



## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** December 31, 2014  
**TO:** Ohio General Assembly in accordance with section 101.68 of the Revised Code  
**FROM:** Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services  
**RE:** Recovery Housing Resource Hub

**Background:** In 2014, the Ohio General Assembly enacted HB 483 which defined “recovery housing,” included recovery housing into the continuum of care and allocated \$10 million dollars to expand access to recovery housing in the state of Ohio. The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) awarded funds to increase recovery housing to serve approximately 650 individual residents by providing capital and operations support. The allocation is limited to the current fiscal year. As a part of the HB 483 language OhioMHAS is to develop a plan to create a resource hub on recovery housing in Ohio.

The Recovery Housing Resource Hub will be where recovery housing providers, behavioral health organizations, stakeholders, and others go to share tools, examples, and guidance, to further our collective efforts to improve the quality of recovery residences across Ohio.

The Recovery Housing Resource Hub will build on the work that OhioMHAS has currently implemented and expand to include additional deliverables.

**Current Work:** The Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services currently convenes a quarterly statewide recovery housing learning community that promotes statewide recovery housing conversations, learning opportunities, networking to foster local coordination of recovery housing providers.

OhioMHAS partnered with the Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers to develop an Ohio affiliate of the National Alliance of Recovery Residences. Ohio Recovery Housing (ORH) is an organization dedicated to the development and operation of quality alcohol and drug-free living in a community of recovery for people with substance use disorders. ORH created a [website](#) with research, articles, frequently asked questions and training opportunities for recovery housing providers and other interested parties. ORH is also developing sample documents, creating trainings, and providing mentoring and technical

assistance to communities as they develop and operate housing that meets the national quality standards. OhioMHAS will continue to work closely with this organization to develop additional tools and trainings to increase the quality of Ohio's recovery residences.

OhioMHAS held the second recovery housing Conference in October 2014 and will continue to provide opportunities to learn about federal, state and local recovery housing policies, trends, and promising practices.

OhioMHAS updated the department's housing webpage to include Recovery Housing. The new webpage includes literature, conference materials, and other recovery housing teaching aids.

OhioMHAS updated its housing definitions to include recovery residences to ensure that the definitions of recovery housing models are consistent throughout the state of Ohio.

### **Future Plans:**

SFY 2015-2016

- **Enhanced Web Page**- OhioMHAS will partner with Ohio Recovery Housing to develop a recovery housing web-page. <http://www.ohiorecoveryhousing.org/> The resource hub information will consist of tools, one page informational documents, sample forms and documents (i.e. house rules, resident agreements, relapse management policies), training calendar,
- **Inventory**- OhioMHAS in partnership with Ohio Medicaid will develop an inventory of recovery housing providers in Ohio. The inventory will be used to provide a point in time count of recovery housing providers and listed on the OhioMHAS recovery housing webpage.
- **Technical Assistance**- OhioMHAS in collaboration with Ohio Recovery Housing, local agencies and advocacy groups will develop technical assistance packages and toolkits for recovery housing providers and stakeholders that include but are not limited to the following:
  - Not in My Backyard (NIMBY)
  - Fiscal Stewardship
  - Relapse Management Strategies and Techniques
  - Integration of Peers into the Workplace
  - Fair Housing Laws
  - Recovery Residence Policy and Rule Development
- **Quality Standards** –OhioMHAS will continue to work closely with ORH to support the implementation of the recovery housing quality standards in Ohio.

## **Ohio Recovery Housing (ORH) – Status Report December 2014**

### **By January 1, 2015:**

- Become NARR Affiliate
- Develop quality standards
- Develop plan for outreach to RH operators in Ohio
- Train peer reviewers and schedule quality reviews

### Specific Tasks:

- support volunteer Advisory Board in creation of legal and organizational structure for ORH as a NARR Affiliate; - COMPLETED 9/2014
- develop application process for Associates and Partners; - COMPLETED 11/2014
- finalize peer review process and forms; COMPLETED 11/2014
- create database of interested parties, Associates, and Partners; - IN PROGRESS
- develop and launch website; COMPLETED 11/2014
- provide mentoring and technical assistance to RH operators; ONGOING
- generate training and technical assistance plans; ONGOING – working on trainings on NARR levels, Recovery Housing 101, and good neighbor/zoning practices,
- develop trainings for peer reviewers and RH operators; COMPLETED and scheduled for 12/18 and 1/9
- begin quality reviews. – SLATED FOR JANUARY 2015

**By April 1, 2015:** Develop educational materials on quality recovery housing and establish a plan for collecting and measuring data on the level of quality in recovery housing

- launch training to RH operators
- create fact sheets on fair housing, good neighbor practices, ORH and NARR for use with different audiences including people seeking recovery housing, family members, collaborating partners, and local government
- establish methods for measuring quality levels in RH across Ohio
- finalize peer review process and forms
- create database of interested parties, Associates, and Partners

**By June 30, 2015:** Establish and implement sustainability plan for ORH