Washington State Department of Commerce

Permanent Supportive Housing Advisory Committee

Annual report pursuant to RCW 43.330.425

December 2025

Report to the Legislature

Director Joe Nguyễn

OFFICE OF APPLE HEALTH AND HOMES — PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

v4

Acknowledgments

Washington State Department of Commerce
Melodie Pazolt, Former Managing Director
Office of Apple Health and Homes — Permanent Supportive Housing

Chanita Jackson, Interim Managing Director
Office of Apple Health and Homes — Permanent Supportive Housing

Grace Lee, Unit Administrative and Program Support Specialist
Office of Apple Health and Homes — Permanent Supportive Housing

Uncommon Bridges
(formerly BDS Planning & Urban Design)
Ishmael Nuñez, Project Director

Marisol Beas, Project Manager

Current and past members of the Permanent Supportive Housing Advisory Committee
Current members are listed in Appendix A

1011 Plum St. SE
P.O. Box 42525
Olympia, WA 98504-2525

www.commerce.wa.gov

For people with disabilities, this report is available on request in other formats. Please call 360-725-4000 with your request.

Table of contents

Introduction **4**

Committee recommendations **5**

Appendix A: Committee membership **7**

Appendix B: Meetings **9**

Introduction

Overview

In Chapter 266, Laws of 2022 (SHB 1724), the Legislature created the Permanent Supportive Housing Advisory Committee (Committee). The Committee is intended to provide guidance and recommendations on the administration of permanent supportive housing (PSH) programs managed by the Department of Commerce (Commerce). PSH is defined in RCW 36.70A.030 as non-time-limited housing for persons with disabling conditions who have experienced homelessness or risk of homelessness and are offered voluntary supportive services to maintain their lease agreement. The Legislature appropriates multiple funding sources to support PSH in Washington. The Committee provides guidance and recommendations on the management of this funding. These investments support capital, operations and maintenance funding.

The Committee has 26 positions, which are appointed by Commerce. Eleven positions are designated for individuals with experience living in PSH who also represent various populations, such as persons of color, persons with developmental disabilities and persons older than 55. A current membership list is included in Appendix A.

In 2022, Commerce contracted with Uncommon Bridges (formerly known as BDS Planning and Urban Design) to assist in organizing the Committee and facilitating meetings. Facilitation included quarterly public meetings, as well as one-on-one meetings with members and Uncommon Bridges staff to provide education and support.

In the 2025-27 enacted budget, the PSH Advisory Committee's funding was significantly reduced and the contract with Uncommon Bridges was not renewed for state fiscal year 2026. Commerce now solely manages Committee staffing and will continue efforts to align capital, services and operating investments with the delivery of PSH.

Statutory reporting requirements

This report satisfies the reporting requirements in Section 2 of Chapter 266, Laws of 2022 (SHB 1724), which directs the advisory committee to:

> (a) Select a chair from among its membership;
> (b) Meet quarterly;
> (c) Provide guidance and recommendations on the administration of permanent supportive housing resources managed by the department, including recommendations to ensure alignment of capital, services, and operating investments and fidelity with the provision of permanent supportive housing as defined in RCW 36.70A.030;
> (d) Until December 31, 2027, report its recommendations to enhance the coordination and availability of permanent supportive housing to the appropriate Committees of the Legislature and the governor by December 1st of each year.

Summary of recommendations

The Committee adopted 18 recommendations during its first two years of operation. These recommendations were based on the Committee's original eight priorities identified and reported to the Legislature in 2023 and 2024. In 2025, the Committee added seven more recommendations, resulting in a total of 25. The Committee prioritized these categories to guide Commerce's actions, considering staff capacity and state fiscal constraints. Commerce identified action items for each recommendation and provides regular progress updates to the Committee.

The Committee's 25 recommendations — listed in order of priority — are organized into four categories:

1. Align health and housing services (six recommendations)
2. Expand and increase support for PSH development (six recommendations)
3. Improve the quality of existing PSH continuously (10 recommendations)
4. Ensure ongoing stability for PSH (three recommendations)

Committee recommendations

Between August 2024 and June 2025, Commerce and Uncommon Bridges facilitated quarterly public-facing meetings for the Committee. Each meeting featured data presentations, presentations from a range of experts and in-depth discussions to identify barriers, challenges and successes. Throughout these meetings, the Committee refined its 18 initial recommendations, with the oversight of Commerce, to expand, sustain and improve the quality of PSH. All public-facing meeting materials, summaries and recordings are available on the Committee website. In addition, Uncommon Bridges conducted one-on-one discussions with members outside of these meetings to gather further insights and perspectives. More information on this process is provided in Appendix B.

The following sections summarize all 25 of the PSH Advisory Committee's recommendations, sorted by the priority of the four categories listed at the end of the Introduction.

Recommendations to align health and housing services:

- Dedicate more PSH units to the Health Care Authority (HCA) Program for Assertive Community Treatment, the Governor's Opportunity for Supportive Housing, and global leasing by creating a learning collaborative between HCA, the Aging and Long-Term Support Administration, Commerce and PSH owners and operators[1]
- Implement a strategic workgroup with PSH providers, Managed Care Organizations and Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organizations to discuss crisis interventions
- Pursue Agency Request Legislation to define individuals transitioning from medical respite as eligible for the Apple Health and Homes Initiative
- Work closely with HCA on the Medicaid Transformation Project to ensure individuals can access Medicaid before they are released from jail or prison[2]
- Increase awareness of the Foundational Community Supports programs and Apple Health and Homes (AHAH) Initiative for the purpose of collaborative discharge planning and referrals
- Improve alignment between sustainable funding sources and new PSH development

Recommendations to expand and increase support for PSH development:

- Develop a public platform to describe all available and open public funding sources for PSH
- Create a public-facing resource about types of rental assistance that details eligibility, funding sources and how to access them
- Study how to convert unused office space and surplus land into PSH
- Provide training and technical assistance to by-and-for organizations so they can become PSH providers
- Provide more pre-development resources pending funding availability
- Pursue additional funding for tenant-based vouchers, project-based vouchers, global leasing and PSH sustainability through Commerce budget proposals, grants and other sources

Recommendations to continuously improve the quality of existing PSH:

- Provide a public resource listing the scores of PSH projects' fidelity reviews[3]
- Develop a toolkit to educate communities on the benefits of PSH and to address concerns
- Create a position within the Office of Apple Health and Homes (AHAH) dedicated to PSH fidelity reviews

---

[1] Global leasing, also known as master leasing, is a type of rental assistance program that helps link third-party leased properties with behavioral health agencies. Source: Global leasing | Washington State Health Care Authority

[2] The Medication Transformation Project is Washington's Section 1115 Medicaid demonstration waiver. Section 1115 Medicaid demonstration waivers allow states to develop projects, activities and services that improve health care systems. Source: Medicaid Transformation Project (MTP) | Washington State Health Care Authority

[3] Fidelity reviews are assessments of PSH programs to ensure they adhere to the model's core principles. Scores are based on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration PSH Fidelity Scale: Permanent Supportive Housing: Evaluating Your Program

- Train people with experience living in PSH units or certified peer counselors to conduct fidelity reviews
- Provide Mental Health First Aid training to PSH providers
- Incentivize PSH projects in the PSH Operating and Maintenance Funds (OMS) and AHAH portfolio to conduct their own fidelity evaluations
- Incentivize PSH projects in the PSH-OMS program and AHAH portfolio to host fidelity reviews
- Permit performance-based contract agreements instead of cost reimbursement agreements for PSH-OMS funded sites after two years of consistent "high fidelity" reviews
- Address PSH workforce issues by promoting living wages, training and professional development opportunities
- Provide technical assistance and training to organizations interested in developing PSH

Recommendations to ensure ongoing sustainability for PSH:

- Provide more public information about available funding for PSH repairs, maintenance, operations, and preservation, including eligibility and how to access funds
- Evaluate the outcomes of AHAH rent assistance and OMS fund sources and provide a public dashboard and information
- Increase transparency of the PSH capital projects, and improve alignment with project-based rent assistance and services

Appendix A: Committee membership

Background

Since November 2022, Commerce and Uncommon Bridges have recruited 38 members to appoint the 26 Committee positions listed in RCW 43.330.425. Between August 2024 and July 2025, six members resigned or vacated positions. Bylaws passed in 2023 established recruitment processes to fill vacancies. The Committee created a recruitment subcommittee to screen applications, interview applicants and make recommendations. The full Committee then makes the final selection and provides recommendations to the Director of Commerce for appointment. Once appointed to the Committee, an onboarding meeting is scheduled to review relevant content, historical documents and processes.

The Committee recommended six members for appointments between August 2024 and July 2025. The Committee also elected a Chair in 2024. However, the Chair resigned in April 2025 and as of September 2025, the Chair position is vacant. In addition, there are four open positions that are in active recruitment. The vacant positions include a PSH service provider, a PSH resident, a Public Housing Authority and a PSH resident who also represents the LGBTQIA2s+ community.

Current Committee membership and affiliated organizations:

- **Torri Canda:** Healthcare sector
- **Kimberly Castle:** Health Care Authority
- **Megan Curran:** PSH advocate
- **Taylor Danielson**: PSH researcher
- **Tara Dean**: PSH resident and interests of substance use disorder community
- **Megan Diamond**: PSH resident and interests of families with children
- **Rhonda Hauff:** PSH building operator
- **Kerri Hill:** PSH resident and interests of American Indian/Alaska Native community
- **Whitney Joy Howard:** Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
- **Devon Isakson:** County that invests in PSH (Pierce County)
- **Jolene Kron:** Behavioral health sector
- **Franci Lamb:** PSH resident and interests of older adults (over 55)
- **Kelli Larsen:** City with the highest number of chronically homeless (City of Seattle)
- **Laina Moore-Caldwell:** City that invests in PSH (City of Hoquiam)
- **Catori Reed:** PSH resident and interests of physical disability community
- **Curtis Rodgers:** PSH resident and interests of communities of color
- **Ginger Segel:** PSH developer
- **Samantha Smithingell:** Developmental Disabilities Administration
- **Ted Therriault:** PSH resident and interests of single adults
- **Debbi Trosvig**: County with the highest number of chronically homeless (King County)
- **Jules Warner:** PSH resident and interests of mental health disability community
- **Jay Worley:** PSH resident and interests of intellectual developmental disability community

Diversity of Committee membership

Geographic distribution

Using a regional approach based on the Apple Health Integrated Managed Care regions also ensures geographic distribution of the Committee membership.

As of July 2025, the geographic distribution of the 22 current members by region is as follows:

- **Great Rivers:** 9% (Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Pacific and Wahkiakum counties)
- **Greater Columbia**: 5% (Asotin, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Kittitas, Walla Walla and Whitman counties)
- **King**: 23% (King County)
- **North Central**: 5% (Chelan, Douglas, Grant and Okanogan counties)
- **North Sound**: 5% (Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom counties)
- **Pierce:** 9% (Pierce County)
- **Salish:** 9% (Clallam, Jefferson and Kitsap counties)
- **Spokane:** 9% (Adams, Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane and Stevens counties)
- **Thurston and Mason:** 5% (Mason and Thurston counties)
- **Southwest:** 0% (Clark, Klickitat and Skamania counties)
- **Statewide representatives:** 23%

Lived experience and identity

The Committee also reflects diversity in lived experience and identity:

- 18% of members are from the LGBTQIA2S+ community
- 27% are people of color
- 55% have experienced homelessness and/or behavioral health conditions

Appendix B: Meetings

During the 2025 state fiscal year, the Committee held quarterly meetings on October 10, 2024, January 9, 2025, and April 10, 2025. Commerce also provided Committee members with a special session on November 12, 2024, to learn more about the legislative process and describe how the Committee recommendations were incorporated into decision package proposals and agency request legislation.

Uncommon Bridges also met individually with Committee members between meetings. These one-on-one meetings offered support, debriefing, and opportunities to address unanswered questions from the Committee meetings and provided additional context and education relevant to the topics being discussed in the quarterly meetings.

On June 26, 2025, the committee held a special meeting was held to discuss budget impacts and celebrate its successes. As the contract between Commerce and Uncommon Bridges was not renewed, this was the last meeting facilitated by Uncommon Bridges, but Commerce has taken over facilitating meetings.

All public-facing meeting materials, summaries and recordings are available on the Committee website.