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NARR Releases New Compendium to the Version 3 Standard

Since the inception of the NARR Standard in 2011, affiliates across the country have been certifying safe, ethical, and recovery-supportive residences. As these standards reach a broader audience, and have become recognized as the industry standard, affiliates are frequently asked a common set of questions: How were the standards developed? Why were they selected? Why should they be met? The purpose of this compendium is to:

- Provide justification for each of the standards so that operators, affiliates, advocates, and policymakers can better describe the benefits of a certified residence for an individual and community; and
- Help stakeholders understand why the NARR Standard is becoming a nationally recognized quality standard for recovery housing. You can read and download the Compendium here:

<https://narronline.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/NARR-Standard-Compendium-v3.pdf>

Now Available: Medication-assisted Treatment Guide for Recovery Residence Operators

This document provides basic guidance, key considerations, and tips and tools for recovery residence operators supporting or wanting to support individuals who choose medication-assisted recovery.

The guide is a joint effort of NARR, the National Council for Behavioral Health, and the Center for Social Innovation. It's based on sound research and on the experiences of residence providers from around the country. It's available on the NARR site [at this link](#).

NARR comments on SAMHSA draft recovery housing guidelines

Language in last year's SUPPORT ACT, which NARR had a part in crafting, directs the Department of Health and Human Services to develop guidelines for states in implementing standards and adopting best practices for supporting recovery housing. SAMHSA is working on that project and released a [draft for](#)

[public comments](#). You can view NARR's [comments here](#). We applaud SAMHSA for articulating some sound principles, and have offered several recommendations for a final document that will be a truly useful policy tool. The comment period was very short. NARR and many other commenters have pointed that out, and have requested that it be extended. If you wish to submit comments, we urge you to do so (even though the formal comment period has

closed). They should be sent to Recoveryhousing@samhsa.hhs.gov.

New national effort to address addiction industry fraud, patient brokering

Insurance-related fraud has made headlines nationally, but insurance is mostly regulated by states. States including Florida have made significant progress in this area, but few states have the expertise needed to craft effective laws.

The National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws has received a grant to develop a legal template states can adopt that will be effective in this effort. As part of the project they convened a panel of experts in Washington last month, from organizations including the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, NAADAC, IC&RC, Faces & Voices of Recovery, National Association of District Attorneys, the Palm Beach County State Attorney's office, NAATP and NARR. A draft is being developed based on our discussion and we hope to have promising results to report in the near future.

State Affiliate Advocacy and Programs

Arizona – Project HOPE

Project HOPE is a new Arizona program, a partnership with Maricopa County Adult Probation and Community Bridges Inc. (CBI), funded through SAMSHA. The purpose of this program is to expand substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services in existing adult problem solving courts/treatment drug courts in order to provide SUD treatment (including housing, recovery support services, screening, assessment, case management, and program coordination) to defendants/offenders. Through the collaborative, providers offer a coordinated, multi-system approach designed to combine the sanctioning power of treatment drug courts with effective SUD treatment services to break the cycle of criminal behavior, alcohol and/or drug use, and incarceration or other penalties.

ViVRE Recovery Housing provides the housing and workforce development aspect with additional support services including transportation and food. They further enhance this program by providing case management, clothing and hygiene supplies, and additional access to transportation to all clients in the program, with the aforementioned not included in the program's allocated budget allowance. ViVRE expects to serve over 50 people in this program during the 2019 calendar year.

West Virginia Legislation

As recovery housing and certification attract the attention of various states, new legislation, good and bad, has been introduced. In August of 2018, the recently NARR-affiliated West Virginia Alliance of Recovery Residences (WVARR) became aware of some complex recovery housing legislation being drafted by the city of Huntington, home to the largest number of sober living homes in the state. City officials had become concerned about overcrowding and landlords offering shared housing in dilapidated buildings under the guise of recovery housing. Looking at Florida and other legislative examples, these officials hoped to weed out "bad actors" with a bill that would give cities the authority to inspect these homes at will.

Emily Birkhead, WVARR's new executive director, and her team were able to meet with the city officials, providing insight and education about the nature of NARR certification and working to come up with collaborative solutions to addressing the city's concerns. After a great deal of research, conversations with relevant stakeholders, and support from WVARR team members and NARR's Dave Sheridan, the group was able to draft a comprehensive, non-partisan statewide bill that would allow for the establishment of a voluntary certification process for recovery residences. Rather than focusing on punitive measures, the bill aims to incentivize recovery

residence providers by requiring certification in alignment with NARR standards in order to receive state funds or referrals from state-funded agencies.

The bill attracted the attention of a state Delegate (member of their lower house), who is also the Chairperson of the West Virginia Committee on Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse, who became the lead author as HB 2530. The bill passed through all committees and general sessions in both houses unanimously, with only a minor amendment to clarify that any inspections performed be in compliance with the ADA and Fair Housing regulations. It awaits another technical correction before it's presented to the governor for signature.

In advice to other state affiliates, Emily says that patience, persistence and an open mind were critical to their success. While the bill makes its way through the final steps to become law, WVARR is moving ahead with training and provider outreach. They have already achieved the support of their Department of Health & Human Services.

Click here to read West Virginia HB 2530: http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_text.cfm?billdoc=HB2530%20ENR.htm&yr=2019&sesstype=rs&i=2530

Watch this episode of *The Legislature Today*, where West Virginia Delegates Rohrbach and Robinson were interviewed about bills including the pending recovery residence certification bill (Interview starts around 14:35): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7BmQGZGmsc&fbclid=IwAR10X6L01PNizDiiTse21IZsUHDpB1F6uMYafPtQz3gle8jyaadngFqmv5Q>

Click here to learn more about the West Virginia Alliance of Recovery Residences: <https://www.wvarr.org/>

New Hampshire legislation

Much like West Virginia and many other states across the nation, New Hampshire has been faced with controversial legislation regarding recovery housing this year. A House Bill arose following a situation in Manchester, New Hampshire where people were purchasing old housing stock housing for use as sober housing. With local and state officials concerned for the safety of Manchester residents, House Bill 311 was created with the intention of establishing a sober living licensing process. While the bill was intended to provide safe living environments for people in recovery, it ultimately was written in a way that proved discriminatory for people with Substance Use Disorders.

The New Hampshire Coalition of Recovery Residences (NHCORR) stepped in during a complex legislative process to assist in educating a coalition of stakeholders on the social model of recovery, recovery housing and federal fair housing. The legislation truly took a turn for the positive after the Manchester Fire Department and the State Fire Marshal, Marshal Paul Parisi, are working together on a solution with NHCORR. Andrew West, Co-Chair of the NHCORR board, notes that when everyone finally sat down together, they realized a common set of values and goals: to diminish a stigma of people living with substance use disorders and to ensure the safety of everyone involved in the complex system of recovery housing throughout the state.

Currently, HB 311 has been sent to committee for further review, but Andrew is hopeful for fair legislation and new processes to assist people in recovery. In the meantime, NHCORR is gearing up for a certification process to begin in June 2019. NHCORR believes it is possible to be anti-discriminatory while maintaining life safety codes.

Click here to read New Hampshire HB311:
<https://www.legiscan.com/NH/text/HB311/2019>

Click here to learn more about the New Hampshire Coalition of Recovery Residences:
<https://www.nhcorr.com/>

Missouri Recovery Impact Symposium

Missouri Coalition of Recovery Support Providers, MCRSP, the Missouri NARR Affiliate, has a close working relationship with the Missouri Recovery Network, MRN. Through that collaboration on February 5th in the Missouri state Capital, Jefferson City, they conducted a Recovery Impact Symposium and joined with MRN in their annual Recovery Advocacy Day. Over 150 people registered and attended these events, representing both recovery support providers and individuals from across the state.

The Recovery Impact Symposium was an amazing day of learning, as Tom Hill from the National Council for Behavioral Health spoke on Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC), creating recovery communities, advocacy and more. They screened the family documentary, "Not My Child" and a panel of parents spoke on their experiences having a child with a substance use disorder, followed by a Q&A. The day concluded with a networking reception and a panel discussion that included Anne Precy, the Director of the Missouri Department of Corrections, Mark Stringer, Director of the Missouri Department of Mental Health, Randall W. Williams, MD, FACOG, Director of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, as well as two individuals speaking to their recovery pathway and as Certified Peer Specialists.

The following day the Missouri Recovery Network hosted an annual Recovery Advocacy Day at the State Capitol. MCRSP worked closely with MRN on this event. MRN kicked off Recovery Advocacy Day with opening remarks

from Mark McDonald, MRN President, and Brenda Schell, Executive Director.

Representative Holly Rehder shared some inspiration with the group about the power of stories and then introduced Governor Mike Parson, who let them know he supports their recovery advocacy efforts. They heard words of encouragement from Rosie Anderson Harper, Director of Recovery, Missouri Department of Mental Health. They walked in unity to the Capitol to visit and educate legislators followed by a convening back at the Governor's Office Building for a debriefing. This year 41 legislators were contacted in person, and the group was recognized on the House floor. In addition to the advocacy day MCRSP has a very active Advocacy Task Force, working in the capital. Their efforts have made an impact both in regard to increased funding for recovery supports and the passage of key recovery related legislation.

Click here to learn more about The Missouri Coalition of Recovery Support Providers:
<http://mcrsp.org/>

Michigan Affiliate Receives State Funding Commitment

Larry Scott, Director of Michigan's Office of Recovery Oriented Systems of Care, announced that the [Michigan Association of Recovery Residences](#) (MARR) has recently received a two-year funding commitment under the State Opioid Response Grant Award program.

The award will allow MARR to certify recovery residences as meeting the NARR Standards and Code of Ethics throughout Michigan, including the Upper Peninsula.

MARR is also conducting a survey to determine the number and location of certified and non-certified existing Michigan recovery residences, to determine capacity as well as underserved geographical and demographic populations.

MARR will also conduct training geared towards helping recovery residence operators and house

managers conduct operations under the Social Model underlying the NARR Standards Version 3.0.

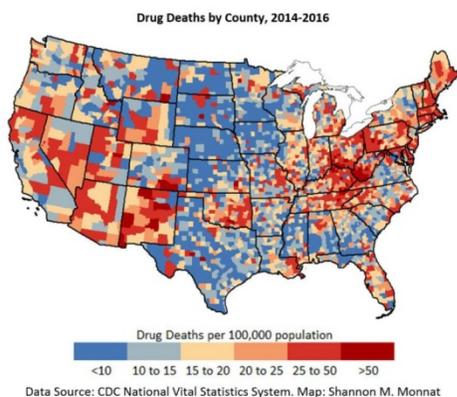
Further information concerning MARR, including a directory of MARR accredited operators, can be found at: www.michiganarr.com. MARR is a founding member of NARR and MARR's current and past presidents have served on NARR's Board of Directors.

National News

Our Problem is Bigger than Opioids: US News report, recent study

As the nation continues to combat the addiction epidemic from every direction, research shows that addiction and overdose have a much larger connection to where someone lives. According to a recent study, those most likely to have access to the drugs in which they would overdose with, tend to live in counties suffering from economic distress.

“Counties characterized by higher rates of poverty, joblessness, disability, single parent families and divorce/separation in 2000 have much higher rates of drug mortality now, nearly two decades later, even among places with similar access to opioids.”



Research done by [Shannon Monnat](#) shows that the three main contributors to community

differences in overdose rates are economic/work, family, and community. Each of these areas gives deep meaning to people's lives. Without economic, familial or communal security, unhealthy coping mechanisms including drugs become more attractive. It is apparent now more than ever that communities must come together to fight the addiction epidemic by providing, among other things, safe housing, social resources and community behavioral health services. It is through this lens that we may acknowledge and appropriately address the economic and social distress wound tightly around the addiction epidemic.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/healthiest-communities/articles/2019-02-26/commentary-social-and-economic-factors-are-driving-the-us-drug-crisis>

Recovery Housing Program Launched by USDA, HHS

A new federal program will soon allow nonprofit organizations to purchase homes in rural communities for use as recovery housing. The new program is intended to improve access to recovery resources in rural counties that have experienced a substantial portion of the nation's overdose death tolls.

We don't have many details other than a few recent news stories, but NARR has been engaged with both agencies on this issue for a while. We will update this when we have more specifics. Click here for full article:

<https://www.thefix.com/recovery-housing-program-rural-areas-launched-usda-hhs>

Click here for more information about the new program from the USDA:

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2019/02/15/usda-and-hhs-partner-create-recovery-housing-rural-communities>