# MCRSP LIFELINE
## Missouri Coalition of Recovery Support Providers

# MCRSP Executive Director Hired

The Missouri Coalition of Recovery Support Providers (MCRSP) is pleased to announce Ann McGruder as its new Executive Director (ED).

McGruder will report to and work closely with the MCRSP Board of Directors and be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations. She will also work on staff development and accountability. McGruder will develop and execute the organization's strategic plan; work with the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to strengthen collaborations and initiatives surrounding MCRSP; and advocate with state and federal legislatures and private foundations to secure, expand and diversify funding. McGruder will be the principal spokesperson and liaison to the media and stakeholders including, but not limited to, DMH, the Department of Corrections, National Alliance for Recovery Residences
(NARR), Alliance for Recovery Centered Organizations (ARCO), and Missouri State Legislators.

McGruder graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia (UMC) with a bachelor's degree in educational studies. Prior to accepting this position, she held various director-level positions within educational institutions. She also served as the Chief of Staff to the Chancellor at UMC.

The MCRSP Board of Directors is confident Ann McGruder is an excellent match for the ED position and will prove to be a strong asset to MCRSP. She will begin Monday, October 2, at the MCRSP office located in Jefferson City.

Ann C. McGruder

# Welcome to the

# MCRSP

# TEAM!

## MCRSP Members Attend SAMHSA Discussion

SAMHSA hosted a two-day meeting in September on reducing barriers to collaboration between "housing first" and recovery housing systems. The meeting succeeded in identifying major challenges and in beginning a much-needed dialogue between harm reduction and abstinence-based recovery philosophies. Participants from Missouri included Dr. Marsha Hawkins-Hourd, MCRSP President of MCRSP, Dr. Fred Rottnek, ARCA, Mollee Flores from Amethyst Place, Cameo Jones LIV Executive Director, and Merna Eppick, MCRSP Housing Task Force Chair. Key discussions highlighted the concept of "No Wrong Door," Financial Strategies including Missouri's growth and ultimately gaining a budget line item, and an overview of harm reduction and its role in housing first and recovery housing. Challenges and misconceptions about each housing first model were reviewed. It is the goal of SAMHSA to produce a report from the meeting for all participants. Not unlike other challenges between providers, the overall goals determined in the final session were communication, cooperation and collaboration. Some attendees were able to glean a personal "to-do" list to implement within their own agencies.

# MCRSP/RCO Conference

The MCRSP/RCO Conference held earlier in September was a huge success.

The conference kicked off Sunday with Ethics for House Managers led by Jordan Hampton and Andy Thomas.

Monday the conference attendees heard from several presenters including Representative Crystal Quade, D132, Representative Travis Smith, R155, Ashley Cleveland, Grammy Award Winning Singer who told her story by song, Missouri Department of Mental Health updates from Nora Bock, Director, Division of Missouri Behavioral Health, DMH, Tom Coderre, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, SAMHSA, a panel discussion on Family Programs across Missouri, Ashanti Tate, MSW, and a discussion from Al-Anon.

MCRSP presented Kimberly Freese, Regional Administrator, Region 7 and Tom Coderre, Acting Deputy Assistant Security each a Behavioral Health Champions Award.

Continuing Education Certificates have been emailed. If you have not received your please contact Christa Harmon.

**State Legislators' Lookup**

House Members

Senate Members

# Legislative Priorities - 2024

The 2024 Legislative priorities will be somewhat of a repeat of 2023 due to the Governor's vetoes. MCRSP Leadership has met with Lobbyists Rich Aubuchon and Trent Watson on several occasions to set forth a plan of action that includes seeking the following:

~ 5% Rate Increase

~ Benevolent Tax Credit

MCRSP will again show a presence at the Capitol when the session begins in early January 2024. Watch for more details for scheduling.

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# Upcoming Conferences

### NARR Conference

The NARR Conference "Recovery Out Loud" will be held in Dearborn, Michigan October 9-11, 2023. The theme is "Recovery Out Loud - a celebration of the power of recovery to transform lives."

The NARR Conference is the only national recovery conference dedicated to recovery housing.

[ NARR Conference Info ]

### MCRSP/RCGSTL Conference

Plans are well underway for the upcoming MCRSP/Recovery Coalition of Greater St. Louis Conference on December 8, 2023 at the Doubletree Hotel St. Louis at Westport.

Conference Registration is now open! Reserve your spot today! Don't forget to reserve your hotel room!

[ Conference Registration ]

[ Reserve Your Room ]

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# Other News

### Community Outreach Mini Grants

MCRSP has been awarded $30,000 annually from the Missouri Department of Mental Health to assist community organizations in raising awareness about substance use through local events. Individual grants of up to $1,500 each are available to organizations that are holding community events to raise awareness about substance use, break stigma and connect people in need to local resources. Questions about this program should be directed to Christa Harmon at MCRSP.

**MCRSP Contact Information**

**Executive Director:** Ann C. McGruder

**Housing Director:** Wm. Andy Thomas

**Director of Administration & Outreach:** Christa Harmon

**Director of Training & Technical Assistance:** Jamie Martin