

RECOVERY

*The official newsletter of the
Fletcher Group Rural Center Of Excellence*



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NEW LEGISLATION = NEW OPPORTUNITIES

by Founder and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Ernie Fletcher

This issue of our newsletter focuses on major legislative changes that will affect our readers, especially those who operate rural recovery homes.

As always, we've worked hard to present actionable information as concisely as possible. But as I look over this issue, I'm struck by something else: the immeasurable value of persistence.

What else explains the creation of new facilities (page 4) and legislation (page 5) that once seemed impossible?

There's an old Japanese proverb: "Fall seven times and stand up eight." It speaks beautifully not only to the courageous spirit of those in recovery but to the selfless dedication of people like you who work so tirelessly on their behalf.



LEGISLATION AFFECTING RH

What new laws will affect recovery housing in the months and years ahead? Let's take a look.

2023 Excellence in Recovery Housing Act

- Provides \$5 million to help states make recovery housing more available
- Authorizes SAMHSA to continue collaborating with recovery communities to promote best practices
- Establishes an inter-agency working group led by SAMHSA and the Department of Housing to coordinate recovery housing efforts
- Funds a *National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine* study of recovery housing with the goal of expanding RH availability

2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act

- Expands access to Medication-Assisted Treatments, such as buprenorphine, by no longer requiring practitioners to apply for waivers and by removing the limit on the number of patients a practitioner can treat

SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act*

- Set to expire at the end of this fiscal year, it's currently the subject of congressional hearings
- Includes HUD's Recovery Housing Program (RHP), the first federal program to directly fund recovery housing
- Nearly 30 states have received RHP funding so far
- Eligible states can use RHP funding to pay for public facilities and improvements; acquisition and disposition of real property; leases, rents, and utilities; rehabilitation; construction and reconstruction of single-family, multi-family and public housing; clearance and demolition; and relocation

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill

- Passed by a senate committee last month and now on its way to congress for debate, the bill would provide \$47.8 billion (a \$943 million increase over fiscal year 2023) for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as well as over \$5 billion for opioid treatment and prevention (a \$125 million increase over fiscal year



A year in the making by a staff of ten, the Fletcher Group's 84-page *Recovery Housing Landscape Report* provides an in-depth overview of the most recent laws, policies, and funding affecting recovery housing. To see the complete downloadable report...

2023); plus an additional \$40 million for Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grants; an additional \$20 million for State Opioid Response Grants; an additional \$10 million for the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program; and an additional \$20 million for NIH opioid research

* The Act's full name is the "Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act." For more details, visit www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/6

A TIMELY TOOL FOR SUCCESS

With everything that's already on your plate, it's hard to stay abreast of the legislative changes that affect you. That's why the Fletcher Group has created a new *State Resources* web page and interactive map where you can click on your state to instantly access all the information listed below.

Laws, Policies, and Funding

At the top of your state page are laws, policies and state-provided funding including:

- The exact wording your state uses to describe recovery housing
- Accreditation, certification, and state licensing requirements for recovery housing in your state
- Recent laws, legislation, and regulations governing recovery housing with links to official documents
- Any Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grants (SABG) or State Opioid Response Grants (SOR) that may be available
- Medicaid Funding available in your state with a link to official sources
- Any recovery housing association affiliated with the National Alliance of Recovery Residences (NARR)
- Links to housing assistance funding
- Links to any housing directory or housing registry that may exist in your state

Foundations and Charities

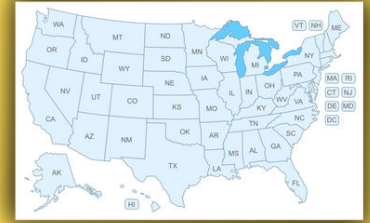
Next on your state page are funders that may have money available. The list includes:

- A description of each organization
- The region in which it works
- The issues its supports
- The organization's grant application process
- The amount typically granted each year
- A description of a past grantee to give you a better understanding of the organization's work

Opioid Settlement Funds

The third section of your state page summarizes the funding that may be available as a result of lawsuits against opioid manufacturers or distributors, including:

- The total amount of settlement funds available in your state
- Fund distribution (how much is going to the state, how much to local governments, and how much to a state grant program)
- A timeline showing the period over which the funds will be distributed



To access the many State Resources described on this page...

[CLICK HERE](#)



- A brief description of the application process and what's been spent so far
- A list of key contacts, including phone numbers and email addresses, plus links for additional information

County Resources, Too!

The Fletcher Group website also has a *County Resources* web page where the nation's first interactive data visualization tool of its kind lets you instantly view all the recovery needs, programs, and supports in your county.

"It's especially important because recovery ecosystems involve so many moving parts and rely so heavily on local resources," says Fletcher Group Founder Dr. Ernie Fletcher. "This detailed snapshot of what's available—and what's missing—is a godsend, especially in the rural communities we serve."

KENTUCKY CELEBRATION

Federal and state policies can have a tremendous impact on local communities. For those fighting addiction, they can even mean the difference between life and death.

One example can be found in the rural community of Middlesboro, Kentucky (population 26,000). In 2018 the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) committed itself to strengthening local economies while helping those with SUDs recover and find employment. As a result, the Fletcher Group secured a grant to implement what came to be known as the Recovery, Hope, Opportunity, and Resiliency (RHOAR) Initiative. By networking with numerous local stakeholders—including local officials, a community health center, and community college—the Fletcher Group applied funds from an ARC POWER grant to launch a new long-term womens recovery center in Middlesboro.

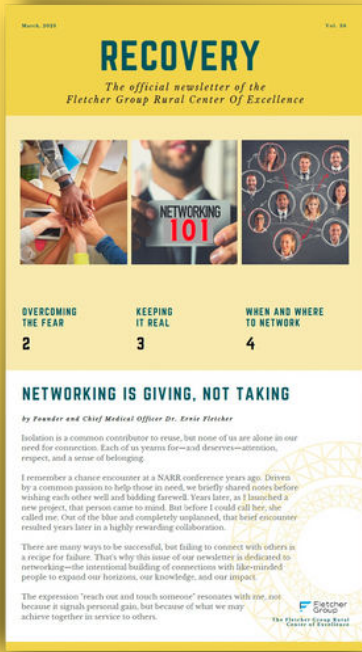
When finished, the \$14 million facility will be home to 112 women in 30 single-bed rooms, 12 two-bed rooms, 10 efficiency units, and 18 dorm beds. In accordance with the highly successful Recovery Kentucky model pioneered by Dr. Fletcher when governor of Kentucky, the center will provide a full continuum of care, including drug withdrawal support, counseling, education, and workforce training to find employment.

“We’re coming up on the jackpot,” said U.S. Representative Hal Rogers at the October 22 groundbreaking ceremony. “An actual physical place where we can administer treatment for people with addiction. This is the best example of being your brother’s and sister’s keeper that I can think of.”

“There is not a family in Kentucky that hasn’t felt that pain,” said Lieutenant Governor Jacqueline Coleman. “I’m just so grateful that we are here today to celebrate something that is going to make a difference not just in one person’s life but in the future and the trajectory of their family’s life. That is absolutely game-changing.”

Networking Works!

New laws and policies are essential to overcoming the nation's substance use epidemic. But equally important is the ability—as in Middlesboro—to build effective public-private partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders, from federal and state programs to non-profits, universities, faith-based organizations, and private enterprise.



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WHEN AND WHERE TO NETWORK 4

NETWORKING IS GIVING, NOT TAKING
by Powder and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Eric Fletcher

Inclusion is a common contributor to success, but none of us are alone in our need for connection. Each of us years far-and-distant—sometimes respect, and a sense of belonging.

I remember a chance encounter at a NARR conference years ago. Driven by a common passion to help those in need, we briefly shared notes before wishing each other well and bidding farewell. Years later, as I launched a new project, that person came to mind. But before I could call her, she called me. Out of the blue and completely unannounced, that brief encounter resulted years later in a highly rewarding collaboration.

There are many ways to be successful, but failing to connect with others is a recipe for failure. That's why this issue of our newsletter is dedicated to networking—the intentional building of ecosystems with like-minded people to expand our horizons, our knowledge, and our impact.

The expression "teach one and ten will learn" resonates with me, not because it signals personal gain, but because of what we may achieve together in service to others.

Fletcher Group
The Fletcher Group Rural Center of Excellence

NETWORKING TIPS

Our March, 2023 Newsletter has a wealth of pro tips on the kind of networking that made things happen in Kentucky. To check it out...

[CLICK HERE](#)



Let's Do It Together!
There's an old saying: “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” The truth of that is born out by the remarkably effective partnerships forged throughout the country by the Fletcher Group.

Because success in building life-saving recovery ecosystems depends on the networking skills of everyone involved, don't hesitate to contact us whenever you need help making a connection.

WASHINGTON INNOVATION

"The missing piece is always the same," says Fletcher Group Outreach and Engagement Specialist Milena Stott. "It's the sustainable income needed to pay for housing and services. And that always brings up the same question: How can we change the system so it provides what's needed."

By "system" Stott means the laws that govern the distribution of federal funds by states and local agencies. Getting state Medicaid dollars redirected toward recovery housing requires a waiver to be filed with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid services. It's a long, complicated process that Stott likens to turning an ocean liner. "It's not easy," she says, "but it *can* be done. We've proven that in Washington where it's making a real difference in resource-strapped rural communities."

A Three-Pronged Challenge

The process is sequential and the first challenge is getting the state legislature and state Medicaid agency to consider what's called your "theory of change." The second challenge is methodically testing and documenting the value of the proposed change through "demonstration pilots" that provide the legislature with the fiscal and clinical data they'll need to move forward. The third challenge is developing support among constituents—healthcare and behavioral health authorities, emergency responders, corrections, service providers, housing operators, and community leaders—through public meetings, workshops, and trainings.

Is it complicated? Yes. But similar efforts in Washington recently paid off in new laws that will soon fund hundreds of homes and services across the state.

"There's been lots of innovation here," says Stott. "Most notable is the streamlined collaboration between the state Medicaid agency and state Housing Authority. That's allowed the legislature to target problems and blend funds to address that gaps in the support services that are so critical to people in recovery."

Not As Hard As It Sounds

The due diligence needed to monitor so many moving parts can seem overwhelming, says Stott. But the good news is that lessons learned in one state apply in all. "The process and conversations may appear different," says Stott. "But the players and methodology don't change. You identify the problem, gather information, bring people together, and make your case."



ADVOCACY TIPS

Our April, 2022 Webinar with Mike Marshall provides valuable tips as well as insights into how advocacy and recovery go hand-in-hand. To watch...

[CLICK HERE](#)



First Things First

The first step is simple: get engaged. "You don't have to go back to college or get a degree," says Stott. "You just have to get involved."

In many cases there's already a network of people at work; you just need to find them. "After that, one thing just naturally leads to another," says Stott.

Ready To Engage?

Find the NARR affiliate in your state by visiting the National Alliance for Recovery Residences website at narronline.org. Or click "Contact" in the top menu at fletcher-group.org and we'll get back to you with the best people to talk with in your area.