Mouse - (Initial: -), (Sub: -) (Acceptance House-14 Farmbrook Dr Levittown, PA 19055)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Program Evaluation Summary

Advanced Evaluation Services | March 15, 2023

Lynn DellaPietra and Patrick Grugan

Data Collection

Data collected from three sources:

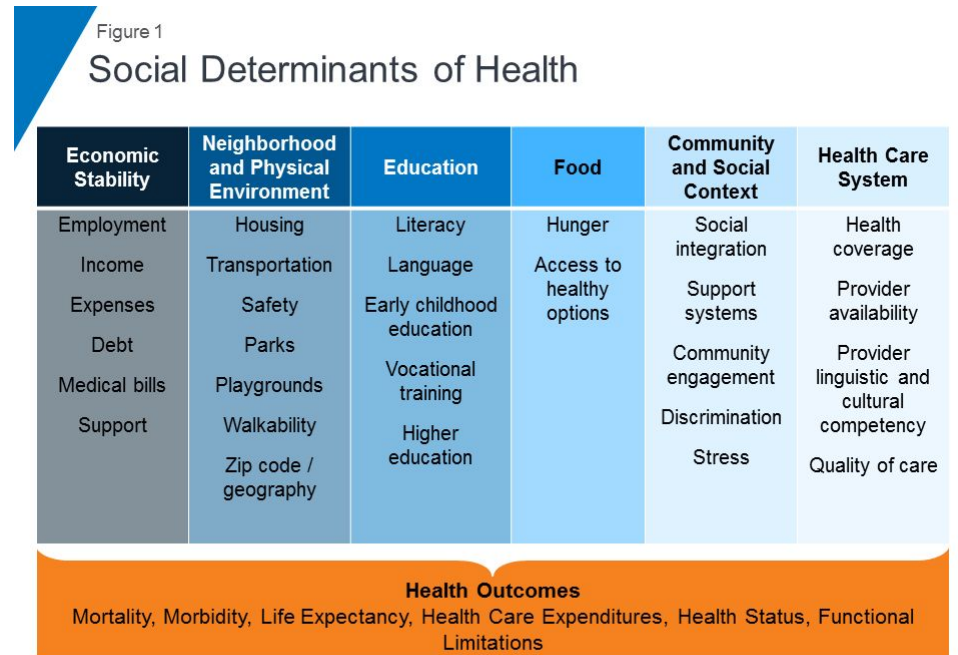
1. BC-ROC data collected at intake and at the end of scholarship periods
2. Survey of the 2022 group: took place at the end of the 7/1/21 – 6/30/22 year
 - 47 respondents
3. Longer term survey: for people who had completed the program the previous year
 - 13 respondents

Data Collection

- 321 people applied, 275 received scholarships
- Denials are mainly those who do not have Bucks County MA or for application misunderstandings such as choosing a house that is not BC-ROC approved or for someone that does not fit the target population
- Of those 275 recipients, 71.4% (185) stayed the whole 30 days
 - 8% or 22 people had a recurrence within the first 30 days
- 166 people (60.4%) were approved for a second scholarship; 120 of them (72.7%) stayed the whole 30 days
 - 11 people (6.6%) had a recurrence during the second 30 days

Social Determinants of Health

- Non-medical factors that influence health outcomes
- Conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life. Includes:
 - economic policies and systems
 - development agendas
 - social norms
 - social policies
 - racism
 - climate change
 - political systems



Positive Outcomes Related to Social Determinants of Health

Abstinence from alcohol and other drugs

- 80.9% reported no use at all during their residency

Participation in recovery meetings

- 78.8% agreed or strongly agreed that they were regularly participating in recovery meetings during their residency

Employment

- 63.9% reported being employed either full- or part-time during their residency

Physical Health

- 76.6% described their physical health as either good, very good, or excellent during their residency

Positive Outcomes Related to Social Determinants of Health

Mental Health

- 80.8% described their mental health as good, very good, or excellent during their residency

Hospital Use

- 72.3% reported no hospital stays since leaving the program

Incarceration

- 78.7% reported no incarceration since the end of their program

Acute treatment

- 78.7% of respondents reported having spent no time in inpatient/rehab treatment since leaving the program

Positive Outcomes Related to Social Determinants of Health

Perceived value in society

- 87.3% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their value in society had increased

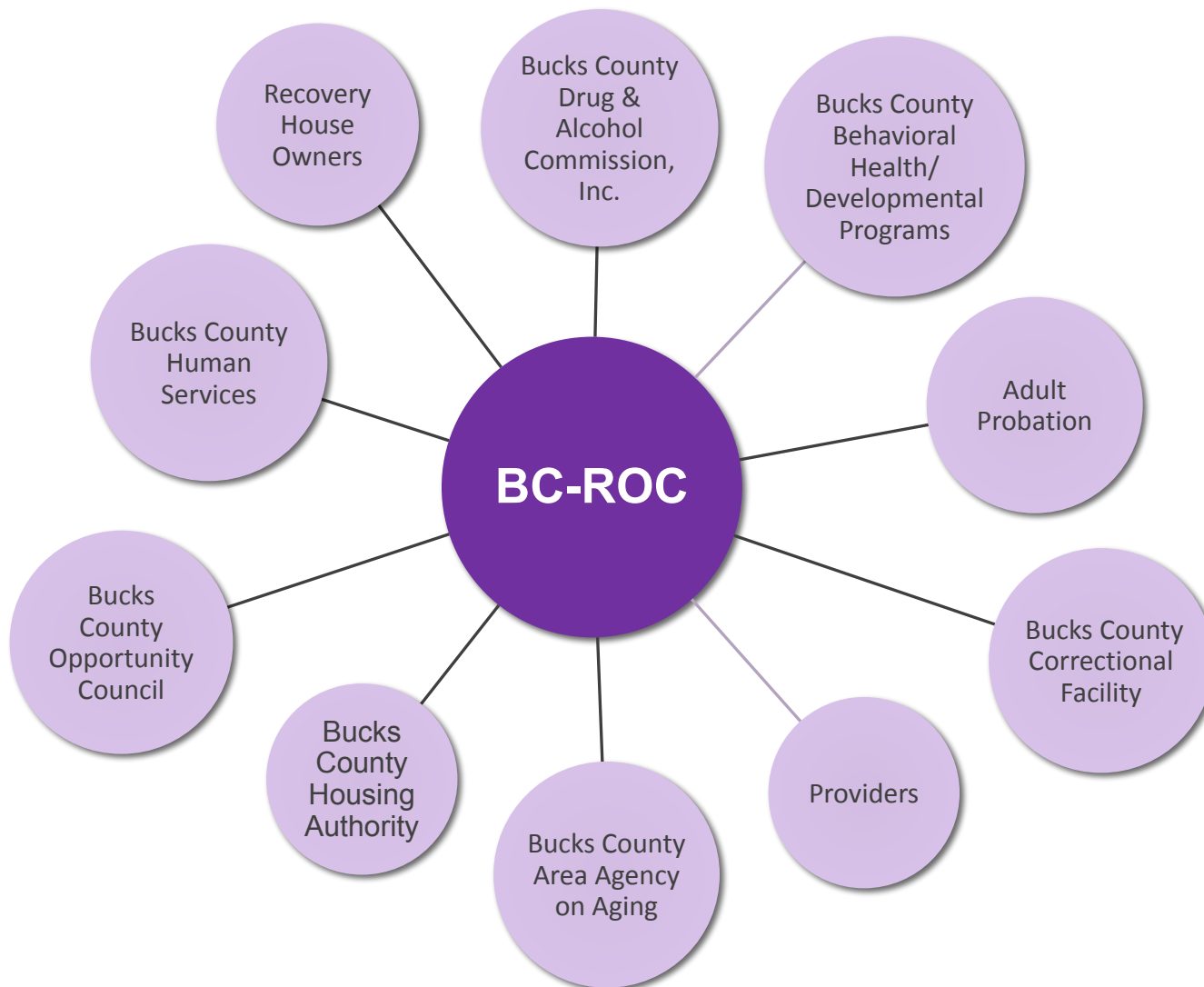
Stability

- 82.6% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that their lives were stable

Taking care of oneself

- 84.8% agreed or strongly agreed that they can take care of themselves

Collaboration



Ongoing Improvement

- Relevant trainings (MAT, Narcan, Xylazine, etc.) which are mandatory for BC-ROC approved houses and provided throughout the year
- Recovery House Coordinator consistently attends relevant trainings to stay on top of trends
- Commitment to contacting Recovery Houses/Sober Houses throughout Bucks County to ensure easy access to Narcan





References

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