

# MCRSP LIFELINE

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## KC COALITION MEETING

In November, our Executive Director, Brendon Steenbergen, attended the Kansas City Coalition's monthly meeting. During his visit, he toured the Healing House and two additional recovery residences, gaining valuable insight into their daily operations.

A highlight of the trip was sharing lunch with clients at the Healing House's community center, where Steenbergen enjoyed founder Bobbi Jo Reed's delicious cooking.

Engaging with residents and staff provided a unique opportunity to build relationships as well as witness the strength, unity, and deep sense of community in the Kansas City recovery community firsthand.

This visit highlighted the value of taking a hands-on approach to supporting recovery efforts, reaffirming MCRSP's mission to connect and empower recovery communities across Missouri.

## PREVENTION CONFERENCE

On November 12-14, 2024, MCRSP participated in the Substance Use Prevention Conference held in St. Charles, Missouri. The conference brought together over 300 attendees, including prevention specialists, recovery advocates, and community leaders from across Missouri.

Our team, including Executive Director Brendan Steenberg, Director of Administration and Outreach Christa Kiesling, Housing Director Andy Thomas, and Assistant Housing Director Brendan

Pasley, hosted an informational booth to share our mission and connect with participants.

Throughout the event, we engaged in insightful discussions, attended impactful sessions, and strengthened connections with prevention-focused organizations. This conference highlighted MCRSP's dedication to bridging the gap between prevention and recovery, fostering statewide efforts to build healthier and more resilient communities.



## RELIAS LEARNING UPGRADE

Relias, our trusted learning platform for providers, has been upgraded to 1,000 user licenses in response to the high demand for this valuable resource. This significant expansion ensures that even more MCRSP members can benefit from the platform's comprehensive and educational tools, which are designed to support professional development and enhance service delivery in the recovery support sector.

Thanks to funding from the Missouri Department of Mental Health, Relias continues to be available at no cost to MCRSP members. This initiative highlights MCRSP's ongoing commitment to empowering providers by offering accessible, high-quality educational resources that foster growth and excellence in service provision.

Organizations interested in accessing Relias can easily register through MCRSP. For more information or assistance, please contact Christa Kiesling at [christa@mcrsp.org](mailto:christa@mcrsp.org).

## NARR TRAINING MODULES

Thanks to the generous support and funding from the Missouri Department of Mental Health, the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) is offering free training modules to residents of Missouri. These modules, available to both individuals and organizations, provide essential knowledge on recovery housing best practices. While organizations can register multiple participants, each individual must create their own account to access the training.

Each module covers topics such as recovery housing best practices, the social model of recovery, and NARR recovery housing standards 3.0, helping you develop printable policies and procedures for your housing program. These modules are valuable resources whether you're seeking accreditation, considering becoming a recovery housing provider, or simply looking to enhance the quality of your current program. The comprehensive content will support your staff's development and improve the services you provide to the community.



Dear MCRSP Community,

As we reflect on this season of giving thanks, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible work each of you does to rebuild lives through recovery. Your dedication and commitment are the backbone of our mission, and your efforts make a profound difference in the lives of individuals and families across Missouri. This past month, the MCRSP staff attended the Missouri Substance Use Prevention Conference in St. Charles. The conference provided valuable insights and resources that will help us continue to strengthen our recovery support efforts. It was inspiring to connect with so many passionate individuals working toward the same goal: a brighter future for those affected by substance use disorders. Additionally, I had the opportunity to tour Healing House in Kansas City and attend the KC Coalition meeting hosted there. Seeing firsthand the incredible work being done at Healing House and the collaborative efforts of the KC Coalition was truly inspiring. These experiences

reinforce the importance of our shared mission and the power of community in driving recovery forward.

As we move into the holiday season, let us carry this spirit of gratitude and renewal with us. Together, we are transforming lives, healing families, and rebuilding communities. Thank you for being an essential part of this journey.

Warm regards,

Brendon Steenberg  
Executive Director, MCRSP



## MINI-GRANTS

The Missouri Coalition of Recovery Support Providers receives \$30,000 annually from the Missouri Department of Mental Health to help community organizations host local events that raise awareness about substance use, break stigma, and connect individuals to essential resources. We encourage organizations to apply soon to take advantage of the remaining funds.



## MINI GRANT AWARDS



On November 16, 2024, The Brook Wellness Center hosted a Thanksgiving Dinner in Forsyth, MO, serving over 150 clients and their families, with the turnout surpassing expectations and deepening the event's impact on the larger community.

This event reflects MCRSP's mission by providing a safe space for individuals to come together as a family and enjoy a meal—an opportunity that many clients in recovery may have never experienced.

The meal was funded through a mini grant awarded by MCRSP, with support from the Missouri Department of Mental Health. Volunteers generously dedicated their time to ensure the evening's success, playing a crucial role in creating a welcoming atmosphere.

This gathering highlighted the power of community and compassionate support, emphasizing that recovery is not a solitary journey, but a collective effort. MCRSP is proud to have supported The Brook Wellness Center in hosting this meaningful event, reinforcing the importance of care, celebration, and connection in the recovery process.



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