



Tennessee Alliance of Recovery Residences
PO Box 120114
Nashville, TN 37212
615-500-4434
www.tnarr.org
tnarrtennessee@gmail.org

March 12, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

The Tennessee Alliance of Recovery Residences (TN-ARR) is the only statewide affiliate of the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR). NARR is "nationally recognized" as a "Recovery Residence standards organization" by SAMHSA, National Council for Mental Wellbeing, HUD, and ASAM.

As a NARR affiliate, TN-ARR promotes ONLY high-quality Recovery Residences in the state of Tennessee that adhere to nationally recognized **Recovery Housing standards and ethics**. TN-ARR is an approved resource for Recovery Residence certification in Tennessee as defined by the "Stopping Addiction and Fostering Excellence (SAFE) Act."

NARR has Affiliates in 38 states with several states emerging. Many of the NARR state affiliates are financially supported by their State Departments of Substance Abuse.

TN-ARR has Certified Recovery Residences in 14 cities/towns in Tennessee; and requests for TN-ARR Recovery Residence certification are growing! At last count, TN-ARR affiliates had 40 recovery environments with 1,200 Recovery Housing beds -- the largest amount of Recovery Housing beds in the state of Tennessee. We are processing 2-5 new recovery housing environments weekly with several in the process and close to acquiring TN-ARR certification.

In addition to nationally recognized high-quality Recovery Housing standards and ethics, SAMHSA has made it clear that *"Recovery House operators should include to which level of care (support) their facility (Recovery Residence) delivers services to their residents. SAMHSA supports the levels of care (support), as identified by the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR)..."* ("Recovery Housing: Best Practices and Suggested Guidelines" -- SAMHSA -- P.2).

Note: Language in parenthesis is the suggested updated language as per NARR.

The **National Council for Mental Wellbeing "recommends that legislation require that recovery homes meet quality standards established in 2011 by NARR, and/or the Oxford House Model."** ("Building Recovery: State Policy Guide for Supporting Recovery Housing" -- P.8).

Parenthetically, the "Excellence in Recovery Housing Act" -- 2023, states the following directive: *"The Secretary, in consultation with the individuals and entities specified in paragraph (2), shall continue activities to identify, facilitate the development of, and periodically update consensus-based best practices, **which may include model laws for implementing***

suggested minimum standards for operating, and promoting the availability of, high-quality recovery housing." (Sec. 1232 -- P. 3,108).

The "*Building Recovery: State Policy Guide for Supporting Recovery Housing*" document has examples of "*model laws for implementing suggested minimum standards for operating, and promoting the availability of, high-quality recovery housing.*"

A Few Examples:

1. **Florida:** "Created a voluntary recovery residence certification program based on NARR standards. Licensed treatment providers are required to refer to certified recovery residences." P. 23.
2. **Indiana:** Certification required for referral. "SB 402 states that recovery residences must be certified as meeting NARR standards as well as any other standards developed in regulation in order to receive reimbursement for services from the family and social services agency." P. 24.
3. **Rhode Island:** Certification required for referral. "The Department of Behavioral Healthcare, developmental disabilities and hospitals shall have the following powers and duties... To certify recovery housing facilities directly or through a contracted entity as defined by department guidelines, which includes adherence to using National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) standards. In accordance with a schedule to be determined by the department, all referrals from state agencies or state-funded facilities shall be to certified houses, and only certified recovery housing facilities shall be eligible to receive state funding to deliver recovery housing services." P. 25.
4. **Ohio:** "Ohio has one of the highest rates of drug overdose deaths in the country. In response, Ohio has pursued robust funding strategies that prioritize recovery housing: In Fiscal Years 2018-2019, Ohio has dedicated \$3.5 million in state general revenue funding for recovery housing and \$20 million in capital funds for recovery housing. **This funding will support new homes, residents in recovery and the state NARR affiliate to provide training and technical assistance to ensure that local recovery housing meets national quality standards.**" P.13.

Other state examples of successful implementation of full support for NARR standards and ethics: MO, VA, WA, OK, MI, ME, NH.

NARR is at the very center of National and State laws and policies in Recovery Housing. When states tie funding and referrals to certified Recovery Residences and require the adoption of NARR standards and ethics for certification, then "high-quality Recovery Housing" is the result.

The "*Building Recovery: State Policy Guide for Supporting Recovery Housing*" toolkit was written by top experts in the field of Recovery Housing. TN-ARR and NARR have highly recommended that the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) utilize this document (along with technical assistance from TN-ARR/NARR) to encourage sound policies and legislation regarding the certification of Recovery Housing in the state of Tennessee.

Susan O. Binns, LADAC, NCAC



TN-ARR -- Board Chairman
NARR Board of Directors
Cell: 615-351-7991

Justin Coggins



TN-ARR -- President
Design for Living
Cell: 704-249-8767