



YOUTH GROUP HOUSING WORKSHOP #2

Date: September 30, 2025

Location: Montgomery County Business Solutions Center

Workshop Summary

Workshop Purpose: The goal of the workshop was for participants to come away with a better understanding of impacts Group Housing for Youth concentration brings to communities and proactive approaches safety and community leaders are taking to help manage youth group home conditions, while supporting some of the most vulnerable in our communities. The workshop provided an opportunity to hear from a panel of first responders from different jurisdictions discussing the impacts Youth Group Housing has within their fields and what solutions they're implementing to better navigate the issues.

Workshop Attendees: A total of 47 attendees, ranging geographically from Montgomery, Miami, and Greene County representing City, Township, and County levels of government in fields of law enforcement, emergency responders, children's services, and planning turned out. 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 and demonstration of a Youth Group Housing mapping application MVRPC developed using relevant data received from Ohio Department of Job & Family Services, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the U.S. Census. The link is available here: <https://mvrpc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/basic/index.html?appid=3ea17a4709584920a32f05c944a5a4b1>

In her presentation, she covered how the mapping application highlighted the disproportionate spatial distribution of youth group homes within both the state of Ohio and the Miami Valley Region and how included pertinent socioeconomic data at the census tract level could be juxtapositioned to uncover and recognize trends and patterns. Finally, Kathryn stated that the application is not live updated and only shows a moment in time, and further that this is a tool for decision makers to better understand conditions in their communities and not a way to shame or blame anyone.

Following Kathryn, Ms. Shannon Meadows (Harrison Township) moderated the discussion, panelists included Mr. Brad French, Mr. Greg Patterson and Mr. Aaron Primm, (City of Dayton), Mr. Kevin Monroe and Deputy Javan Richardson (Harrison Township). Each panelist shared their experiences interacting with youth group housing in their communities on the following questions.

- What coordination do you have when a new Group Home is coming into the community?
- What are some of the impacts / burdens Youth Group Housing has within your fields and/or services you provide?
- What approaches are you taking to better navigate the issues related to public safety and community services?
- What programs do you currently have to help manage youth group home conditions, while supporting kids in youth group housing? Are these working or is there something that is missing?
- What types of new programs or regulations would you suggest to further address the issues related to the public safety and community services or to better meet the needs of these residents?



Panelists spoke at length regarding their experiences with typical first responder calls before and after targeted programs were in place, current relationships with current group home operators and residents, and what additional supports they would like to see.

Other topics from the question and answer with the audience included sharing other state resources and contacts, strategizing better communication tactics with group home owner-operators, and overcoming barriers to lack of resources to implement successful programs. Finally, Kyrsten French, who spoke at the previous Youth Group Housing Workshop #1, shared an online resource that Ohio Department of Children and Youth has to help find current information on an Agency for Adoption, Foster Care, and Residential Services:

<https://odjfs2.my.site.com/FindFosterCareAdoptionAgencies/s/>

MVRPC and panelists detailed that the conversation will continue at the Miami Valley Planning and Zoning Workshop on December 5, 2025 at Sinclair Community College, with a future third workshop targeting school officials and service providers anticipated for sometime in Spring 2026.