



MCRSP LIFELINE

Missouri Coalition of Recovery Support Providers

October 31, 2023 ~ Edition 3 Volume 9

MCRSP Presence at NARR 2023

The National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) held its annual conference at Dearborn, Michigan on October 9-11, 2023 hosting approximately 275 attendees from across the United States, including 13 MCRSP Members. Dr. Rev. Marsha Hawkins-Hourd, MCRSP Board of Directors Chair was thrilled with the Missouri presence at the conference.

Newly hired MCRSP, Executive Director, Ann C. McGruder attended the conference reporting the NARR Conference was professional with excellent break-out sessions conducted by National Leaders. Some observations Ann gathered from attending are the growth and expansion of NARR with a focus on the expansion of the role of a national membership organization and how best to serve state affiliates. Areas of priority...state and federal advocacy and lobbying, state and federal networking and a profound focus on data collection and data analytics. A successful strategy will be to leverage local, state and national priorities to ensure alignment and messaging.



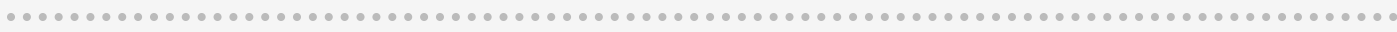
First row left to right: Alon Fisch (New Beginning Sanctuary); Shemia Thomas (Pieces Peaces); Merna Eppick (Simmering Center); Marsha Hourd-Hawkins (CAFE/ Chair of Board); Ann McGruder (Executive Director); Tanya Hankins (Hanani House); Dan Hanneken (In2Action); Rachel Davidson (Ozark Recovery Housing)
Second row left to right: Andy Thomas (Housing Director); John Hankins (Hanani House); Ivan Coats (In2Action); Jessica Chambers (In2Action); D'Markus Thomas-Brown (In2Action)

Andy Thomas, MCRSP Housing Director reported the conference content consisted of housing rights, equity in housing, access to funding and social modeling.

New Beginning Sanctuary Executive Director, Alon Fisch, highlighted several key points from the conference including NARR is adopting best practices for LGBTQ+ communities and the state affiliates will decide to adopt the same practices. Another key point Alon mentioned is studies have shown the success of an organization is not based on the clients, but instead on the strength and quality of the manager and employees, focus on building them up and you will improve your outcomes by Dr. David Best. Alon believes Patrick Kennedy, the son of former Congressman, Ted Kennedy was a great speaker and recovery advocate.

Merna Eppick with Simmering Center highlighted several items about the conference which include Drs. Amy Miricle and David Best. The term "reciprocal connection" has stuck with Merna. They also underscored the need to measure the recovery capital of house leaders to promote wellness among the residents. Another highlight Merna mentioned from Director Paulo DeVecchio, Director of the SAMHSA Office of Recovery and Recovery Housing "community, helping others and purpose." Merna also mentioned Patrick Kennedy and his encouragement of us to recognize the strength in numbers that recovery has built and mobilize for legislative support at the state and federal levels.

Ann C. McGruder said, "The focus on evidence-based and data-driven decisions has inertia from the top down and bottom up groups ensuring a great alignment for the industry with a translation to increased stature, branding, performance-based outcomes and funding. The holistic goal is the improvement of health and wellness for constituents."



Executive Director Update

Greetings! I am Ann McGruder, your newly appointed Executive Director for MCRSP. While my main focus and responsibility is to ensure MCRSP serves its membership and pursues the goals and aspirations of its members with fiduciary oversight...my other focus is to help ensure members are successful and happy and that there is some joy in each day...no dress rehearsal in life as they say...

Some personal things...my background is in academics and founding 3 successful small businesses. I have a lifelong involvement in the equestrian industry and I enjoy fly fishing and reading. My husband is a professor of physical therapy at the University of Missouri and we have a small farm in Columbia with chickens, one dog, two cats and a barn full of competition horses.

And...now back to the reason for the Newsletter Welcome...MCRSP is professionalizing, growing, evolving and we are here to ensure a stable and successful process and to fulfill the strategic thinking paradigm all of you bring to the conversation.

To wit...it has been a wonderful welcome and time spent since I joined you on October 2. If you need *anything, for any reason*, please ask me...call, text, zoom, email...I am here to serve MCRSP. Thank you in advance for the collaboration and support.

With gratitude,
Ann



State Legislators' Lookup

[House Members](#)

[Senate Members](#)

Legislative Priorities - 2024

The 2024 Legislative priorities will be discussed November 9 and 10. Please contact [Ann](#) with suggestions/comments/questions. 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:

~ 6% Rate Increase for RSS Providers

~ Benevolent Tax Credit

~ Support of DMH FY25 Budget Requests

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

Upcoming Conferences

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](#)

MCRSP Annual Meeting & Legislative Conference Recovery Day at the Capitol

Save the Dates:

March 4 & 5, 2024

Courtyard by Marriott - Jefferson City, MO

More information to be announced.

Other News

Community Outreach Mini-Grants

MCRSP has been awarded \$30,000 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, breaking stigma and connecting people in need to local resources. Questions about this program should be directed to [Christa Harmon](#) at MCRSP.

[Mini-Grant Information](#)



MCRSP Contact Information

MCRSP Board of Directors Chair:
[Dr. Rev. Marsha Hawkins-Hourd](#)

Executive Director:
[Ann C. McGruder](#)

Housing Director:
[Wm. Andy Thomas](#)

Director of Administration & Outreach:
[Christa Harmon](#)



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