



Office of Addiction and Recovery - Monthly webinar

<https://mn.gov/mmb/oar/>

Hello and introductions

Meeting logistics:

- All attendees, except presenters, will remain muted.
- We will work to address all questions during the time allotted.

Agenda

- 11:00 a.m. Hello and introductions
- 11:05 a.m. OAR update
- 11:15 a.m. Recovery Residences
- 11:55 a.m. Closing

- Presented at Local Public Health Association's Opioid Settlement Strategy Summit
- Revalidate 2026
- Medicaid Work Requirements Medical Frailty RFI
- Legislative wrap-up

- Overall strong focus on program integrity, fraud prevention, federal compliance (HR 1), IT modernization, support for hospitals
- Chapter 121: Human Services Supplemental Finance Bill contained several SUD related items, including:
 - Recovery Residence provisions moved up to effective date July 1, 2026; free standing room and board ends December 31, 2026
 - Peer recovery background studies aligned with federal requirements; removes “employee or volunteer”; peer support added to electronic visit verification (EVV)
 - Billing limits on treatment coordination at 5hrs week; peer recovery 14hrs week and 520hrs year with no more than 2hrs per day telehealth
 - Withdrawal management capacity building grants aligned with ASAM criteria
 - Carceral case management benefit for 1115 Reentry and federal juvenile requirement

- Chapter 95: Omnibus Human Services Policy Bill – mostly technical fixes in SUD portion
 - Tobacco education and assessment requirements
 - RCO certifications by June 30, 2026—moved up from June 30, 2027
 - Withdrawal management utilization review not prior to 5 days
 - SUD as a condition of eligibility for some housing benefits
- Chapter 115: Aligns state law with federal law allowing pharmacists to initiate, prescribe, dispense, and administer medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder.



Recovery Residence Certification

Christy Mollert | Special Projects Manager BHA-SUD

Pre-2020

- 2007 Minnesota Association of Sober Homes founded focusing on operational standards, safety, and ethics
- No statewide licensing or certification system
- Homes governed by local zoning laws, occupancy limits, and ordinances



- 2021 Statutory requirements under 254B.181
 - Written Policies
 - Medication
 - Eviction
 - Naloxone availability
 - Abstinence
 - Resident Rules
 - Resident Bill of Rights

Sober Home Funding

- Private pay
- GRH
- Stipends- illegal
- Charitable organizations and donations

Sober Home Landscape

2023 Legislation Sober Home Scan: November 3, 2025 - January 16, 2026

- The anonymous survey was offered in English, Spanish, Somali, and Hmong, and covered topics including home locations, capacity, populations served, services, funding, and operations
- 192 operators targeted and 97 complete responses received, representing 269 sober homes across the state
 - 67% of homes were in the 7-county metro region
 - Homes operate in 25 out of 87 (29%) Minnesota counties
 - Over 500 beds were taken off line in the last year due to closures

Free Standing Room & Board (FSRB)

- Evolved administratively as part of Minnesota's substance use disorder payment reforms as a state-approved lodging model that allowed providers to receive payment for the housing component of care for individuals receiving substance use disorder services.



FSRB Placement Requirements

1. Financial eligibility through Behavioral Health Fund access requirements
2. Bed availability
3. SUD assessment indicating residential level of need
4. Individual does not require full residential treatment services
5. Participation in treatment/recovery services

FSRB Funding

Service	Funding source
Room and board costs	Minnesota Behavioral Health Fund
Clinical treatment services	Medicaid / MHCP or other treatment funding
Housing operations	Provider responsibility

FSRB Landscape

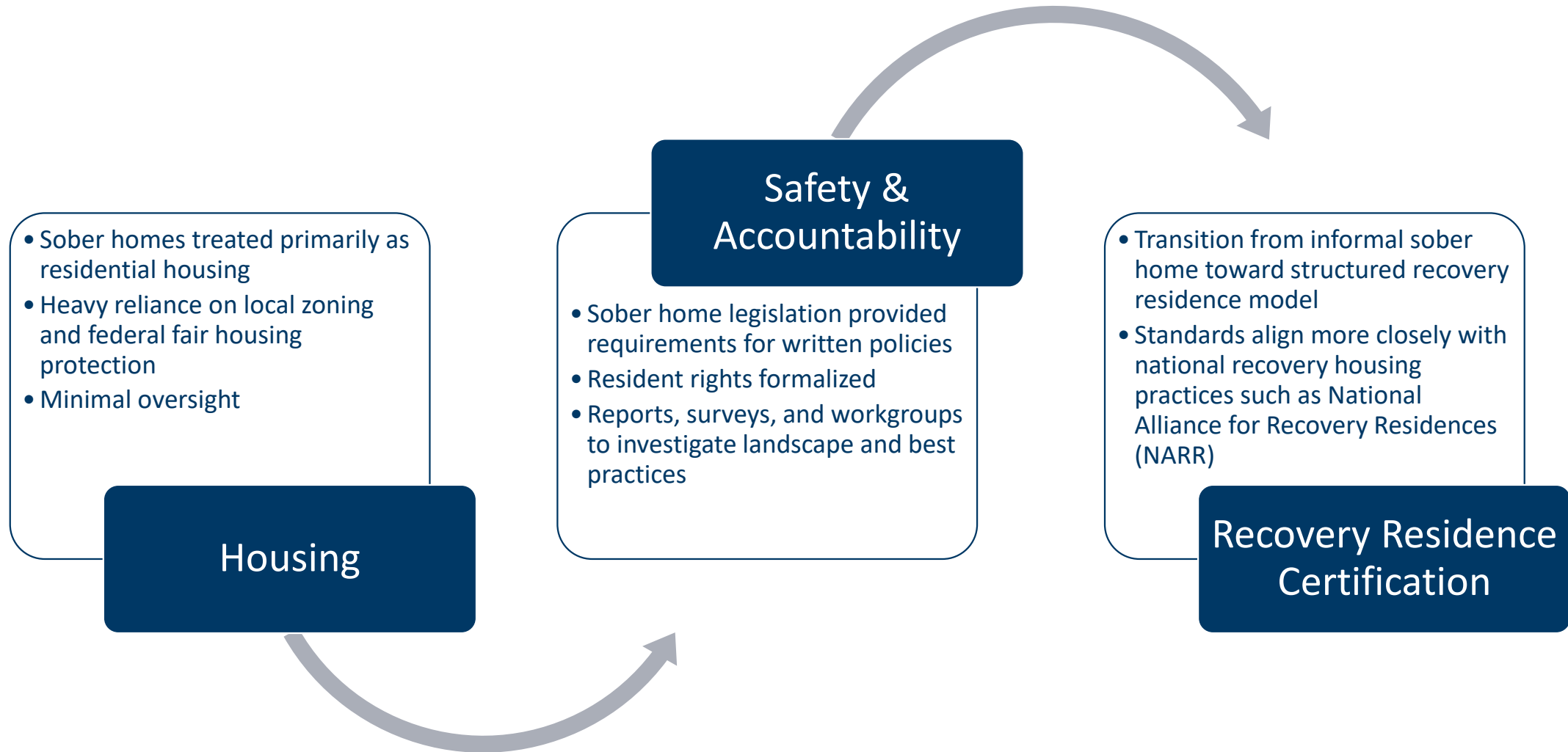
- 27 FSRB providers
 - 84 facilities
 - 1,440 beds
- Most located in the metro



Gender Served	Locations
Male	61
Female	18
Male and female	3
Females with children	2

- Limited oversight and resident protections
- Billing and payment integrity
- Intended to support rural areas
- Sustainability and systems
 - Severe workforce shortages affecting SUD services
 - Difficulty sustaining treatment programs
 - Financial instability within portions of the treatment system
 - Need for a standardized housing pathway across recovery stages

Evolution



Certified Recovery Residence

- Defined in Minnesota statutes 254B.211 through 254B.216
- Provides temporary, substance-free housing for individuals recovering from substance use disorders
- Do not provide formal counseling or treatment services but instead provide a person-centered supportive living environment

Recovery Residence

Level	Model	Typical Characteristics
Level 1	Peer-run	Resident-led governance; recovery support through peer accountability
Level 2	Staff-managed	Structured oversight with house managers/staff and operational policies
Level 3–4 (broader NARR framework)	Supervised / service-provider models	Increasing levels of staff involvement and potentially integrated services

Recovery Residence Funding

- Housing Support is a state-funded program that pays for room and board for older adults and adults with disabilities who have low incomes. The program aims to reduce and prevent people from living in institutions or becoming homeless. To see all requirements of the program, refer to [MN Statute 256I](#).
- Housing Support requires three things:
 - Eligible PERSON
 - Eligible PROVIDER
 - Eligible PLACE

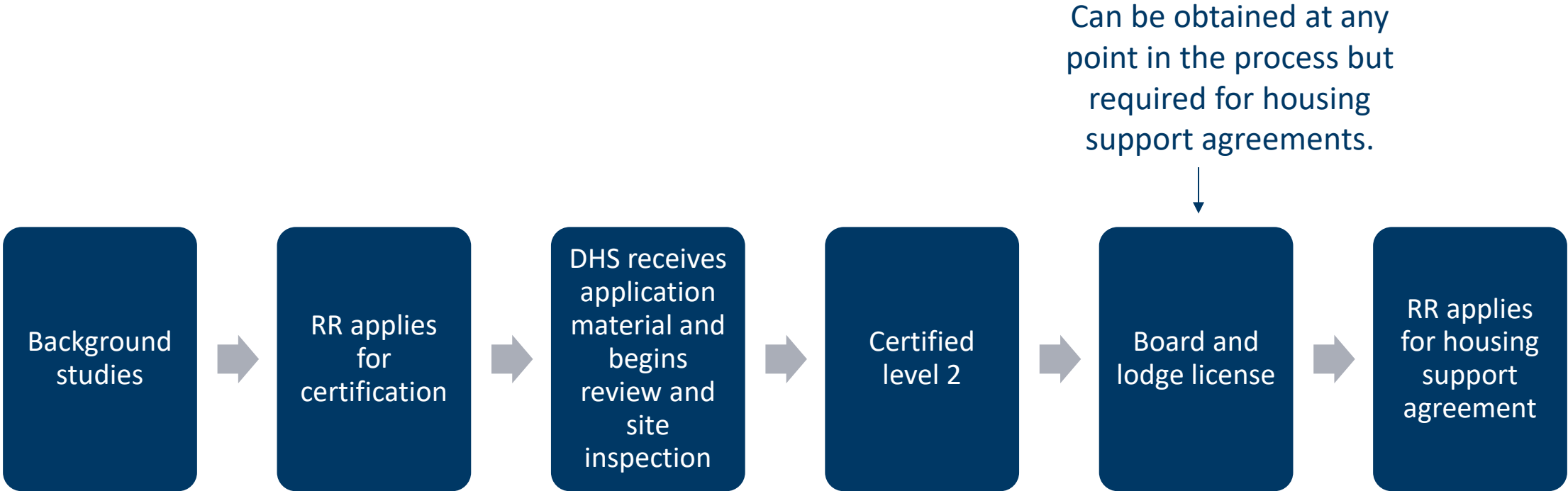
Projected Recovery Residence Landscape

- Assume metro heavy concentration of homes
- Counties that have had a moratorium on new housing support agreements
- Estimated 500 sober homes-> ?

Legislative Updates

- Certification timeline expedited
 - Certified level 2 Recovery Residences housing agreements start 7/1/2026
 - FSRB funding ends 12/31/2026
- 254B.181- update to language coming to remove “sober home”. In the future there will be certified and non-certified recovery residences recognized by the state.
 - “Sober homes” that already have housing agreements with counties will not be under DHS oversight and therefore potentially could continue to operate.

Recovery Residence Application Process



Thank You

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OAR webinar series information

- The next webinar will be on June 24 at 11 a.m.
- Visit <https://mn.gov/mmb/oar/monthly-update/> for:
 - A list of all webinar dates
 - A link to register for the next scheduled session
 - Past presentations

Thank You!

Contact Information

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