

# Billings Sober Living Facilities

- ▶ Adullam House                    12 locations – all licensed
- ▶ Sober Beginnings                7 locations—4 licensed
- ▶ STEP, Inc.                        5 locations—none licensed
- ▶ Ignatia's House                 4 locations—all licensed
- ▶ Bill Morris                        2 locations—not licensed
- ▶ Hannah House                  1-2 locations—not licensed
- ▶ Other (5)                         1 location each—not licensed
- ▶ Total                                35-36 locations



# 2020-2021 Offenders-Residents in Sober Living Facilities

- ▶ Region IV Total Offenders Under Supervision 3,853
- ▶ Region IV Total Offenders in Sober Living 507
- ▶ Federal Offenders in Sober Living 82
- ▶ Total Offenders in Sober Living from 2020-2021 589

# Identifying the sober living population

- ▶ Lack of oversight = lack of data
- ▶ Offender population captures only 40-50% of sober living population

# Violent offenders in sober living

- ▶ June, 2021
  - ▶ 162 Region IV Offenders in Sober Living
    - ▶ 63 Violent Offenders in Sober Living
- ▶ Definition of violent offenders includes: all assaultive and sexual offenses, robbery, violation of orders of protection
- ▶ Excluded from definition of violent offenders: burglary, theft

# Concentration of Violent Offenders

June 2021 – House 1	Total Offenders 21
Resident 1	Failure to Register
Resident 2	Attempted Robbery by Accountability
Resident 3	Aggravated Assault, Assault w/Weapon
Resident 4	Kidnapping (x2), Negligent Homicide (x2)
Resident 5	Aggravated Assault, Failure to Register
Resident 6	Assault with a Weapon
Resident 7	Aggravated Felony Assault

# Concentration of Violent Offenders Cluster Commonly Owned Homes

<b>June 2021 – House 1</b>	<b>Total Offenders 6</b>
Resident 1	Aggravated Assault, Deliberate Homicide (x3)
Resident 2	Aggravated Assault, Sexual Assault (x2)
Resident 3	Sexual Intercourse w/out Consent (x2)
Resident 4	Assault on Minor
<b>June 2021 – House 2</b>	<b>Total Offenders 2</b>
Resident 1	Failure to Register (x2), Sexual Assault (x2)
Resident 2	Assault on Minor
<b>June 2021 – House 3 &amp; 4</b>	<b>Total offenders 1</b>

# Community impact of sober living housing

- ▶ Turnover of resident population
- ▶ Offender population turns over more frequently, every 3-6 months
- ▶ Non-offender population stays longer \*\*\*
- ▶ Parking
- ▶ Abandoned vehicles
- ▶ Loitering and smoking outdoors
- ▶ Victimization of vulnerable resident population
- ▶ Social service corridors of clustered residences
- ▶ Lack of enforcement of conditions of probation and parole\*\*\*

# Victimization of vulnerable populations

- ▶ Risk to sobriety from negative influences
- ▶ Evictions by landlords for de minimis violations (landlord retains housing funds)
- ▶ Landlord retaining personal belongings (including medication) on eviction
- ▶ Sub-standard housing facilities
  - ▶ Non-egress windows in basements
  - ▶ Temporary bedroom walls
- ▶ Conscripted labor of residents (signing over paychecks)
- ▶ Perceived lack of credibility may hamper reports to law enforcement or use of court system
- ▶ Cash rent payments increase likelihood of rental payment disputes.





# Local jurisdiction regulatory challenges

- ▶ Legal parameters of the Fair Housing Act (FHA) and Americans with Disabilities Act
- ▶ Court scrutiny requires a narrowly tailored solution to a specifically identified problem
- ▶ Do sober home residents have substance abuse issues? Or are they looking for affordable housing in a difficult housing market?
- ▶ Lack of information sufficient to enforce standing city code or regulate at the local level
  - \* Occupants per residence
  - \* Probation visits (frequency and thoroughness, true address v. receiving mail)
  - \* Turnover of all residents, not only offender populations

# The power of the purse

- ▶ 1. Disclosure of all residents as condition of funding
- ▶ 2. Notification to P&P w/in 24 hours of offender moveout
- ▶ 3. Increased resources for state P&P enforcement
- ▶ 4. Enforce release conditions
- ▶ 5. Statewide regulation; otherwise the problem relocates
- ▶ 6. Full disclosure of financial records
- ▶ 7. Require accreditation of sober living homes
- ▶ 8. Documentation of substance abuse issue

