



Maine Association of  
Recovery Residences

75 Bishop Street, Suite 18, Portland ME 04103

[www.mainerecoveryresidences.com](http://www.mainerecoveryresidences.com)

## **Introduction to the Maine Association of Recovery Residences**

### **Honorable Sen. Ned Claxton and Rep. Michele Meyer, and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee**

Greetings Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Dr. Ron Springel, and I am a resident of Scarborough appearing today as a representative of the Maine Association of Recovery Residences (MARR), a Maine non-profit. MARR is the Maine state affiliate of the National Alliance of Recovery Residences (NARR) – a group that has developed a national “best practices” certification program. MARR annually inspects and certifies that its members are operating at this standard.

In Maine, MARR works hand-in-hand with NARR and currently supports 28 affiliate members who operate 53 certified recovery residences in nine counties. The current bed capacity is approximately 530. Since October 2019, the Department of Health and Human Services through the Office of Behavioral Health has funded MARR’s work with a grant that supports two paid staff and 9 volunteer directors. We actively offer technical assistance, training, advocacy, quality control, onsite inspections, naloxone distribution, and COVID-19 support. We maintain an online directory of certified residences. We encourage the 69 non-certified residences to achieve certification and adherence to best-practice standards.

MARR believes in recognizing all paths to recovery and supports residences that serve men, women, women with children, men with children, LGBTQ, coed, and others. In 2016, only one recovery residence allowed residents undergoing treatment with buprenorphine (Suboxone) or methadone; now 70% of certified residences allow medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD).

In the 129<sup>th</sup> session, MARR worked with this committee and others to enact three statutes to define what a recovery residence is, establish voluntary certification, develop a housing subsidy program through MSHA, require naloxone to be available on every sleeping floor, and treat recovery residences as single-family homes for the purposes of the Life and Safety (Fire) Codes.

In the 130<sup>th</sup> regular legislative session, we are working with Rep. Justin Fecteau who has introduced a bill entitled, “An Act to Increase the Quality of Substance Use Disorder Treatment in Recovery Residences”. Currently, operating subsidies are available through MSHA for residences that provide MAT and are MARR-certified; this legislation would require certification for any residence receiving any public funds such as GA, DOC funds, stipends, vouchers, etc.

We look forward to continuing our work with you and the other committees in the legislature and offer to be your source for information about one of the most important and least understood recovery supports available to Mainers today – safe and sober residences where people with Substance Use Disorder reclaim their lives and become productive citizens again.



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**Additional information About MARR:**

The Maine Association for Recovery Residences (MARR) is a nonprofit organization that manages the ethical and safety standards for recovery residences in the State of Maine. We believe all people seeking recovery-based housing should have access to both a safe and accommodating residence where they can live a healthy and rewarding life. The primary mission of MARR is to promote this ethical and sustainable management of high-quality recovery residences throughout the State of Maine.

**The MARR Board of Directors:**

President: Alison Webb, MPH, Recovery Advocate

Vice-President Zoe Brokos, Recovery Advocate

Secretary: Joshua Leonard, affiliate leader and manager of Portland Sober Living.

Treasurer: Herb Blake, Executive Director Friendship House

Additional Directors: Sarah Coupe, Founder and Operator of Grace House for Women; Kerry MacDonald, RD, LDN is owner and operator of Beacon Sober Living and the Director of Women's Extended Care for The Plymouth House; Tyler Brinkmann, former recovery residence operator and recovery advocate; Paul O'Shea, recovery advocate and staff member of Twilight Drive recovery residence; Dan Mahoney Owner/Operator Valdar Inc. (2 Recovery residences).

Visit our Website: <https://www.mainerecoveryresidences.com>.

**Additional Information About NARR:**

Our national partner, the National Alliance of Recovery Residences was founded in 2011 by a group of recovery housing advocates and operators with the purpose of establishing a recognized set of "best practices" and developing a network of state affiliates to organize local efforts and perform the actual inspections. From the NARR website: ***The National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) is a 501-(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding the availability of well-operated, ethical, and supportive recovery housing. NARR and over 30 state affiliates collectively support over 25,000 persons in addiction recovery who are living in over 2,500 certified recovery residences throughout the United States.***

Visit the NARR Website: <https://narronline.org/>

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