

PARR assists the unfunded, unregulated network of well over 200 residences through an association that helps them to adhere to operational standards:

1. PARR and OAS collaborate on implementing awareness programs that educate those seeking to open a recovery residence on what to look for when considering this business/service endeavor.
2. PARR assists OAS in offering initial technical assistance in steps to open a recovery residence.
3. PARR offers a minimum set of standards to ensure the health and safety of the residents residing in the facilities.
4. Unfunded residences are held accountable to meet these standards set by the association.
5. PARR assists OAS with inspection on new and current unfunded residences with enhancing their operations to meet the standards.
6. PARR maintains all residence inspection/certification data for continuous quality improvement.



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The Need for PARR Defined

Addiction is a chronic disease, not an acute health problem that is cured by a single dose of treatment. Recovery residences provide a vital service for initiating and sustaining long-term recovery, and there are at least a thousand or more recovery residences in Pennsylvania. Until recently, a unified national voice for recovery residences did not exist nor was there a uniform standard for recovery residences.

The National Alliance of Recovery Residences (NARR) now fills these voids. In 2010, industry leaders from across the United States came together to define levels of care and to create a standard of care to ensure the highest quality of care at each level. PARR is an affiliate of NARR, and adherence to the NARR standard ensures that recovery homes throughout Pennsylvania are safe and supportive environments that promote recovery.

In addition to serving as the Executive Director of PARR, Fred Way also serves as Vice President of NARR. This connection ensures that PARR has a voice in national activities and that PARR remains on the cutting edge of NARR developments and initiatives.



PARR Membership

In order to ensure that PARR recovery homes are operating in accordance to the NARR standard, applicants undergo a rigorous certification/application process that involves:



1. Review of application materials and requisite building and business licenses.
2. Interviews with the owner and operator of the recovery home(s).
3. Inspection of the properties.

All PARR homes are required to adhere to the NARR standard, evaluated on a regular basis, and provided with technical assistance in order to ensure compliance.



PARR Fact Sheet



I am pleased to present you with the official fact sheet for the Pennsylvania Alliance of Recovery Residences, also known as PARR.



Fred Way
Executive Director

Recovery residences have been central to the evolution of all addiction recovery services. 'Inebriate homes' and 'farms' birthed the modern addiction recovery movement. The healing characteristics of those early homes remain the essential qualities for residential environments today that provide:

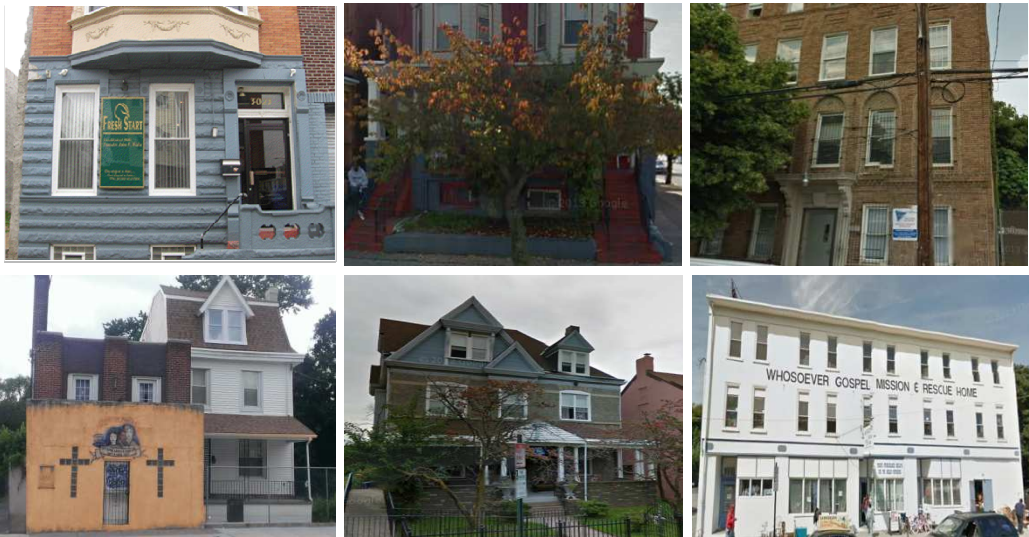
- A safe and substance-free living environment;
- Role models and daily routines to establish and practice a sober lifestyle;
- Peer support to maintain recovery-oriented lifestyle changes.

The city of Philadelphia began a recovery-focused transformation of its behavioral healthcare system in 2004 that has altered service philosophies, policies, practices, and relationships. The Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disability Services' (DBHIDS) shift toward a recovery paradigm included new approaches to assessing community needs and evaluating policies and practices. One of the explicit goals of the systems

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WHO WE ARE

PARR- Ensuring Safe and Supportive Housing for Individuals in Recovery



PARR is the local resource for recovery residences to ensure that recovery homes in Pennsylvania abide by standards and protocols for ethical practice and have training and state of the art information pertaining to residential operations.

Throughout Pennsylvania there are two major distinctions within the recovery home network:

some homes receive funding from the Office of Addiction Services (OAS), but the vast majority of homes do not. Homes that receive funding from OAS must verify licensing compliance as well as proof of ownership of the property, general liability insurance, proof of current utility bills, and proof of 501c3 or non-profit designation before they can receive funding. The OAS funded

houses have direct oversight, all referrals are generated through the housing initiative office, and the houses have staff coverage around the clock. Heretofore, neither oversight nor support existed for the unfunded homes.

Our mission at PARR is to create, evaluate and improve standards and measures of quality for all levels of recovery residences. PARR provides a forum for exchanging ideas to include developing uniformity for our field, problem solving and advocacy.

The Recovery Fund – Helping Those Who Help Others



In August, 2012 General Assistance, a Pennsylvania state program that provides cash assistance to about 70,000 Pennsylvanians ended with only a 30 day notice to the general public. The General Assistance program has provided money to vulnerable residents since the Great Depression, including the disabled, domestic violence survivors and people undergoing addiction treatments.

“These devastating cuts in services for individuals with behavioral health and intellectual disabilities, as well as more broad-based cuts, will shred the human services safety net in Philadelphia. These cuts affect as many as 34,000 Philadelphians, two-thirds of whom lost their Medical Assistance. Many of these individuals receive services for substance use disorders.

The projected impact of these cuts on disabled Philadelphians and their families include:

- As many as 400 community residential rehabilitation beds could be lost.
- The loss of General Assistance and Medical Assistance will disproportionately affect individuals with substance use disorders and make it very difficult to obtain treatment.

As one person who had been homeless and is now in recovery and employed stated, “the \$205/month of cash assistance and Medical Assistance was like a million dollars to me in my recovery.” He is certain that without it, and the services he received, he would still be on the street.

- Decreased access to addiction treatment beds since these funds have allowed uninsured individuals to enter service while awaiting approval of Medical Assistance.
- Individuals who are uninsured or underinsured will be unable to access services to coordinate their care and many will not be able to obtain services at all.
- Since about 75% of the cost of providing services is the cost of staffing those services, we anticipate that many jobs will be lost at Behavioral Health provider agencies throughout the Philadelphia area. This also means that tax revenue will be lost to the state.”¹

Without funding from General Assistance, many recovery residences – those helping the most vulnerable populations throughout Pennsylvania - will soon go out of business.

Hence the need for a Recovery Fund!

¹ The Philadelphia Coalition, Talking Points, Governor Corbett’s Proposed 2012-13 Budget.

What the Recovery Fund Will Do

Monies placed into The Recovery Fund will be administered by PARR and distributed to participating unfunded member agencies. Each member agency will have an opportunity to appoint a representative to the Recovery Fund Distribution Committee. The Committee Chair will report directly to the PARR Board President. Standards of distribution will be developed once the committee is formed, but the sole purpose of the Recovery Fund will be to assist unfunded member agencies who have limited access to other funding resources. As standards and plans are developed, we will report out to funders and the public on these activities.



The Goals of the Fund

- Immediately raise \$50,000 to support recovery residences in Philadelphia.
- Establish a Recovery Fund Committee with representatives from member agencies and the community at large.
- Create and document standards of distribution for funds.
- Develop plans for the expansion of The Recovery Fund and its wider distribution after 2014.

HOW WE DO IT

Recovery Houses – A Network of Support and Transformation

Many people view drug abuse and addiction as strictly a social problem. Parents, teens, older adults, and other members of the community tend to characterize people who take drugs as morally weak or as having criminal tendencies. They believe that drug abusers and addicts should be able to stop taking drugs if they are willing to change their behavior.

These myths have not only stereotyped those with drug-related problems, but also their families, their communities, and the professionals who work with them. Drug use and addiction comprise a public health problem that affects many people and has wide-ranging social consequences. Addiction does begin when an individual makes a conscious choice to use drugs, but addiction is not just ‘a lot of drug use.’ At some point, “changes occur in the brain that can turn drug [use] into addiction, a chronic, relapsing illness. Those addicted to drugs suffer from a compulsive drug craving and usage and cannot quit by themselves. Treatment is necessary to end this compulsive behavior.”²



“Recovery houses throughout Pennsylvania provide the social, community and support frameworks that help many addicted men and women reverse their fates.”

Addiction is both a symptom and a cause of a vast network of social problems. Transformation through the development of strong relationships and commitments is crucial to the reversal of these destructive social trends. Recovery houses throughout Pennsylvania provide the social, community and support frameworks that help many addicted men and women reverse their fates.

The Pennsylvania Alliance of Recovery Residences (PARR) works in collaboration with the Office of Addiction Services (OAS) Recovery House Unit and Access to Recovery (ATR) staff with enhancing the Recovery Residence Network. OAS and ATR staff provide oversight and monitor the funded and OAS approved residences and **PARR assists the unfunded, unregulated network of well over 200 residences through an association that assists them with adhering to operational standards.**

² National Institute on Drug Abuse, <http://www.nida.nih.gov/Infofacts/understand.html>

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transformation process was to measure and increase recovery capital in Philadelphia.

Toward that end, DBHIDS began mapping recovery resources by zip code and analyzing the relationship between intensity and resource availability in particular neighborhoods toward the goal of placing recovery resources in the closest possible proximity to areas experiencing the greatest impact of dependency problems.

While there is a broad spectrum of potential recovery support resources, focus groups identified sober living as a particularly critical need. Recovery Residences have been rigorously evaluated in recent years, particularly the national network of Oxford Houses, and have been found to play a significant role in successful recovery stabilization and maintenance following addiction treatment.

The need for safe and affordable recovery residences throughout the State has intensified due to overall housing shortages, a decrease in government housing programs, the gentrification of older neighborhoods, and intensification of NIMBY (*Not In My Backyard*) attitudes in some areas, and an increase of clients in treatment without family support resources.

The goal of PARR is to ensure that individuals in recovery have access to safe and supportive housing and to provide advocacy for recovery residences of all types. We hope you will join us in our efforts!

Fred

Fred Way
Executive Director
PARR