



## YOUTH GROUP HOUSING WORKSHOP #3

**Date:** April 7, 2026

**Location:** Montgomery County Employment Opportunities Center

### Workshop Summary

**Workshop Purpose:** The goal of the workshop was to continue to discuss and learn the impacts and implications Group Housing for Youth concentration has on community service providers. The focus areas for this workshop included Education Services, Family and Social Services, and Health Services that are critical for supporting the most at-risk populations in our communities. This workshop was a chance for officials in these focused areas to share and exchange their experiences, issues, challenges, and opportunities in providing the necessary services.

**Workshop Attendees:** A total of 43 attendees representing government, nonprofit and private sectors in the fields of education, medical professionals, children's services, and planning were in attendance. In addition, several group home operators and the head of the group homes association attended the workshop.

**Workshop Summary:** Mr. Martin Kim from MVRPC welcomed participants and introduced Ms. Kathryn Youra Polk, who gave an overview of the issues, background context, and data resources on the subject. In her presentation, she reviewed how MVRPC developed a youth group home [mapping application](#) based on the locational data of youth group homes and pertinent socioeconomic data. Ms. Youra Polk emphasized that its intended purpose is to be a tool for decision makers to better understand how the disproportionate spatial distribution of youth group homes within both the state of Ohio and the Miami Valley Region impact communities.



Next Ms. Emily Crow (City of Dayton) and Ms. Shannon Meadows (Harrison Township) spoke and gave updates on both the status of their youth group home moratoriums. While each has extended their current moratorium, both jurisdictions are exploring different avenues and creating individualized processes to lift their respective moratoriums moving forward.

Following the review presentation, Ms. Shannon Meadows moderated the discussion with a panel of community service providers that included Ms. Kaylyn Drodge (ADAMHS), Ms. Courtney Patel (Daybreak), Dr. Kelly Blankenship (Dayton Childrens Hospital), Dr. David Lawrence (Dayton Public Schools), Ms. Sarah Hackenbracht (Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association), and Ms. Jennie Cole (MCDJFS - Children Services). Each panelists spoke and shared their experiences and relationships interacting with youth group housing in their line of work on the following questions:



- Have you noticed an increase in youth group homes resident clients in your field of work? Are there different needs than what you typically see that may need to be addressed for group home residents?
- What are some of the impacts, concerns, and/or burdens Youth Group Homes have within your fields and/or services you provide?
- Have you had experience coordinating with local, state, or county entities in the same field when working with clients from a Youth Group Home? If so, could you speak more on that?
- What programs and/or approaches do you currently have to help and support kids in the Youth Group Housing from the healthcare, educational or community services you provide?

- What types of new programs or regulations would you suggest to further address those issues related to the healthcare, education and community services to better meet the needs of these clients?

Panelists spoke in depth regarding their experiences with typical interactions and what existing supports and obstacles they face in the current processes, as well as what additional supports they would like to see to better implement solutions.

Other topics from the question and answer portion with the audience included both panelists and audience members sharing experiences collaborating or wishing to collaborate with other state resources and contacts, strategizing enhanced communication tactics with providers across the state, and reflecting more on why the issue is present in the area and how to better target local resources to serve local children.

MVRPC and panelists detailed that the conversation will potentially culminate with a future workshop in a possible roundtable format sometime in Fall 2026 with policy makers and officials..