



Introducing Version 2 of the NARR Standard for Recovery Residences

November 15, 2015

NARR is proud to release the second version of our Standard, which was approved by our Board of Directors on October 7. A copy is available on the NARR website [at this link](#).

This update is the product of a full year's work by a talented, experienced and dedicated team. We solicited and received input from a variety of sources including providers, former residents, behavioral health professionals, leadership of our state affiliates, researchers and others.

Although the new standard contains more text than does Version 1, it is based on exactly the same principles. It differs mainly in its degree of specificity. Version 1 defined a good recovery residence, but it contained fewer concrete, measurable elements. Version 2 builds on the principles defined in Version 1, and its elements provide specific measures that define alignment with those principles. Based on feedback received to date, we anticipate that most residences that fully comply with the Version 1 standard will also comply with Version 2.

Differences between versions 1 and 2

The new standard is organized differently. It includes elements in four domains—Administrative and Operational, Recovery Support, Property and Architecture, and Good Neighbor practices. Individual standard elements within each domain are further grouped according to the core principle they are designed to support. Other than that, Version 2.0 introduces two major innovations:

- Version 2.0 translates the principles articulated in version 1 into actionable and measurable criteria.
- Version 2.0 adds elements that better operationalize the Social Model and peer recovery principles. For example, it requires evidence of peer recovery support activities in daily schedules.

Alignment of affiliate standards with Version 2.0

Several reviewers have asked about our expectations for state organizations' adoption of the new standard. As was the case with our 2011 standard, NARR expects its affiliate organizations to align their own standards and practices around Version 2.0. We do not expect or require that our affiliated organizations will adopt it as a substitute for existing standards. Many of our affiliates are in full compliance with Version 1 of the standard, and have been operating that way for some time. We understand that implementing this new standard cannot happen overnight, especially for organizations that have established policies and large memberships.

However many of our emerging affiliates—a few of which do not have fully developed standards—will likely find that adopting Version 2.0 is an attractive option. In fact, a lot of the Version 2.0 changes resulted from those affiliates' suggestions.

What's next?

Our Standards Committee is currently working on a Code of Ethics. A draft will be circulated for comments in the next few months.

The largest undertaking will be the development of a companion document for the Version 2.0 Standard. It will provide information on implementing the various standard elements, including discussion of best practices. It will also discuss different ways that great residences implement standard elements in their own operations.

We welcome your comments, suggestions and questions. You can reach the Standards team via email to info@narronline.org.

Beth Fisher Sanders, NARR Standards Committee Chair

Dave Sheridan, NARR President