

Simplifying Supportive Housing Resources Work Group: Meeting #8 Summary

PPT link: [08222025 Workgroup PowerPoint](#)

August 22, 2025, 11:30 am – 2:30 pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Members in attendance

Claudette McDowall	Laura Craig	Chris LaTondresse	Jaime Wilkins
Ruth Buffalo	Janayah Bagurusi	Eric Grumdahl	Wendy Wiegmann
Gina Kautz	Rinal Ray	Jason Kozlowski	Morgan Maiden for Rep Perryman

Absent: Rep. Liish Kozlowski, Christina Olsen, David Hewitt, Laura Birnbaum, Rep. Bernie Perryman

Buddies were identified to catch people up who were unable to attend:


- Rinal will update Ruth and Rep Kozwolski
- Laura C will update Christina and Rep Perryman
- Wendy will update Laura B. and David

Key outcomes

- Subcommittees' shared their solutions and opportunities to inform recommendations, and the working group gave feedback/suggestions.
- Minnesota Housing Stability Coalition and Representative Brion Curran presented their recommendations for the working group to consider.
- The working group gave insight into their preferences for gathering feedback on their recommendations from external parties.
- The group reviewed the timeline for legislative language documents.

Action steps

All working group members are to:

- Working group members will review all subcommittee mural boards (linked in summary below). Please add comments and/or questions and your initials in case subcommittees want to follow up.
- Any working group members may contact Rep. Brion Curran individually to discuss background checks (rep.brion.curran@house.mn.gov).
- Next working group meeting is September 19, 2025, in Duluth in person. Please confirm your attendance, lodging, and dietary needs:  [September Retreat Spreadsheet.xlsx](#)

Subcommittees are to:

- Providers Journey Map subcommittee will input key takeaways in the Executive Summary, which will be shared with the working group.
- Subcommittees will consider additional groups or organizations to contact for information between now and September.
- Subcommittees will continue researching and draft recommendations for the Sept. 19 meeting.

DeYoung Consulting is to:

- DeYoung will communicate with subcommittees to help schedule meetings and move their work forward. They will share the schedule of all meetings for anyone in the working group to join.
- DeYoung will connect with Lorelle Myhra from the Red Lake Nation for more information about recommendations from the Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors (MUID).
- DeYoung will share any additional information from the Housing Stability Coalition about their recommendations and the issue of combining fragmented funding sources.

Meeting Summary

Warm Up Activity

The group answered the question: How would you describe the work to date, or how you would describe the work to others? People responded with the following:

- It is challenging. Prioritization is a challenge, including not knowing what a priority should be.

- The work feels disjointed and not yet coalescing. Timing of the meetings makes it difficult to manage and stay grounded. Finding consistent time to dive into the complexity of the topic is an obstacle.
- Some felt we are on track based on the plan and in process.
- It was acknowledged we are doing hard work and it is hard to find the time to do it.

Updates

- DHS Assistant Commissioner Eric Grumdahl shared that the public comment period for the Medicaid State Plan Amendment (“[25-21-spa](#)”) that would terminate the Housing Stabilization Services program has started, ending Sep 20. Public comments can be directed to dhs.spa.comments@state.mn.us. There is no required format for those comments.
- For more information, please see: [Public comment period open for Housing Stabilization Services termination](#) and [Housing Stabilization Services updates / Minnesota Department of Human Services](#).
- There is no need for DeYoung Consulting to offer office hours. Working group members should reach out to the DeYoung team for any assistance needed.

Decision-Making Process

The group discussed using consensus as a decision-making process, noting that it works in theory but is complicated. We may need to utilize a variety of tools to rank, prioritize, and revise the recommendations as needed. It was noted that we will need to be clear and have alignment up front when making final decisions.

Solutions and Opportunities: External Presentations

Two guests/groups shared suggestions for the working group to consider as they draft recommendations.

First, the Minnesota Housing Stability Coalition (MinnesotaHousingStability.org) presented, represented by Chris LaTondresse (working group member representing Beacon Interfaith), Kizzy Downey from Model Cities and Nancy Cashman from Center City Housing.

- The group walked through their suggestions, which can be found here: [Housing Stability Coalition - Simplification Workgroup Recommendations](#), suggesting that this working group especially focus on suggestions 1, 3 and 5. They provided a list of resources as well: [Minnesota Housing Stability Coalition Resources](#)

Comments from the working group:

- If supportive housing is designed to meet a need it has to be resourced. It would be helpful to hear what is intended by combining different funding sources (see suggestion #3). Combining them is inherently challenging. DHS tries to explore how to make braiding sources possible.
- Ramsey and Hennepin Counties offer strategies and models to fund to sustain and stabilize housing.
- Supportive housing works to end homelessness. We need to focus on changes that actually improve things for people and partners within the scope, that is, looking at the state programs. We all want wide-scale policy, but it feels more incremental.
- It's a simplification question about how to effectively distribute the limited resources we have. We need to right-size our ambitions for growth to protect resources so they don't go away. We might need to relieve some demands on providers who cannot continue to hold the volume or acuity across a number of properties because the resources aren't matched.
- Some providers have a hard time identifying what capacity building looks like, but that is often required by grants. How do we raise that voice to look at capacity building in a more efficient way?

Rep. Brion Curran also presented ideas for streamlining the background study process. They offered to be available to working group members to discuss further:

rep.brion.curran@house.mn.gov

- Rep. Curran spoke about a bipartisan bill to “Essentially remove a requirement to follow the 245D, background study through DHS, and offers the option to use other background studies, like through the BCA, which also is part of the DHS background study already”. The rationale is that the current background study process can take a significant amount of time and impacts whether an employee chooses to stay with an employer. Simplifying the process would remove workforce barriers.

Subcommittee Updates

Each subcommittee reported out on their progress toward solutions, opportunities, or draft recommendations. Below are links to their ideas posted on Mural boards. The working group added questions and comments to the Mural boards.

1. [Background Checks Subcommittee](#) - Laura C. and Jason shared their draft legislative language here: [MN Statute 2561](#)
2. [Paperwork Reduction](#)
3. [Reporting Subcommittee](#)
4. [RFP Streamlining Subcommittee](#)

5. Metrics Subcommittee is working on finding a time to meet and will report out in September

The working group is encouraged to add further comments on the subcommittee Mural boards by the end of August. When adding to a board, please put your name or initials so subcommittees can identify it as a new comment and follow up if needed.

External Feedback

The group discussed gathering external feedback on draft recommendations. The type of feedback they envision needing includes:

- Are we hitting the goals of simplification, streamlining, and access?
- Do the recommendations reflect what was shared previously?
- What is missing?

They agreed to balance an open public comment period, a survey, and targeted conversations. The survey could build on their previous engagement of providers. Another suggestion was to get on the agenda of existing meetings to introduce the need for feedback.

Timeline Planning and Close

The team also reviewed a timeline for finalizing legislative language. Final recommendations will be sent in early November, who will draft legislative language for state staff and the working group to review.

The group was reminded about the in-person meeting in Duluth on September 19th. DeYoung Consulting will send updates, including arrangements for lodging and lunch.