

Maine Association of Recovery Residences

844 Stevens Ave. 1st floor REAR, Portland ME 04103

www.mainerecoveryresidences.com

Testimony of Ronald D. Springel, MD - Executive Director

Maine Association of Recovery Residences

Testimony: Ought NOT to Pass

Dear Senator Bee-Bee Center, Representative Salisbury, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, my name is Ron Springel, a resident of Scarborough. I am a retired addiction medicine physician and currently the executive director of MARR, the Maine Association of Recovery Residences. I am a person in long-term recovery, representing the organization.

- MARR is a 501 c-3 Maine non-profit organized in 2016.
- We serve the entire state and currently inspect and certify 67 recovery residences with 700 beds in 11 counties.
- Our certification criteria are national, evidence-based standards of the National Alliance of Recovery Residences. These standards include numerous fire safety standards.
- We have a staff of 3 FT employees, 11 volunteer board members, and several consultants and other volunteers.
- We are funded by the Maine Office of Behavioral Health and via grants from the Pew Charitable Trusts, and others.

Beginning in 2016, the year MARR was founded by six dedicated recovery residence operators who wanted to see Maine adopt the national standards, we repeatedly saw roadblocks put in front of would-be operators when they tried to open a recovery residence in their town or city. Such efforts, by town officials, occurred in Sanford, Biddeford, Brewer and several others. Housing operators took the opportunity to educate local officials that recovery house residents are people in early recovery from substance use disorder, and therefore a protected class under the ADA and Fair Housing Act.

Caselaw and federal rulings have clearly reinforced the requirement that RRs be treated the same as a family home. Any other treatment of these houses breaches anti-discrimination safeguards. That is why, in 2019, AG Aaron Frey submitted his opinion that. "Our office was advised to allow these substance recovery homes to operate without the sprinklers that would be otherwise be required by law." Assistant Fire Marshall Richard McCarthy put in writing his department's position saying essentially the same thing.



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This bill would repeal the Maine law that considers RRs as single-family homes for purposes of fire safety. To put this in perspective, RRs would again face local officials that have put up roadblocks and required sprinkler systems in recovery residences. In a survey taken last week of our membership, ... we estimate we would lose in excess of 300 beds if sprinkler systems were required. Of the 67 RR in operation today, 40 % of the operators without sprinklers would have to close.

In 2021, the most recent year for which data is available, there were over 6000 structure fires in Maine with 27 fatalities. (State Fire Marshall's Office) In that same year, Maine suffered well over 600 drug overdose deaths. And 2022 may be even higher. Recovery residences serve as safe places for people in recovery. Losing over 300 beds means that many fewer safe places for people in the very early days, weeks, and months of recovery, and perhaps more overdose deaths.

In the following testimonies, you will hear from Amanda Ricci of Farmington, who has fought for months to open a RR, from Scott Pardy, an operator working miracles in Bangor who will share his experience with the state fire marshal's office in 2019, From Brittany Reichman and Madison Weymouth, MARR inspectors who will detail their stringent fire safety guidelines, and via ZOOM, MARR board president Alison Webb, author of Recovery Allies, who will share more details about the organization's mission.

I urge the committee to vote Ought Not To Pass on LD 109.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ronald D. Springel, MD Scarborough, ME 01-30-2023

What organizations are opposing LD 109?

























NARR Standard 3.0

Introduction

NARR was founded in 2011 by a group of organizations and individuals with vast experience in recovery housing from across the country. From the beginning, NARR has been committed to developing and maintaining a national standard for all levels of recovery housing. The term "recovery residence" denotes safe and healthy residential environments in which skills vital for sustaining recovery are learned and practiced in a home-like setting, based on Social Model principles. The Social Model is fundamental to all levels of recovery residences. Social Model philosophy promotes norms that reinforce healthy living skills and associated values, attitudes, and connection with self and community for sustaining recovery. NARR Standard 3.0 operationalizes the Social Model across four Domains, 10 Principles, 31 Standards and their individual rules. The Standard is tailored to each of NARR's four levels. Version 3 of the NARR Standard does not introduce any operational rules that are not already included in Version 2. Rather, it restates them in a more logical way that improves clarity and eliminates some redundant language.

Outline of the Standard

Domain 1	Administrative Operations
Principle A.	Operate with integrity: Standards 1-4
Principle B.	Uphold residents' rights: Standards 5 and 6
Principle C.	Create a culture of empowerment where residents engage in governance and leadership: Standards 7 and 8
Principle D.	Develop staff abilities to apply the Social Model: Standards 9-13
<i>Domain 2</i> Principle E.	Physical Environment Provide a home-like environment: Standards 14 and 15
Principle F.	Promote a safe and healthy environment: Standards 16-19
Domain 3 Principle G. Principle H.	Recovery Support Facilitate active recovery and recovery community engagement: Standards 20-25 Model prosocial behaviors and relationship enhancement skills: Standard 26
Principle I.	Cultivate the resident's sense of belonging and responsibility for community: Standards 27-29
Domain 4 Principle J.	Good Neighbor Be a good neighbor: Standards 30 and 31



Domains, Core Principles and Standards

1	1		Administrative and Operational Domain	Ī	EV	EL	S
ig-aggivat				I	II	Ш	IV
Α.	Cor	e Prin	ciple: Operate with Integrity				
	1.	Use n	nission and vision as guides for decision making				
		a.	A written mission that reflects a commitment to those served and identifies the population served which, at a minimum, includes persons in recovery from a substance use disorder.	~	V	<	V
		b.	A vision statement that is consistent with NARR's core principles.	V	~	~	~
	2.	Adhe	re to legal and ethical codes and use best business prac	tices			
		a.	Documentation of legal business entity (e.g. incorporation, LLC documents or business license).	'	~	V	V
		b.	Documentation that the owner/operator has current liability coverage and other insurance appropriate to the level of support.	V	~	V	V
		c.	Written permission from the property owner of record (if the owner is other than the recovery residence operator) to operate a recovery residence on the property.	~	V	7	~
		d.	A statement attesting to compliance with nondiscriminatory state and federal requirements.	V	~	~	V
		e.	Operator attests that claims made in marketing materials and advertising will be honest and substantiated and that it does not employ any of the following:	~	V	V	V
			 False or misleading statements or unfounded claims or exaggerations; 				
			 Testimonials that do not reflect the real opinion of the involved individual; 				
			Price claims that are misleading;				
			Therapeutic strategies for which licensure and/or counseling certifications are required but not applicable at the site; or				
	 	f.	Misleading representation of outcomes. Policy and procedures that ensure that appropriate background checks (due diligence practices) are conducted for all staff who will have direct and regular interaction with residents.		R	R	V
		g.	Policy and procedures that ensure the following conditions are met if the residence provider employs, contracts with or enters into a paid work agreement with residents:	V	~	V	V
			 Paid work arrangements are completely voluntary. Residents do not suffer consequences for declining work. 				
			 Residents who accept paid work are not treated more favorably than residents who do not. 				



		All qualified residents are given equal opportunity for available work.				
		Paid work for the operator or staff does not impair participating residents' progress towards their recovery goals.				
		The paid work is treated the same as any other employment situation.				
NATIONAL AND		Wages are commensurate with marketplace value and at least minimum wage.				
		The arrangements are viewed by a majority of the residents as fair.				
		Paid work does not confer special privileges on residents doing the work.				
<u>.</u>		 Work relationships do not negatively affect the recovery environment or morale of the home. 				
		Unsatisfactory work relationships are terminated without recriminations that can impair recovery.				
	h.	Staff must never become involved in residents' personal financial affairs, including lending or borrowing money, or other transactions involving property or services, except that the operator may make agreements with residents with respect to payment of fees.	V	V	V	V
	i.	A policy and practice that provider has a code of ethics that is aligned with the NARR code of ethics. There is evidence that this document is read and signed by all those associated with the operation of the recovery residence, to include owners, operators, staff and volunteers.	V	7	>	V
3.	Be fi	nancially honest and forthright				
	a.	Prior to the initial acceptance of any funds, the operator must inform applicants of all fees and charges for which they will be, or could potentially be, responsible. This information needs to be in writing and signed by the applicant.	V	V	V	V
	b.	Use of an accounting system which documents all resident financial transactions such as fees, payments and deposits. • Ability to produce clear statements of a resident's financial dealings with the operator within reasonable timeframes. • Accurate recording of all resident charges and payments. • Payments made by 3 rd party payers are noted	V	V	7	V
	c,	A policy and practice documenting that a resident is fully informed regarding refund policies prior to the individual entering into a binding agreement.	V	V	V	V
	d.	A policy and practice that residents be informed of payments from 3 rd party payers for any fees paid on their behalf.	~	V	V	V
4.	Colle	ect data for continuous quality improvement				
	a.	Policies and procedures regarding collection of resident's information. At a minimum data collection will Protect individual's identity. Be used for continuous quality improvement and	V	V	V	V



			• be part of day-to-day operations and regularly reviewed by staff and residents (where appropriate).				
В.	C	ore Pi	inciple: Uphold Residents' Rights				
	5.	Co	ommunicate rights and requirements before agreemen	ts are	sign	ed	
		a.	Documentation of a process that requires a written agreement prior to committing to terms that includes the following: Resident rights Financial obligations, and agreements Services provided Recovery goals Relapse policies Policies regarding removal of personal property left in the residence	•	v	V	V
	6.	Pr	otect resident information				
	,	a.	Policies and procedures that keep residents' records secure, with access limited to authorized staff.	~	~	1	~
		b.	Policies and procedures that comply with applicable confidentiality laws.	~	~	V	~
		c.	Policies and procedures, including social media, protecting resident and community privacy and confidentiality.	~	~	~	V
C.			ciple: Create a culture of empowerment where	resi	dent	s eng	age
	in g	overna	nce and leadership	resi	dent:	s eng	age
		overna	re residents in governance Evidence that some rules are made by the residents that the	resi	dent:	s eng	age R
	in g	overna Involv	nce and leadership re residents in governance	V	dent:		
	in g	Involv	re residents in governance Evidence that some rules are made by the residents that the residents (not the staff) implement. Grievance policy and procedures, including the right to take	V	v v	R	
	in g	Involv a. b.	re residents in governance Evidence that some rules are made by the residents that the residents (not the staff) implement. Grievance policy and procedures, including the right to take unresolved grievances to the operator's oversight organization. Verification that written resident's rights and requirements (e.g. residence rules and grievance process) are posted or	V	v v	R	
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	in g	Involv a. b. c. d.	re residents in governance Evidence that some rules are made by the residents that the residents (not the staff) implement. Grievance policy and procedures, including the right to take unresolved grievances to the operator's oversight organization. Verification that written resident's rights and requirements (e.g. residence rules and grievance process) are posted or otherwise available in common areas. Policies and procedures that promote resident-driven length of stay. Evidence that residents have opportunities to be heard in the governance of the residence; however, decision making	V	V	R v v * v	R
	7.	Involv a. b. c. d.	re residents in governance Evidence that some rules are made by the residents that the residents (not the staff) implement. Grievance policy and procedures, including the right to take unresolved grievances to the operator's oversight organization. Verification that written resident's rights and requirements (e.g. residence rules and grievance process) are posted or otherwise available in common areas. Policies and procedures that promote resident-driven length of stay. Evidence that residents have opportunities to be heard in the governance of the residence; however, decision making remains with the operator.	V	V	R v v * v	R
	7.	Involv a. b. c. d. Prome	re residents in governance Evidence that some rules are made by the residents that the residents (not the staff) implement. Grievance policy and procedures, including the right to take unresolved grievances to the operator's oversight organization. Verification that written resident's rights and requirements (e.g. residence rules and grievance process) are posted or otherwise available in common areas. Policies and procedures that promote resident-driven length of stay. Evidence that residents have opportunities to be heard in the governance of the residence; however, decision making remains with the operator. Ote resident involvement in a developmental approach Peer support interactions among residents are facilitated to	V	V	R	R



D.	Cor	e Prin	ciple: Develop Staff Abilities to Apply the Socia	ıl M	odel		
	9.	Staff	model and teach recovery skills and behaviors				
-		a.	Evidence that management supports staff members maintaining self-care.		~	V	V
		b.	Evidence that staff are supported in maintaining appropriate boundaries according to a code of conduct.		~	V	V
		c.	Evidence that staff are encouraged to have a network of support.		~	V	V
		d.	Evidence that staff are expected to model genuineness, empathy, respect, support and unconditional positive regard.		~	V	V
	10.		re potential and current staff are trained or credentiale ence level	d ap	propr	iate t	o the
		a.	Policies that value individuals chosen for leadership roles who are versed and trained in the Social Model of recovery and best practices of the profession.		V	V	V
		b.	Policies and procedures for acceptance and verification of certification(s) when appropriate.		~	٧	>
		c.	Staffing plan that demonstrates continuous development for all staff.		R	V	~
	11.	Staff a	are culturally responsive and competent				
		a.	Policies and procedures that serve the priority population, which at a minimum include persons in recovery from substance use but may also include other demographic criteria.		V	V	V
		b.	Cultural responsiveness and competence training or certification are provided.		V	~	V
	12.	All st	aff positions are guided by written job descriptions tha	t refl	ect re	cover	v
		a.	Job descriptions include position responsibilities and certification/licensure and/or lived experience credential requirements.		~	V	· /
		b.	Job descriptions require staff to facilitate access to local community-based resources.		V	V	V
		c.	Job descriptions include staff responsibilities, eligibility, and knowledge, skills and abilities needed to deliver services. Ideally, eligibility to deliver services includes lived experience recovering from substance use disorders and the ability to reflect recovery principles.		~	V	V
	13.	Provi	ide Social Model-Oriented Supervision of Staff				
		a.	Policies and procedures for ongoing performance development of staff appropriate to staff roles and residence level.		~	V	V
		b.	Evidence that management and supervisory staff acknowledge staff achievements and professional development.		R	V	V
		c.	Evidence that supervisors (including top management) create a positive, productive work environment for staff.		V	V	V



2.		P	Physical Environment Domain		LEX	ÆL	S
				I	II	Ш	IV
Ē.	Coi	re Prin	ciple: Provide a Home-like Environment				
	14.	The re	esidence is comfortable, inviting, and meets residents'	needs	3		
		a.	Verification that the residence is in good repair, clean, and well maintained	~	~	~	V
		b.	Verification that furnishings are typical of those in single family homes or apartments as opposed to institutional settings.	~	~	>	V
		c.	Verification that entrances and exits are home-like vs. institutional or clinical.	~	~	~	V
		d.	Verification of 50+ sq. ft per bed per sleeping room.	V	V	V	V
		e.	Verification that there is a minimum of one sink, toilet and shower per six residents.	V	V	7	V
		f.	Verification that each resident has personal item storage.	V	V	V	V
		g.	Verification that each resident has food storage space.	V	V	~	V
		h.	Verification that laundry services are accessible to all residents.	V	~	~	V
		i.	Verification that all appliances are in safe, working condition.	V	٧	V	V
	15.	The liv	ving space is conducive to building community				
		a.	Verification that a meeting space is large enough to accommodate all residents.	V	V	V	V
		b.	Verification that a comfortable group area provides space for small group activities and socializing	~	١	>	V
		c.	Verification that kitchen and dining area(s) are large enough to accommodate all residents sharing meals together.	V	>	>	>
		d.	Verification that entertainment or recreational areas and/or furnishings promoting social engagement are provided.	V	V	V	V
F.	Cor	e Princ	ciple: Promote a Safe and Healthy Environmen	nt			
	16.	Provid	le an alcohol and illicit drug free environment				
	,	a.	Policy prohibits the use of alcohol and/or illicit drug use or seeking.	~	V	~	V
		b.	Policy lists prohibited items and states procedures for associated searches by staff	~	V	V	7
		c.	Policy and procedures for drug screening and/or toxicology protocols.	~	~	V	V
		d.	Policy and procedures that address residents' prescription and non-prescription medication usage and storage consistent with the residence's level and with relevant state law.	~	٧	V	V
		e.	Policies and procedures that encourage residents to take responsibility for their own and other residents' safety and health.	~	~	~	V

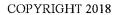


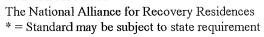
17.	Pro	mote Home Safety				
	a.	Operator will attest that electrical, mechanical, and structural components of the property are functional and free of fire and safety hazards.	V	~	V	V
	b.	Operator will attest that the residence meets local health and safety codes appropriate to the type of occupancy (e.g. single family or other) OR provide documentation from a government agency or credentialed inspector attesting to the property meeting health and safety standards.	V	V	V	V
	C.	 Verification that the residence has a safety inspection policy requiring periodic verification of Functional smoke detectors in all bedroom spaces and elsewhere as code demands, Functional carbon monoxide detectors, if residence has gas HVAC, hot water or appliances Functional fire extinguishers placed in plain sight and/or clearly marked locations, Regular, documented inspections of smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers, Fire and other emergency evacuation drills take place regularly and are documented (not required for Level I Residences). 	~	V	V	V
18.	Prom	ote Health				
	a.	Policy regarding smoke-free living environment and/or designated smoking area outside of the residence.	7	~	~	V
	b.	Policy regarding exposure to bodily fluids and contagious disease.	~	7	~	V
19.	Plan	for emergencies including intoxication, withdrawal an	d ove	rdose	:	
	a.	Verification that emergency numbers, procedures (including overdose and other emergency responses) and evacuation maps are posted in conspicuous locations.	~	7	V	V
	b.	Documentation that emergency contact information is collected from residents.	V	~	V	V
	c.	Documentation that residents are oriented to emergency procedures.	V	~	V	V
	d.	Verification that Naloxone is accessible at each location, and appropriate individuals are knowledgeable and trained in its use.	~	V	V	V

3	Jan y kasa sa	Rec	overy Support Domain		EV	EL	S
				I	II	\mathbf{m}	IV
G.	100	e Princage	ciple: Facilitate Active Recovery and Recovery ant	Cor	nmw	nity	
	20.	Prom	ote meaningful activities				
		a.	Documentation that residents are encouraged to do at least one of the following: • Work, go to school, or volunteer outside of the residence (Level 1, 2 and some 3s) • Participate in mutual aid or caregiving (All Levels) • Participate in social, physical or creative activities (All Levels) • Participate in daily or weekly community activities (All Levels) • Participate in daily or weekly programming (Level 3's and 4's)	•	V	V	V
	21.	Engag	ge residents in recovery planning and development of i	ecov	ery ca	pital	
		a.	Evidence that each resident develops and participates in individualized recovery planning that includes an exit plan/strategy	V	~	~	V
		b.	Evidence that residents increase recovery capital through such things as recovery support and community service, work/employment, etc.	V	~	~	V
		c.	Written criteria and guidelines explain expectations for peer leadership and mentoring roles.	V	~	7	V
	22.	Prom	ote access to community supports				
		a.	Resource directories, written or electronic, are made available to residents.	V	~	~	V
		b.	Staff and/or resident leaders educate residents about local community-based resources.	V	~	V	V
	23.	Provid	de mutually beneficial peer recovery support				
		a.	A weekly schedule details recovery support services, events and activities.		~	V	~
		b.	 Evidence that resident-to resident peer support is facilitated: Evidence that residents are taught to think of themselves as peer supporters for others in recovery Evidence that residents are encouraged to practice peer support interactions with other residents. 	V	•	V	<i>V</i>
	24.	Provi	de recovery support and life skills development service	es			
		a.	Provide structured scheduled, curriculum-driven, and/or otherwise defined support services and life skills development. Trained staff (peer and clinical) provide learning opportunities.			~	V
		b.	Ongoing performance support and training are provided for staff.			V	V
	25.	Provi	de clinical services in accordance with state law				
		a.	Evidence that the program's weekly schedule includes clinical			*	



			services.				
н.		原列 医双角结结形 新心经疗	nciple: Model Prosocial Behaviors and Relationment Skills	nship)		
	26.	Maint	tain a respectful environment			· • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	
		a.	Evidence that staff and residents model genuineness, empathy and positive regard.	R	V	V	V
		b.	Evidence that trauma informed or resilience-promoting practices are a priority.	R	R	V	V
		c.	Evidence that mechanisms exist for residents to inform and help guide operations and advocate for community-building.	~	V	V	V
I.			ciple: Cultivate the Resident's Sense of Belong	ing a	nd		
	Res	ponsib	ility for Community				
	27.		in a "functionally equivalent family" within the reside 50% of the following:	nce by	y mee	ting a	ıt
		a.	Residents are involved in food preparation.	V	V	~	V
		b.	Residents have a voice in determining with whom they live.	V	~	V	V
		c.	Residents help maintain and clean the home (chores, etc.).	~	~	~	~
		d.	Residents share in household expenses.	V	~	V	V
		e.	Community or residence meetings are held at least once a week.	V	~	V	V
		f.	Residents have access to common areas of the home.	V	V	V	V
	28.	Foster and st	r ethical, peer-based mutually supportive relationships taff Engagement in informal activities is encouraged.	s amo	ng re	siden	ts
······································		b.	Engagement in formal activities is required.			V	~
		c.	Community gatherings, recreational events and/or other social activities occur periodically.	V	~	V	~
		d.	Transition (e.g. entry, phase movement and exit) rituals promote residents' sense of belonging and confer progressive status and increasing opportunities within the recovery living environment and community.	V	~	~	V
	29.	Con	nect residents to the local community				
		a.	Residents are linked to mutual aid, recovery activities and recovery advocacy opportunities.	V	~	V	~
		b.	Residents find and sustain relationships with one or more recovery mentors or mutual aid sponsors.	R	~	~	V
		c.	Residents attend mutual aid meetings or equivalent support services in the community.	R	V	V	V
		d.	Documentation that residents are formally linked with the community such as job search, education, family services, health and/or housing programs.	R	7	>	V
		e.	Documentation that resident and staff engage in community relations and interactions to promote kinship with other recovery communities and goodwill for recovery services.	R	~	V	V
		f	Residents are encouraged to sustain relationships inside the residence and with others in the external recovery community	V	~	V	V







4.			Good Neighbor Domain		LEV	ELS	3
	i i se la company			I	II	III	IV
J.	Cor	e Prin	ciple: Be a Good Neighbor				
	30.	Be res	sponsive to neighbor concerns				
		a.	Policies and procedures provide neighbors with the responsible person's contact information upon request.	~	V	~	V
		b.	Policies and procedures that require the responsible person(s) to respond to neighbor's concerns.	~	V	~	V
		c.	Resident and staff orientations include how to greet and interact with neighbors and/or concerned parties.	V	V	~	V
	31.	Have	courtesy rules				
		a.	Preemptive policies address common complaints regarding at least: Smoking Loitering Lewd or offensive language Cleanliness of the property	V	V	~	V
		b.	Parking courtesy rules are documented.	V	~	V	V

R = Recommended

Reference Guide

DOMAINS: Notice that there are four (4) **Domains**, the <u>major sections</u> of the document above labeled numerically 1-4: (These are the largest numbers on the document and are in white on a black background)

- 1. Administrative and Operational Domain
- 2. Physical Environment Domain
- 3. Recovery Support Domain
- 4. Good Neighbor Domain



CORE

PRINCIPLE

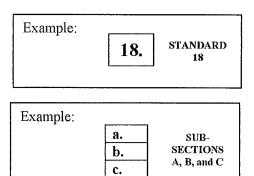
Example:

CORE PRINCIPLES: Under each of the **4 Domains** are ten (10) **Core Principles** labeled alphabetically with capital letters, A-J in black type with gray backgrounds:

- A Operate with Integrity
- B Uphold Residents' Rights
- C Create a Culture of Empowerment Where Residents Engage in Governance and Leadership
- **D** Develop Staff Abilities to Apply the Social Model
- E Provide a Home-like Environment
- F Promote a Safe and Healthy Environment
- G Facilitate Active Recovery and Recovery Community Engagement
- H Model Prosocial Behaviors and Relationship Enhancement Skills
- I Cultivate the Resident's Sense of Belonging and Responsibility for Community
- J Be a Good Neighbor

STANDARDS: Under each of the 10 Core Principles are the thirty-one (31) Standards labeled numerically from 1-31, in black print with white backgrounds.

SUBSECTIONS: And, finally, under each of the 31 Standards are indented subsections labeled alphabetically in lower-case letters from "a." to as many letters as were needed for each standard.



For quick references to NARR Standards, you may find abbreviations such as the following helpful, or you may find others using them and want to be sure you are understanding the references:

2, F,16. c.

"2, F,16. c." is just short-hand for saying, "We are referring to the Physical Environment Domain ("2"), Core Principle "F" ("Promote a Safe and Healthy Environment"), Standard "16." ("Provide an alcohol and illicit drug free environment"), and subsection "c." ("Policy and procedures for drug screening and/or toxicology protocols").

NARR

TEST YOURSELF:

If you see a reference to "4, J,30. b.", to what is it referring?

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Your answer:	· ·
	1
	i i
	i