

## Appendix 1

Good afternoon,

The City of Greenacres has reviewed the draft report and offers the following comments:

**Question: should State regulate?**

My answer: **yes**

1. After reviewing the email comments by sober house operators, government officials, and affected persons (like family members of clients or potential clients), it seems clear that State oversight is wanted and needed.

**Question: does it appear legal for the State (and local jurisdictions) to regulate?**

My answer: **yes**

1. It is clear that the legal precedence set in *Village of Belle Terre vs Boraas* (1974, US Supreme Court) determined that a zoning ordinance which excludes more than two unrelated people from living together does not violate the United States Constitution. Further, I believe a housing regulation for sober houses, for example, in itself would not be in conflict with the FHA Act of 1968 or ADA Act of 1990 as long as it furthers a legitimate governmental interest (lower level scrutiny) and does not discriminate. Regulation and licensing of sober houses does not constitute discrimination or no jurisdiction in Florida would have the authority to regulate or license any community housing uses as currently practiced, including Senior housing or ACLFs.

## Appendix 1

### **How should State regulate?**

After reviewing the emails, it appears that stakeholders wish to prevent abuse by sober house operators by:

1. Providing licensing requirements.
2. Providing certification requirements.
3. Establishing distance and maximum area concentration requirements.
4. Clarifying eligibility requirements (ie. non-violent persons who are currently substance and alcohol free).

### **How should local jurisdictions regulate?**

1. I recommend exemption from local review for 6 persons or less. Alternatively, I recommend a sober house with 7 or more residents to require a conditional use permit or special exception. This regulation would not prohibit a protected class from obtaining housing, and it would be consistent with other limits set to the number of unrelated people living in one residence. This would be equal to the treatment given to Senior living home, home daycare, the physically handicapped (FL Statutes 760.22(7)), a non-dangerous mentally ill person (394.455(18)), a child found to be dependent (39.01 or 984.03), and a child in need of services (984.03 or 985.03).

The governmental interest furthered is the protection of the residential character of a neighborhood and to prevent the common problem of overcrowding that was stated several times in the provided email comments. This is equal treatment with other exempt housing, consistent with the 14th Amendment of the Constitution.

Ted Kozak, AICP  
Zoning Administrator  
ISA Certified Arborist FL-6327A  
City of Greenacres Planning & Engineering  
(561) 642-2054  
(561) 642-2049 FAX

## Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/02/2013 03:38 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

History

This message has been replied to.

From: Dee Wilson, RN, CARN, CHPN  
County: Collier  
Email: nurse\_dee\_2006@yahoo.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: ALL sober homes should be registered and monitored with/by DCF for safety, such as the physical aspects of the home (up to code, wiring, fire hazards, etc) and personnel need to be educated and certified in substance abuse issues and screened by federal and local background checks. There are vulnerable people who look for housing in these places, and have been 'preyed' upon financially, and personally either by the 'hosts' themselves, or by other residents of the home. Regulation needs to be specific that predators not run/own/rent or frequent these homes, and that the homes be licensed by city and county, and regulated/monitored by DCF. Also, felons and/or their felon spouses should not be able to run/operate these homes if the felonies occurred within the last 15 years.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: I do not know how many as far as Florida goes, but there are many in our town. I believe that less than 10% of the approximate 25 homes here are 'legal'. This means that most sober homes in this town are rented by the operators and 'sublet' to the tenants with or without the owners knowledge of the homes being used as sober homes.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: It is feasible to regulate these homes, and it can generate a substantial amount of revenue for the State of Florida. I believe the added cost of running these homes 'legally' would be passed onto the tenants, thus making them not as easily accessible as they are now to people coming out of jail or other situations where drugs or alcohol are a problem. However, if these homes were to be regulated, they would have to clean up the way they run their 'businesses', and the residents of these homes could actually be helped with their substance abuse issues - not merely 'housed' and 'winging' it as they are doing now.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: All levels of state government need to be included. Local, so as to be able to monitor and enforce city codes, licensing, etc. County, so as to add a 'checks and balance' level of oversight, and State so as to involve the Department of Children and Families for safety of vulnerable tenants overall. Many of the tenants have mental health issues as well as substance abuse/use issues. They need to be protected from predatory practices.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Personnel should be screened by background checks both locally and federally.

## Appendix 1

They should also hold substance abuse credentials as governed by the Florida Board of Credentialing, and should sign an Ethics Statement. I know of one house that isn't 'legal'. One of the female residents - a young lady (of legal age) became pregnant by the 'manager' who is a known sex-offender. It's like watching the wolf guard the chicken coop.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: Safety. Most houses are in low income -high crime areas. They are usually older homes that are not up to code. They are in disrepair, are not clean, and are barely one step above a flop house. Also, the 'landlords' can charge what they want, when they want. I believe there needs to be regulation on the amount of homes allowed per each owner/operator. One owner has so many homes he cannot truly take care of them all in the proper way, thereby, all the homes suffer from neglect to some extent. Sometimes other residents are put in charge of the house. These are people who themselves have substance abuse issues that are exacerbated by the stress of running the house. Fights break out regularly. Some owners try to screen tenants for drugs/alcohol with urine screens, or go by the word of the manager in charge (who may, or may not have a personal reason for getting a tenant kicked out). Some owners 'hold' tenants medication and 'administer' the medication to the tenants. All of this is done without proper medical license, any medical training, or any substance abuse training. I believe these houses, at present, sometimes do more harm than good. Currently, there are no guidelines for screening of communicable diseases. Infection control may or may not exist. At present, if a scabies outbreak happens in the home, it may or may not be detected by an operator who is not aware of the condition. If they are aware, it is up to the operator to follow a protocol for containing the scabies that currently may not exist, or that is not enforceable. Rules for living at the houses are lax, or non-existent. I believe that by regulating these sober homes and making them safe to live in, much more can be done to keep the tenants safe, further their recovery, and help our communities in Florida become more healthy.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?



Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/02/2013 10:12 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

History

This message has been replied to.

From: Marina Oksengorn  
County: Palm Beach  
Email: moksengorn@alternativesintreatment.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: they should be regulated by DCF, similar to how substance abuse treatment is regulated. regulations should govern random and upon suspicion drug testing, rules, consequences for breaking rules and support provided to those in early recovery

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: i dont know this number but its likely thousands

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: i think its feasible and certainly would cost more but licensing fees can help to cover this. only the ethical sober homes would pursue the licensing process.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: state and county

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: urine testing of employees and residents. safety of residents, separation by gender. also making sure that they are not operating unlicensed treatment programs, especially intensive outpatient treatment

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: 12 step meeting attendance and recovery support

Are you a registered lobbyist?: no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>  
07/08/2013 10:49 AM

To SAMH@DCF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Jeff  
County: Hartford  
Email: jd.slater@live.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?:

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?:

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?:

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?:

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?:

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: IT'S ALL ABOUT THE MONEY

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/08/2013 10:51 AM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

History:

This message has been replied to.

From: Jill Byrum  
County: St. Lucie  
Email: jbyrum@nhtcinc.org

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: Someone should be checking where they are getting their monies for rent, how they are using client monies, food stamps, etc.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: Only know about those in our local area; we have about 6 for St. Lucie County.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?:

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: DCF and/or AHCA

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Use of client's food stamps, programming, medications, meetings, staffing ratio

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: Whether or not it would be a conflict of interest for the sober house to be come the client's payee if the client is receiving either SSI or SSDI

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing? Concern with non-regulation of sober houses in Florida.

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/08/2013 10:51 AM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

History:

This message has been replied to.

From: Anneliese  
County: Miami-Dade  
Email: miamiworks@yahoo.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?:

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?:

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?:

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?:

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?:

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?:

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?



## Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/08/2013 10:54 AM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

History

This message has been replied to.

From: Joyce T Knott  
County: Pinellas  
Email: quadventilatte66@gmail.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?:

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: unannounced visits because addicts are very adapt at hiding their issues. as well as counselors and behaviorists the visits in the beginning need to be dailyre needs to be medical personnel.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: not enough!!! I have a son who is an addict.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: In the long run these place will return to society a healthy individual that will be able to function and become part of society. NOT all will succeed but the fact remains addicts commit crimes and they are a revolving door in the prison system. if we have more recovery units to help- more "junkies" learn how to survive without their substance the more productive citizens they become.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: Tallahassee simply because each county is burdened with enough so the cost needs to ultimately come from the State level as well as the Federal level.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: NO ROOM MATES single rooms per person. a degreed counselor. medical personnel because of the dangers of with drawl. a solid support system with people that understand or have been through this type of recovery. Simply because they will know the signs and will be less likely to swallow the excuses and lies.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: cost...most addicts have drained their families and the high cost of treatment is a HUGE issue.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/08/2013 11:02 AM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

History:

if this message has been replied to

From: Suzzette De Jesus  
County: Orange  
Email: suzzettedejesus@gmail.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: By the Health Department and the Police Department

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: I have no idea

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: It should be very very have and they should have insurance and security officer in the premises

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: Very high involvement

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?:

- 1-Therapy
- 2-Support Groups
- 3-Involve the Family if available

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: Security

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/08/2013 11:09 AM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

History

This message has been replied to

From: virginia latimer  
County: volusia  
Email: vlatimer@cfl.rr.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: no

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?:

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: NOT ENOUGH

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: I'm not sure they need to be licensed, they should be run as an apartment. set criteria of non use commitment of 1 year, agreement to work or get education. Involvement in community service and random drug testing.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: Health dept

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Owners have personal or professional background in addictions. Home monitor lives on site. all prescribe medications maintained in a safe area such as a medication room, all visitors subject to approval/ background. visitors , visitation on assigned days and times, must attend self help groups and a faith based support. Full participation in treatments provided in homes. Be it groups or individual counseling.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: yes, should be supported through monies obtained by law enforcement related to drug use.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/08/2013 11:12 AM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

History

This message has been replied to

From: Mitchell E. Walliock Ph.D CAP  
County: Broward  
Email: Mitchw@careflorida.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: Recovery residences should be regulate and held to the same standards as Day/night with community housing standards. The advertising and web sites should also be monitored for misrepresentations

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: Unknown

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: The residences themselves should pay for the licensing fee and inspections. They should also be required to have a fire inspection and Dept of health inspection where available

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: DCFS monitoring

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Fire inspection, Health Inspection, Criteria for Admission, fees and drug/alcohol testing etc. Background checks on operators and staff. Incident reports on all relapses and how they are handled should be included in manual

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: Recovery residences should be monitored for ownership or sweetheart relationships with licensed facilities. If such arrangements exist both programs should be treated as day/night with community housing.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?



Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/08/2013 11:38 AM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

History

This message has been replied to.

From: Nicole Roberson  
County: Duval  
Email: nicolerob02@gmail.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: regulate the medications, how they are dispensed and provide mental counseling and provide coping strategies. Also provide job training to get out of the same rut.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: no idea

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: it is cheaper to educate and provide life skills to a person than to ignore the problem and allow them to enter "the system" repeatedly

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: state and federal. this is a SERIOUS problem in the US.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: I do not know

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: people need life skills

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/08/2013 12:16 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

History:

This message has been replied to.

From: Annette Doherty  
County: FL  
Email: annettedoherty71@outlook.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: mandatory monthly supervision & updates

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: not a clue

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: In this economy it is only a guess

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: city

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: strict standard rules for residency, clients must have job or seek jobs, no free rides they need to stand on their own two feet & contribute to society

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: safety & counseling groups

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/08/2013 12:43 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

History

This message has been replied to

From: rather not give  
County: Volusia  
Email: rather not give

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: By having unscheduled visits from staff.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: Several I donot know exactly how many there are.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: ?

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: State and Federal

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Sucess rate and follow up care

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: False advertising need qualifed staff that have the educaton and back ground and knowledge odf addiction.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/08/2013 12:45 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

History

This message has been replied to

From: Jeffrey Mariner  
County: Palm Beach  
Email: jeffmariner@gmail.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?:

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?:

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: I would guess about 1000. I know they are heavily concentrated in and around rehab facilities in Southeast Florida.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: It would be nearly impossible to regulate. The important thing to remember about sober houses is they provide NO TREATMENT. They are a safe place for people in recovery to live. Without them a newly recovering addict or alcoholic would go to their old people places and things that would trigger relapses. Sober homes provide a community of support where all who live there feed off each other and lean on each other to stay sober. The quality homes regulate curfews and administer drug/alcohol testing and ask people who do not comply to leave the community. If regulated, fairness would be difficult to administer. Poorly run recovery residences eventually put themselves out of business because the rehab centers will no longer send their clients there.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: Federal.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Curfews, drug testing, cleanliness, employment within 30 days, no loud noise, attendance at AA and/or NA meetings 4 times per week minimum.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?:

Are you a registered lobbyist? :

If yes, who are you representing?



Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/08/2013 12:52 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

History

This message has been replied to.

From: Laura Spicer  
County: Hernando  
Email: lspicer2009@aol.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: Make sure they are in a safe place without anything or anyone that could jepodize their recovery.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: I have no Idea.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: I would not have any way of knowing this.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: A person who has a degree in both areas.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: The house and all contacts should be checked daily to make sure everything is right to keep problems from devolping unknown.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: Too many ofthese places are not watched closely enough to keep problems from happening untill it is too late.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/08/2013 12:52 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

History

This message has been replied to.

From: Sarah  
County: Orange  
Email: blalock.sarah@yahoo.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: With trained staff and nurses

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: unknown but cant find one for my son who is 19

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: They need to meet a level of standards and regulations and be inspected and fined and corrected if not in compliance. The state should offer training through DCF funding to make it accessible for these places to exist.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: It should operate on a state by State level and be Federally Funded as this is a need in all states

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Incidents and documents need to be kept on all regulatory mandates. medication management, behavioral management, and recovery skills taught for advancement out of services.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: WE need these services extremely urgent in Florida

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/08/2013 01:41 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

History

This message has been replied to.

From: Sarah L Howard  
County: florida  
Email: howar82m@mymail.tcc.fl.edu

Should recovery residences be regulated?:

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: By monitoring the residents that reside in them. When people have additions they really need all the support that the public can give them.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: I do not know how many. There is a great need for several to be located in Leon County. I have witnessed the need for Sober Living by driving on the Southside, and over in the Frenchtown area. The Coalition for the Homeless need to be located somewhere out of the city limits. Like a large warehouse with several showers, toilets and a huge kitchen. This building should be supervised by professionals and maintained by the homeless. Their food stamps should be spent (at least \$50 dollars donated to the coalition. There should be drug and alcohol classes for everyone as a must to attend. There should be strict rules for the people who stay there, such as drug testing and blowing for alcohol test. Young children should have a childcare on premises so that they are in a cognitive environment. If I had the funds I would have a facility that homeless people can become productive in society, instead on non-productive. The majority of homeless people are addicted to some type of substance.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: There should be no limited amount of money when it comes to rehabilitating drug addicts and alcoholics. This is a mental issue as well and should be maintained by professionals, such as doctors and a qualified staff.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: The government should have very strict rules so that the people can be reformed back in society to become productive and give back to the community.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Regular NA meetings, church and GED classes should be a must.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: Drug use in Leon County Jails. Anyone who is arrested should be mandatory for them to get a GED before their release.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

## Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl

us>

07/08/2013 01:48 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

History:

This message has been replied to.

From: Karole Reichelt  
County: St Lucie  
Email: sunshinedaydreme@aol.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: There should be a board to oversee them, with standardized criteria and periodic inspections. Operators of such houses should meet appropriate criteria.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: There is a great need for support in early recovery, so there should be no limit on the number of houses, as long as they are regulated.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: The cost should be passed on to the operators. Failure to comply should result in a warning and then closure with a strict mechanism to re-apply after a reasonable waiting period.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: It should operate at the State level to assure uniformity and guard against local cronyism.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: number of residents; cleanliness of the facility; length/quality of sobriety of operator; criminal history checks of operator & residents; periodic inspections; law violations; adherence to local zoning regulations; parking/transportation; length of stay for residents; participation in ongoing sobriety maintenance programs and/or therapy; exterior and interior facility upkeep to avoid effect on property values; additional zoning regulations to deter negative effects on residential property values and additional burden on services in the community.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: Integration into the community should be a consideration for any residents and there should be no impact on the quality of life for existing residents in the community. It should not be obvious to outsiders that the property is being utilized for this purpose, thus ensuring residents of privacy as well as encouraging their assimilation into the community.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?



Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/08/2013 02:38 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

History

This message has been replied to.

From: Melissa Gahn  
County: Indian River  
Email: ladygweni000@yahoo.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: no

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?:

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: 1000, maybe one for every county so that everyone can have one in their area and they won't have to travel long distances if they can't afford it.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: It would probably have to be worked out with the federal and state government, I believe it should be covered under Medicaid.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: State for the State. Federal Government should step in only need be.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Policies, penalties for people not adhering to rules, such as loss of benefits, etc.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: The care should be better, Truly mentally unstable people should not be around people that are not as bad off ie: the savannas hospital incident. More one on one doctor and nurses. More security for doctors and nurses from truly dangerous unstable patients. Families should be more involved in patient rehabilitation.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/08/2013 02:47 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

History

This message has been replied to

From: Ian B. Nassau  
County: Broward  
Email: FlaGuy954@rocketmail.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: They should be licensed and all employees should receive pre-employment drug testing.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: Somewhere between 100-500. I'm guessing at this from my knowledge of such residences in Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade counties.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: It is feasible - such as with ALFs/ACLFs.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: State and County.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Background checks on owners and employees; health department inspections; code enforcement inspections; fire marshall inspections; etc.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: Probably so.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/08/2013 03:48 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

History

This message has been replied to.

From: Jacque Henderson  
County: Polk  
Email: jhenderson@tchsonline.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: They should be regulated like a level 4 residence. They should meet basic health and safety requirements.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: There are far fewer today than there were before the housing bust. Those in recovery bought small homes, and opened them up to 3 or 4 others, each of whom paid a portion of the rent and other housing costs. When the economy tanked, and people could not find or hold jobs, the home owners lost the homes to foreclosure.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: I agree with registration, and regulating for basic health and safety only... if you go beyond that, they will fail. The costs will go up dramatically, and no one will be able to afford to live there. The managing entities are telling us they are obligated to close existing facilities that are licensed... and now you want another level??? I have seen recovery homes that I would not allow an animal to live in, and we will not place folks there. Safety yes... over regulation no.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: Local health department.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: basic level 4 health and safety standards.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?:

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>  
07/08/2013 05:13 PM

To SAMH@DCF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Laureen  
County: Palm Beach  
Email: reenjmk1@yahoo.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: Sober house should be regulated .each house needs to be monitored that all occupants are clean and sober, and going to meeting, looking for jobs and keeping their jobs.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: N/A

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?:

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?:

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?:  
6 months to a year

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?:

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/08/2013 10:55 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Connie Rai  
County: Palm beach  
Email: The2Rais@aol.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: They should be run by the proper people with the proper experience and be handled as a medical and legal means, rather than the money making and scamming way they are run now! Too many of the wrong people who are taking advantage of too many of the sick people and their families!!

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: Many!! Based on experiences that I have unfortunately had to encounter over the past 15 years with family and friends of addicts, alcoholics and people with mental health issues!

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: Surety Bonds, Licenses, Professional Training with schooling and not just people who can figure out how to come up with the operating monies and then pray on those with these illnesses and many with no monies!

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: In my opinion these residences and their operators should not get away with making a horrible situation worse. They should be regulated and answerable to the government and should be treated as would any medical facility/hospital and in many cases with the joint effort of the local, county and federal government parameters and supervision.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: I beleive that these residences along with detox and rehab. centers have gotten away with some very terrible things for the past 20+ years. Our youth (not just them) but particularly them...have turned into thieves, criminals, and no one has done anything to hold them, the doctors and so-called professionals, etc. all having their hands in the pockets of the sick people and their family and friends.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: Too many for me to say in this survey! I would love to stand on the highest mountain top and shout to those who care...how our youth is being brainwashed into stealing and crookery and robberies, and how many have lost their lives to this horrid disease while it may have been managed in a better way.....

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?



Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/09/2013 08:10 AM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject: SAMH Survey Response

From: Barbara J Schneider  
County: Lake  
Email: rhani@comcast.net

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: They should be regulated the same as any home health care agency.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: Best Halfway house seems to have 11. This was found by a google search. I have no idea about the total for the state and there is probably no way to find out because halfway houses do not have to register.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: The good of licensing, regulating and registering recovery residences may be outweighed by fees if the costs are too high.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: ACHA

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: The same rules as the state requires for for Home Health Agencies.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: Two tier background checks should be done on each resident and the owners and employees in order to secure the safety of the residents.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/09/2013 08:23 AM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Mary Ellen Maguire  
County: Indian River County  
Email: Maguirte0176@bellsouth.net

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: The State should regulate

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: many. Working as a social worker at a hospital for discharge we needed to have the sober house information

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: licensing staff, cost should be the same as if providing residential services

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: State

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Same as licensure

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?:

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/09/2013 08:38 AM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: michael overway  
County: charlotte  
Email: michael.overway@cchomelesscoalition.org

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: both by the county and state gov't, state=DCF

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: unsure we have 5 here, of which i would say all five are a farce charging too much and not delivering proper recovery

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: they should be licenses, any program that says they want to provide recovery programs should be licensed either through dcf or the state dept of health

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: county and state should both manage and monitor

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: reportable outcomes of recovery program, fair program fees, programs not located in residential neighborhoods, OUTCOMES OUTCOMES OUTCOMES!

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: many, i am not sure this survey is asking the right questions...maybe it isnt intended to?

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/09/2013 08:23 AM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Mary Ellen Maguire  
County: Indian River County  
Email: Maguirte0176@bellsouth.net

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: The State should regulate

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: many. Working as a social worker at a hospital for discharge we needed to have the sober house information

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: licensing staff, cost should be the same as if providing residential services

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: State

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Same as licensure

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?:

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>  
07/09/2013 08:38 AM

To SAMH@DCF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: michael overway  
County: charlotte  
Email: michael.overway@cchomelesscoalition.org

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: both by the county and state gov't, state-DCF

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: unsure we have 5 here, of which i would say all five are a farce charging too much and not delivering proper recovery

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: they should be licenses, any program that says they want to provide recovery programs should be licensed either through dcf or the state dept of health

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: county and state should both manage and monitor

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: reportable outcomes of recovery program, fair program fees, programs not located in residential neighborhoods, OUTCOMES OUTCOMES OUTCOMES!

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: many, i am not sure this survey is asking the right questions...maybe it isnt intended to?

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/09/2013 09:19 AM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Karen M. Rogers  
County: Lake  
Email: krogers@lsbc.net

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: Minimally to insure safety of residents and maintenance of sobriety in the homes. Since there are several levels of supervision or management under which these homes might operate, existing regulations might apply. For example, if there is treatment conducted in the home, then they should have the appropriate licensure to operate as a treatment program. If the home operates strictly as a residence with a house manager, then regulations for zoning and rental property might be more appropriate.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: I do not have that information although it may be available through the Florida Association of Recovery Residences.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: While this seems like a good idea from the perspective of insuring quality and safety of residences, I believe that the costs to the operators would lead to inflation of the rents and the need for deposits that will make these residences unaffordable for the people who need them the most.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: County level so that each community could decide on their own standards for the residences.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: The residences should provide written documentation of their mission, house rules, rent or other costs and consequences of rule infractions as well as grievance procedures.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: These residences are needed in Lake County. Right now people must move to counties like Marion or Orange County, which are the closest locations where Recovery Residences can be found.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?



Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>  
07/09/2013 10:06 AM

To SAMH@DCF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Gigi Kelly  
County: Manatee  
Email: gigik@mcsfl.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: no

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?:

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: Approx. 201 based on an average of 3 per county.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?:

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: Regulation should remain at the county level to assure homes are up to code for resident's safety.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?:  
Are the living quarters safe and adequate.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?:

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

## Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/09/2013 10:53 AM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Ana DiMercurio  
County: Collier  
Email: adimercurio@drugfreecollier.org

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: not sure.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: 100 - only a guess

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: unknown

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: Local or state.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Support for success of the programs

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?:

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

## Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcl.state.fl.us>

07/09/2013 01:08 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Linda Smith  
County: Palm Beach  
Email: LindaMasiSmith@comcast.net

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: Built in rural areas ,  
not in our city or so close to beaches.  
This area leaves an open door to accommodate relapse.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for  
arriving at this number?: 1000,000  
Just a guess , as I am only familiar with Palm Beach County

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating,  
registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: Seems to  
be a very profitable business If insurance companies continue to pay .

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of  
government for it to operate?: Local

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?:  
Location

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?:

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/09/2013 07:20 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Wendee Bauer  
County: Volusia  
Email: Surfette72@aol.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: No sex should be allowed in any of these "recovery" residences. It also should not be allowed in any substance abuse treatment facility. Further, I would also strongly encourage AA and NA clubs to keep sex out of their meetings/club houses, but unfortunately they cannot be regulated. It's too bad really because AA and NA could do so much good! Also, women only facilities need to be closely monitored for violence and bullying, bullying mostly.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: According to sober.com, there are about 80 "recovery" residences in Florida.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: It shouldn't matter what the cost, feasibility, and consequences are; these are human beings and their lives we are talking about. And let's face it, there are some people out there who wouldn't think twice about exploiting a "low-life addict or drunk" to get money from the state and/or federal government. I've seen it happen with my own eyes.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: The more local, the better. Someone needs to be able to "drop in" on these folks at any and all times.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Security/surveillance systems in the facilities would be an excellent start if they include audio surveillance too. And, as previously stated, drop in on these places, and do it frequently but not frequently enough to where employees/residents will be able to "guess" when the next regulatory visit will be. DO NOT take it on spoken or written affirmation from "recovery" house staff that things are "just fine." Show up IN PERSON and often!

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: Sex is the big thing. It goes on ALL OVER in treatment facilities, "recovery" residences, and in the AA and NA communities to the point where it literally becomes a detriment to go to a meeting. And keeping "the men and women separate" does nothing except make it a bigger conquest (for both men AND women by the way), a bigger "thrill" if you will. Women only facilities have much bigger issues with violence and bullying, but because of the double standards in place for females in society, those issues will probably never be taken seriously. Again, it's too bad. Lives are literally at stake, and this is an issue near and dear to my heart. Thank you for this opportunity to voice my opinion on this matter!

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

## Appendix 1

. If yes, who are you representing?

## Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/09/2013 08:49 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Kimberly Draine  
County: Polk  
Email: jadondreacademy@gmail.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: Through a schedule or random drug testing

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: Way too many...unsure the estimate...

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: Unsure many factors involveJhd...

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: High

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Home visits, rehab, community work, and fee

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: Unsure

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?



Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>  
07/10/2013 07:58 AM

To SAMH@DCF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Veora little  
County: Collier  
Email: Veoralittle@gmail.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?:

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?:

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?:

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?:

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?:

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?:

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/10/2013 08:30 AM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Lori Bryant  
County: Broward  
Email: Bryproject@aol.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: Monitoring should consist of case management activities that check compliance and support services.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: Thousands, because I am aware of the number of unregulated residences in the Broward/Palm Beach areas.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?:

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?:

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?:

- 1) a facility for adults in a free standing residential facility that provides active treatment and interventions using a system of care approach and provides a guideline for sober living for the residents. 2) It should not be the primary residence of an individual who is not engaged in active treatment at one of the ASAM Levels. 3) It operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year with providing continuous supervision of clients. 4) These adults should not meet the criteria for inpatient psychiatric services. 5) Services should be designed to include:
  - â?¢ individual supervision and structure of daily living
  - â?¢ minimize the occurrence of behaviors related to functional deficits
  - â?¢ ensure safety and deescalate out of control behaviors including frequent crisis management with or without physical restraint
  - â?¢ assist the adult in the acquisition of adaptive functioning in self control, communication, social and recreational skills
  - â?¢ support the adult in gaining the skills needed to step down to a less intensive setting and maintain sober living.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: Criteria for agencies contracted to monitor sober living.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing? NA

## Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/10/2013 09:27 AM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Kirsten Knowles  
County: Broward  
Email: Kirsten.kerrknowles@gmail.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: Strict control by city and county; regular visits to the homes; restrictions on how many unrelated people can be living at the facility; guidelines on behavior of residents; processes for complaints against facility

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: I have no idea but I know there are 2 in my neighborhood and they are a disturbance in the residential community

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: I'm sure it would add a significant amount to the city/county/state budgets, but if this type of facility is going to exist in a residential neighborhood, it must be regulated. Think of the influence it is bringing to the neighborhood; there is a responsibility to protect them, too.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: It would have to start at the city level. Only local interests would insure proper oversight. But the success would be in enforcement.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Police, community leaders, interested citizens, facility organizers

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: Waste management, noise control, facility upkeep, hours of operation, proximity to schools/parks where children congregate

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/10/2013 11:01 AM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Linda  
County: Charlotte  
Email: lsrolfe@aol.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: no

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?:

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?:

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?:

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?:

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?:

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?:

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/10/2013 11:28 AM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Polly Whiting  
County: Collier  
Email: pollylouise@comcast.net

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: the Florida Association of Recovery Residences has compiled all this information on their web site.  
<http://farronline.org/standards/>

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?:

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?:

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?:

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?:

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?:

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>  
07/10/2013 11:41 AM

To SAMH@DCF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: emily naranjo  
County: Collier  
Email: emilyn@dlcmhc.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: no

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?:

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: I do not know.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: I don't believe its feasible.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: Should be county wide.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?:  
Living conditions, utilities,

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: None

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?



Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>  
07/10/2013 04:10 PM

To SAMH@DCF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Joanell Greubel  
County: Manatee  
Email: joanellgreubel@gmail.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: standards for health and safety, lic required, taxes, unless non profit, grading system for quality and complaints, standardized insurance and recovery venues for the participants, laws that protect the venerable. Homes must pass inspections, standards of rules and guidelines must be contracted.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: It's big business and big numbers. People are making money hand over fist and there is no protection for something as important as this for a individual to rely on... Some shamers are certainly hurting peoples lives.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: The operators of these homes should be covering the cost...right now they pocket all...

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: Health and safety for all but as far as faith based go....no one should tell them what they are to teach etc.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: grievance procedures, chain of command, clear resident program contract, provisions in return/stipends, program guidelines, standards of stay, receipts, property issues and responsibility, conflict resolution, restitution for breached contract...by either side. Licenses, insurances etc..must be posted. those in recovery should not be in charge, or people left completely on their own without some supervision.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: Yes, please address the statistics and outcomes... POM's standardized for all to base same.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

## Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/11/2013 09:20 AM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Laura Miller  
County: Broward  
Email: lauramill44@yahoo.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: The owner should have a staff member on their payroll who is familiar with Rule 65d30 and JACO requirements, and CARP requirements. This individual should be either certified or licensed in the field of substance abuse and act as a guide to the owners on Florida Laws re: substance abuse.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: Over 10,000  
In Broward County alone there are probably 500.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: These facilities would be accountable to a higher authority, the money could be used to help where funds are cut regarding mental health needs in the state.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: State -

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: State Licensed, County Licensed. Must have a licensed or certified individual on staff. LCSW, CAS, CAC, CAP, LMHT.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: Too many to put in this survey.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

## Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/11/2013 08:58 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: P. Koon  
County: Duval  
Email: pattyk31@hotmail.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?:

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: Make sure that the funds received are being used in the correct manner, as well as that the facilities are actually helping the clients, not just giving them referrals and passing the buck.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: There are over 500 "recovery residences" in Florida. The way I figure this is by online search.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: Depends on if the residence is receiving federal or state funds

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: DCF, DOR, General Counsel and a committee that is made up of those person that are in recovery for over 10 years

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: I don't know right off hand

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?:

Are you a registered lobbyist? :

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>  
07/12/2013 10:53 AM

To SAMH@DCF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Daniel Amundson  
County: Broward  
Email: amundson124@yahoo.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: Cap on amount of rent per month

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: not sure

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: not sure

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: not sure

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: different residences for different levels of sobriety. Months or years of sobriety.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: a screening process for each individual that enters a sober house. a background check

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.  
us>  
07/12/2013 08:18 PM

To SAMH@DCF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Debra Rosenberg  
County: Pinellas  
Email: debralrosenberg@yahoo.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: BY ALLOWING NEIGHBORS,  
RESIDENCE AND STATES TO CALL IN ANY PROBLEMS REGARDING PARTIENT ISSUES.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for  
arriving at this number?: Unknown

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating,  
registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?:

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of  
government for it to operate?: Any certified alcohol and substance abuse  
counselor should be able to check on them as case managers.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?:

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: Level of care and what  
program they are using.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/14/2013 06:25 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: suzanne prentice  
County: Florida  
Email: suzanneprentice@yahoo.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: on reports from medical doctor and counselors and income

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: 100 none

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: 500.00

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: state

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: dont know

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: no

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>  
07/14/2013 10:29 PM

To SAMH@DCF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Angie Hardnett  
County: Palm Beach  
Email: asistahonthemov@aol.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: no

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?:

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: Not sure but you can check with the local homeless coalitions they may have a better idea.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: I believe the consequence would be that the places where some of our sober houses are would be excluded and the larger more affluent facilities would flourish. However, the biggest lost would be to the clients that currently receive services quickly by accessing sober houses.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: At the local level. I believe that the reason so many people have been helped by sober houses is because the government has kept its hands off of it. If there is no treatment there should be no license other than a business license.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?:

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?:

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?



Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/15/2013 09:58 AM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Nancy Steiner RN  
County: Palm Beach  
Email: nsteiner@sanctuarydelraybeach.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: I believe the standards that NARR (national alliance of recovery residences) and FARR (Fla. Assoc. of Recovery Residences) with the assistance and support of DCF would be a positive impact in regulating the levels of care offered and the accountability needed.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: There has been to date, no numbers available. Another reason for standards and enforcement of same.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: certifying all recovery residences and background checks on all operators/staff would begin the process. Being certified by the standards set forth (and used in more than 1/2 the states in the country) by NARR would eliminate those residences and operators who do not meet the criteria of an approved RR.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?:

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: standards and levels of care already in place. More could be added as it is reviewed but these are the bare minimum for a RR to be certified.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?:

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>  
07/17/2013 09:46 AM

To SAMH@DCF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Stephanie Thompson  
County: Palm Beach  
Email: stephanie.thompson@bellsouth.net

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: Recovery residences should be regulated similar to the way treatment centers are regulated or assisted living facilities. Clients are access the recovery residences often thinking they are treatment and are expecting treatment or counseling for their addictions, however once in these residences they are often told to go out and drink more and send to a public detox facility.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?:

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?:

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: ACHA- similar to regulations of assisted living facilities as they preform many of the same functions.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?:

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: the underlining problem is that there is not enough affordable treatment for these individuals, people turn to sober living because they can not find or afford treatment. We need to focus on treatment of the underlining issues (substance abuse and mental health) if we are going to solve this problem. Regulations of sober houses without increased treatment will not solve the problem, it will only create other problems.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>  
07/17/2013 10:49 AM

To: SAMH@DCF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject: SAMH Survey Response

From: Tina DePaolis  
County: Palm Beach  
Email: tinad@orchidrecoverycenter.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: There should be a standard set of guidelines and regulations overseen by a licensing specialist - specific to monitoring sober houses in each district.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: South Florida seems to have dozens of recovery residences but other regions of Florida appear far less populated with sober living residences.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: It could be an additional level of care requiring licensing and oversight by DCF - Office of ADM with similar fees, standards and annual inspections. It may deter unsavory operators from becoming involved in sober living residences

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: It could be within the umbrella of DCF - ADM office although due to cut backs it appears as though those offices are overwhelmed with the number of treatment centers that they must inspect and oversee.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Perhaps a Residential Level 6 or develop specific guidelines for recovery residences with several Levels and guidelines specific to each level and in conjunction with the standards of NARR/FAAR.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: if the state or DCF is unwilling or unable to oversee the regulation of recovery residences, ask NARR if each state chapter would be willing to assume oversight.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>  
07/19/2013 10:35 PM

To SAMH@DCF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Rev. Cathy Byrd, MS CRSS  
County: Bay  
Email: cbyrd@pcrmission.org

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: based on compassionate practices that provide demonstrable outcomes.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: I don't have any idea.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: Because of the wide range of types of facilities and the variety of approaches (secular vs. faith based, 28 day vs. long term of 8-18 month, fee-paid vs. free, voluntary vs. mandated, for example, any such effort should allow for a variety of options and regulated based on comparison with similar types of programs. Credentials for operators/staff should include a variety of acceptable options, too....CAP, LMHC, MSW, pastoral counselor, as well as consideration of years of experience and evidence of satisfactory outcomes over time.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: some sort of regional group, with association among the regions at state level to provide some uniformity and consistency and accountability for maintaining standards.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: occupancy, programming, time spent in program, graded levels for client's progressing through and transitioning out, whether it's fee paid (and insurance reimbursable) or charitable, short term or long term..

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: defining "recovery"....is it to be ONLY substance abuse recovery or to include recovery following incarceration, recovery from emotional trauma (rape, abuse, domestic violence, abortion grief recovery, etc. In other words, "life recovery".

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?



## Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl  
us>

07/20/2013 01:53 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Lena D Hayward  
County: Manatee  
Email: memychancematt@gmail.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: Yes & No- depending on where the recoverer is with the change.  
Regulating would have to start with careful observation rules, a time period before able to enter "sober housing" like a probationary period type. This would have to be addressed I believe in process of regulating.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: Maybe 1 to 2 for every city or go by population getting a number per city. Break population & down to find that number. To start out less is best helping to see future outcome more so.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: Minimal to start with on cost with an assentive attached in long run. Strict, well trained individuals with qualifications in regards to an addict's cause, mind set & the history of. Very selective on Licensing is a must can not be 'easy' to obtain or there will be problems in long run. There are a lot of people whom are truly recovered that would like to help another because of knowing where that person is in life with this I feel there is no better than a person who has been their themselves with the knowledge of situation. Observation is key all around.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: Depends on which part. I don't think it should be a "paid for" by government due to the abuse it would eventually endure just like with all other government help its an unfortunate but factual. Maybe a "incentive" for a future paid after do much has been accomplished and or reached. There are many good hearted trusting people that I'm sure would volunteer and or act as a non profit.  
Basically - you have to start somewhere and yes with supportive resources it just has to be carefully resourced and monitored among giving incentive for at top/end by government.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: I'm not sure what this is asking / framework as in structural or physical of the person. There has to be provisions, programs to be reached/completed, contribution of the person for the responsibility earning to learn.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: Yes, trust. People of substance abusing with history of are unfortunately dishonest period! Its got to be where the abuser of --- wanting recovery and a professional to determine if in fact ready for the long road ahead-

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

## Appendix 1

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

us>

07/21/2013 12:08 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Jessica  
County: Brevard  
Email: Jessicakaye28@gmail.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: The should have to have random yearly inspections as well as random spot checks, on such residences to make sure the residents are getting counseling, and attending meetings at least 2-3 times a week, by having facility keep a log of meetings each resident goes to. They should also be evaluated by their success, meaning amount of U/A results of residents (+) to (-) ratio, the amount of residents reintegrated into community who do not return to substance abuse, by facility maintaining an open line of contact with those who have left program successfully.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: I know there are many privately owned and operated and are quite expensive and do not have high long term success rates. However I believe there may be 10-15 in which the state of Florida either runs or contributes monetarily to the program's funding I personally know of a couple however I do know of a detox program in Delray beach, FL that normally the state pays for and at this point the pt. I knew had medicaid and the facility still tried to send the patient a bill for services and time at facility.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: Well the cost of licensing, registering and even certifying would be an increase in revenue for the state or county depending on what level is decided, as well as create jobs on both sides, however by the facilities having to be either licensed, registered or certified they then able to be held evaluated by any safety inspections and performance evaluations. Consequences of failure to comply would result beginning with probationary period and closer observation. Fines for noncompliance, and finally the closure of facility.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: I would place it within the Department of Health and welfare and also with the Department of Business and Professional regulations.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: The qualifications of the staff at such residences, the recovery programs available to the residents aimed to help resident remain sober, and an open line of communication for the residents who have successfully moved on from the program, to not only be able to call durring a challenging time but also so the facility may check on the former resident from time to time and also the regulatory agencies may contact to have Former residents complete a servery/ evaluation, of the Facility.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: None that I can think of at present time.



## Appendix 1

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

# Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/21/2013 12:54 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Julie Anne Treacy  
County: St. Lucie County  
Email: julieannetreacy@gmail.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: Recovery residences should be inspected for health and safety concerns and the owners/operators should be monitored to ensure that they are not improperly and illegally billing insurance companies for drug testing.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: 2,000. My husband and I work in the treatment field and know that there are numerous sober houses throughout the state.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: It would be an additional cost for the State to regulate sober residences throughout the state; however, it would help to terminate those residences that are not in good condition and do not provide a positive, structured living environment for those residing there. I believe that requiring the residences to register would be appropriate. Licensing and certifying may be too expensive. Once registered, the Department could randomly select residences to stringently inspect, investigate etc.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: The State so that the rules and regulatory practices are the same throughout the state.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?:

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?:

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing? I am not a registered lobbyist but I am a licensed attorney in Florida.

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>  
07/22/2013 10:32 AM

To SAMH@DCF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Jennifer  
County: St Lucie  
Email: rnti2qt@aol.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: more than a quarter acre lot not within 1000 feet of another residential home. Level 2 background check for all named parties of the company/foundation. minimum person per sq ft. these houses currently are run poorly in small homes in neighborhoods where kids play in the streets, and now cant because of drug addicts.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?:

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?:

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?:

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?:

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: how these homes can be in the same residential area where little kids want to play in the neighborhood, but the parents have to shelter their child because a drug treatment house is across the street. they should be away from other homes with a gate or bigger pieces of property.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>  
07/22/2013 09:19 PM

To SAMH@DCF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Cheryl Jones  
County: Bay  
Email: jonescheryl54@gmail.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: They should be licensed and monitored by regulating bodies to prevent consumer rights violations.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: I don't know; that's another reason that they should be regulated so this information will be available to the public

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: I would suggest sampling the ones that are licensed for a cost estimate or doing a needs assessment in the counties considering such mandates. I would look at actions that have been filed against licensed and unlicensed entities and compare the data. Certified/licensed homes have to operate under a certain standard of care and abide by ethical codes.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: I suppose it would start at the state level.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Operated by individuals who have the proper training for their position and who are supervised by those with certifications and state licenses.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?:

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcl.state.fl.us>

07/23/2013 03:17 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Sharon Ammons  
County: Miami Dade  
Email: sfammons@hotmail.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: Certified/licensed

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: 10,000- Private owners of single family residences convert their homes to accommodate 6 people in a 3 bedroom. Some of my personal knowledge comes from knowing of these "sober houses" that aren't sober!

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: The majority would have to close down or not be "found out". Monies coming from these "sober houses" are not a business but to enhance some ones wallet.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: State, Counties

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: qualified people overseeing a treatment plan

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: They shouldn't be tax exempt.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing? Myself

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl

us>

07/24/2013 04:08 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Daniel Luoma  
County: FL  
Email: luoma1@cox.net

Should recovery residences be regulated?: no

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?:

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: No way to tell, but there are probably more in Florida than any other state

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: The cost to the state would be to establish a new regulatory office or branch that must be funded and will inevitably grow. For the homes, they will be more expensive to open and operate, which will leave many who need this service out in the cold. Most of these homes operate on a break-even budget and anything that makes them costlier essentially destroys them.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: If there had to be a regulatory body, it should be a private, non-government certifying agency. Carrying the certification would add credibility to a recovery home, but could still operate without it.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Basic health, safety and security, As well as abstinence accountability and methodology (12-step, Rational Recovery, Most Excellent Way, etc.)

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: Life skills, such as employment assistance, assistance with budgeting, shopping, meal planning... All the elements needed to transition back into society.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/30/2013 01:43 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Evelyn Heap  
County: Martin  
Email: evheap@aol.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: By notification of neighbors prior to moving in and allowing them to object and if so then now allowing the residence into that neighborhood

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?:

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?:

Feasibility - the government regulates everything else.

Cost - absorbed by the user/addict

Consequence of licensing, regulating, registering or certifying - accountability

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: state

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Owner and operating board responsible for behavior or there lack of residents

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: Allowing a recovery home and all it's problems (crime and bizarre behavior) into an unsuspecting neighborhood is not acceptable.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing? Myself, neighborhood association, neighbors



Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>  
07/11/2013 10:32 AM

To SAMH@DCF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Colleen Chittenden  
County: St Lucie  
Email: ircenter@att.net

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: Recovery residences should be regulated by the Department of Children and Families under the guidelines of Chapter 65D-30. There should also be a certified addiction professional on staff with certified addiction counselors and/or certified addiction specialists to provide quality services to the most vulnerable population. No recovery residence should be allowed to operate without regulation by the State.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: There is no way of knowing how many recovery residences are operating in Florida because they are not regulated.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: All recovery residences should be held to the same standard as all outpatient treatment centers governed by Chapter 65D-30. The operators should pass level II background screening and hold some sort of certification in addiction and/or mental health within the State they are providing services.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: No peer group should be a regulating body it should be held at a higher level as the Department of Children and Families.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: To follow Chapter 65D-30 guidelines as a licensed provider equal to all other agencies providing substance abuse treatment because the recovery centers are providing treatment with no one regulating them.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: Yes there are many.

1. The most vulnerable population needs a voice for protection they are being abused with no one to turn to for help.
2. No court should court order this population to a recovery residence without this residence being licensed by the State of Florida.
3. A qualified professional should be on staff at all times providing documentation for the State to review as all treatment centers are held accountable for.
4. Recovery centers should not be providing substance abuse treatment in group sessions without licensure.
5. Faith based homes should be held to the same standard as other centers.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

07/11/2013 08:47 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From:  
County:  
Email:

Should recovery residences be regulated?:

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?:

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?:

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?:

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?:

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?:

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?:

Are you a registered lobbyist? :

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

08/01/2013 11:41 AM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Jimmie W Harden  
County: St Johns County  
Email: homelesscoalition@comcast.net

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: A recognized accreditation body to validate the performance and quality of the sober living house.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: There are many psychiatric centers for drug and alcohol abuse treatment and recovery centers - at least one in each urban county.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: Good question, finding a financial solution to provide services and maintenance, strengthen individual skills. The program and the hours dictate the cost to be incurred. Cost to establish, develop programs for residents (patients). Manage and operate facility.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: Not for Profit. A body that allows creativity in the administration and maintenance of the facility and consistently improve organizational performance.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Direction and expectations of services being rendered, i.e. performance measures and results.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: Financial commitments to allow the programs to be continued over a long period of time. Bonus awards for recovering clients - follow up after care.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

08/02/2013 03:35 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Ruth A. Brandwein, Ph.D., MSW  
County: Sarasota  
Email: rbrand24@aol.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: They must and should be regulated by the state with clear guidelines and sanctions for non-compliance

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: DK

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: The question is what are the human and financial costs and consequences to not regulating them. The cost could be partially covered by charging an annual inspection fee to the facilities as well as a one-time enrollment fee for those starting. Are there any remaining funds in the state tobacco settlement award? That is another addiction and it would make sense to use funds from that source, if still available.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: Should be regulated by the State Dept. of Health or Mental Health, Drug Division.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?:  
1) Professional social workers, certified drug abuse counselors on staff, plus a psychiatrist with training in substance abuse to provide prescriptions when necessary. Facilities should include individual and group counseling for residents and their families, connection to job training or educational facilities and when needed, while in residence. Separate facilities or wings for male and female residents. Issues of mental health, alcohol and domestic violence should be addressed. No discrimination against homosexual, bisexual or transgendered individuals, some facilities should be available for mothers with infants. Discharge plans must include permanent housing plan, with assurance they will not be returning to the same environment where they became habituated, and follow-up counseling and/or case management by knowledgeable professionals.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: Staff need co-training in domestic violence, including sexual abuse, for both perpetrators and victims which is not merely a side effect of drug abuse.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing? National Assn. of Social Workers, Florida Chapter

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>  
08/04/2013 07:56 PM

To SAMH@DCF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject SAMH Survey Responses

From: Judi  
County: schroeder  
Email: judiprn@gmail.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: By state guide lines such as is in place for any health facility licensing and regulations.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: Based on need per area. Data from recovery programs, crime associated with drug and alcohol abuse.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: Yes because this not only effects the individual with addiction not being able to live in society and be productive, but also society itself.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: Same as other health care facilities, this is a disease.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Dont know

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: Just that these people should be treated with same dignity and opportunities as anyone with a life time disease that can be managed for better quality of life. Not cured...

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?



## Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

08/04/2013 09:16 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: jim shanahan  
County: Broward  
Email: jwjs2@hotmail.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: They should be regulated from a state and Federal level on down to county and city level to be enforced

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: i am not sure but we do have 9 that i am aware of in pompano beach FL and if you do a Google search in south Florida there are well over 150 of them  
THEY NEED TO BE REGULATED !!!!

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: it should be evaluated so the city and county and tax payers are not burdened with the cost it should come out of the business and property owners !

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: State , Federal and County and City to enforce ! ther should also be 30 , 60 , 90 day inspections so as they have to follow the rules as the rest of us in the real world have to !!!

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: there should be 24 hour supervision , there should be medical staff as most of them are on some kind of medication that is given out by someone else in the recovery program there should be a limit to how many can live in one residence , they should not be allowed to be around schools and our children , they should have some kind of structure not to be left alone to figure it out for themselves ,made to go to meetings get a job and become a successful part of society ~~ they should also be limited to all the comings and goings of others in rehap or halfway houses as it is constant they should not be allowed to hang out in the driveway or in front of the place they live and disrupt the neighbors and homeowners around them !

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: yes i do agree they need to go somewhere but it is not fair to have them in a residential are as we property owners are required to upkeep our properties have respect and consideration of our surrounding neighbors and community ~~ they don't care as it is not there property ~~ they should have a sitting and smoking area as we are dying from second hand smoke and can not even enjoy our property or even open our windows because some of them are outside 24 hrs a day there should also be some kind of curfew !!!

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

## Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

08/04/2013 08:17 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Evelyn Shanhan  
County: Broward  
Email: jwjs2@hotmail.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: They should be regulated from a state and Federal level on down to county and city level to be enforced  
!

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: i am not sure but we do have 9 that i am aware of in pompano beach Fl and if you do a Google search in south Florida there are well over 150 of them  
THEY NEED TO BE REGULATED !!!!

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: it should be evaluated so the city and county and tax payers are not burdened with the cost it should come out of the business and property owners !

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: State , Federal and County and City to enforce ! ther should also be 30 , 60 , 90 day inspections so as they have to follow the rules as the rest of us in the real world have to !!!

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: there should be 24 hour supervision , there should be medical staff as most of them are on some kind of medication that is given out by someone else in the recovery program there should be a limit to how many can live in one residence , they should not be allowed to be around schools and our children , they should have some kind of structure not to be left alone to figure it out for themselves ,made to go to meetings get a job and become a successful part of society ~~ they should also be limited to all the comings and goings of others in rehap or halfway houses as it is constant they should not be allowed to hang out in the driveway or in front of the place they live and disrupt the neighbors and homeowners around them !

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: yes i do agree they need to go somewhere but it is not fair to have them in a residential are as we property owners are required to upkeep our properties have respect and consideration of our surrounding neighbors and community ~~ they don't care as it is not there property ~~ they should have a sitting and smoking area as we are dying from second hand smoke and can not even enjoy our property or even open our windows because some of them are outside 24 hrs a day there should also be some kind of curfew !!!

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?



Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>  
08/08/2013 09:24 AM

To SAMH@DCF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Ali Kleber  
County: Manatee  
Email: ali\_srq@msn.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?:  
Licensed/inspected.....guidlines to be followed.....non discriminatory  
especially if receiving funding.....with follow up to assure comoopliance.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for  
arriving at this number?: ??

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating,  
registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: ??

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of  
government for it to operate?: Health/Human Services....Mental Health

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?:  
12 Step Programs/group therapy/one on one therapy/certified directors(certain  
amount of hours required)and credits to qualify for selected positions.  
Bi-annually re certifications required 6-9 months programs, or more when  
necessary to insure success. Statistic keeping records(graduates  
etc./including number of unsuccessful attempts by clients

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?:

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

08/08/2013 10:54 AM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: sarah cadwell  
County: FL ( Florida )  
Email: cadwell.sarah@gmail.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: Yes through local county (citizens not county employees) regulatory groups that provide a master case management system customized to meet the needs of the residents.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: unknown

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: unknown

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: unknown

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Accountability reporting with specific goals for maintenance, i.e. cleanliness, health, counseling with plans and goals toward transformation of the individual. Networking, communication, in helping individuals become more responsible citizens in spite of their current or past circumstances. Individual organizations should that have their own standard of certification and continuing education to help in these residences, not come under state regulations that may not be economically feasible for all individuals who would like to help. This standard would be based on the local county agency that is responsible for developing a standard for residences represented by volunteers concerned for the welfare of people needing residences.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?:

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

08/07/2013 12:14 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Linda Porter  
County: Miami Dade  
Email: porterlj1108@gmail.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: Recovery Residences would benefit the vulnerable population by being regulated through an agency such as FARR. FARR has developed a level system which address the specific needs of those coming from tx. centers, hospitals and desire to live in a supportive environment before living independently in the community. Recovery Houses that require the manager to at least have minimal training as a Peer Support Specialist or WRAP training. These houses do not need to be licensed because alot of them do not provide mental health or behavioral health clinical services, but the owner of manager needs to be registered with a local governing body to make sure they are meeting specific criteria as stated in FARR requirements.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: I am not sure, but in Miami Dade there are probably over 100. I am coming to this number because I am a member in good standing with a 12 step program and I "am aware through word of mouth" however I am sure there are much more.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: FARR has developed a great system which also follows CARR criteria.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: local by a private agency but follows ethical standards for human rights and civil rights.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Please view the FARR website.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: Requiring owners or managers to at least be certified Peer, Recovery or WRAP certified to provide the best possible services to the residences. The owners will be registered with FARR.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

08/07/2013 04:58 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Mike  
County: Indian River  
Email: Maguire0176@bellsouth.net

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: By the State

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: Alot just based on a google search

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: the cost becomes too much when people seeking tretment and care are taking advantage of

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: DCF

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: treatment, accountability..programming

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?:

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

## Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

08/07/2013 05:28 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: William Atkinson  
County: Florida  
Email: Tampabaysoberliving@yahoo.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: Recovery Residences should be held to a standard of care, by the substance abuse industry. The Florida Association of Recovery Residences Accreditation provides that accountability, and that is why Tampa Bay Sober Living, Inc. sought there accreditation.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: I have no idea how many recovery residences operate in the state of Florida. I do know that Florida is comparable to California as a destination for individuals seeking treatment in our state. Treatment is only the beginning of providing clients with a foundation in recovery, and so recovery residences are important to the long term maintenance of a clients sobriety. So, I imagine there are well over a thousand recovery residences in this state to support the hundreds of public as well as private treatment centers operating in Florida.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: I think it would be very difficult to find every single recovery residences in this state. It would cost millions of dollars, and it would not eliminate individuals who choose to run their personal homes as recovery residences. Regulation is important though, so that individuals who chose to live in a recovery residence are not taken advantage of. Thus I would propose that the state of Florida acknowledge the Florida Association of Recovery Residences (FARR) as the standard and I propose fines and possible criminal action against businesses that are unwilling to abide by FARR's standards.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: Government should defer to the substance abuse industry and specifically the Florida Association of Recovery Residences (FARR). Why burden the tax payers when an independent body is doing the job for you?

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Any regulatory framework should begin with client level of care. This would include safety, but should also support the recovery of the homes residents. If we establish so many controls, the purpose of a recovery home is null and voice. What makes such environments important to the growth and maintenance of an addicts sobriety, is that recovery homes are a place where a resident can practice the tools of recovery in a real world environment. Thus residents need to have enough room to make mistakes, but there also needs to be a firm boundary on what kinds of mistakes are tolerated. All homes must be abstinence based. If a residents relapses he or she is a danger to the health and wellness of the rest of the home, and must be removed from that environment immediately. In removing said person from the home, it is the responsibility

## Appendix 1

of the recovery residence to make sure that person is now not a danger to the greater community the recovery residences operates within. Thus agreements with family, local detox's, and shelters are an important aspect of making sure our recovery residences stay abstinent environments while providing for the welfare of the relapsed resident and protecting the larger community.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: Right now anyone who has the desire to help, and has a home, can open a recovery residence in the State of Florida. This should not be the case. While some operate good homes, the majority of people only provide such environments because they believe they can make money off of those who are trying to put their lives back together. FARR is a standard of care, that adheres to the National Association of Recovery Residences standards, and should be the standard that all existing as well as new recovery residences abides by.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

08/07/2013 08:37 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Miriam A. Barkley  
County: Broward  
Email: barkleymiriam@att.net

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: By meeting a minimum set of standards

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: Don't know. I assume in the thousands

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: Come up with a fair methodology to pass and inspect houses that must meet requirements

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: DCF Substance abuse

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Safety, ethics, insurance,

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: operators who go unnoticed

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?



Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

08/07/2013 09:51 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: cathleen irwin  
County: Florida  
Email: irwin.cathleen1127@gmail.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: Regulatory boards

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: Don't know

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: Very feasible, cost effective-need regulatory boards to assure quality care, humane treatment and avoid negligence.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: Government regulation should be minimal as too many oversights would fall through the cracks

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Inspections, certification, Licensing

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: programs in place to help get residents back into society as productive members and assuring they are ready

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

08/07/2013 10:22 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Sharon Burns-Carter  
County: Palm Beach  
Email: Sbc4@aol.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: Through an industry wide regulatory agency requiring certification through compliance and adherence to uniform standards, as is the case with FARR

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: This would be a difficult measurement, as there are (currently) so many variables with "operations" and "operators" that call themselves "recovery residences".

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: There is already a feasible regulatory framework for certification-FARR. As far as "licensing" goes, if there are licensed clinicians, the assumption is that their licenses cover them. If there is a medical basis, then those licenses would be appropriate. That being said, recovery residences, generally, should be held to FARR standards, with ongoing inspections, with whatever other "licenses" the municipality requires a landlord to have.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: I don't understand this question, however there should be a governing and advisory board with the roles/offices commonly found, i.e., pres., treasure, secretary.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Annual inspection, adherence to standards, ongoing involvement with regulatory agencies, interfacing with industry leaders, including primary treatment centers with the aim of providing excellence in continuing care planning and execution. The primary addiction treatment programs should have treatment plans that have objectives focused on continuing/transitional care (as dictated by DCF standards). A Recovery Residence can make all the difference if that treatment plan objective is expressed and the directions are clear and consistent with that of the treatment program.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: The unethical, if not fraudulent, practices of recovery residences that have partnered with (Florida State) licensed medical care providers in order to "gouge" private health insurance members' benefits. Health insurance coverage of the addicted population is a tenuous situation and these greedy exploitative "sober houses", lure the sick and suffering with incentives that are so blatantly contraindicated for a person entering recovery, and clearly in the profit interest of the self serving and self referring "iop". These "providers" are running rampant. It is like the Wild West, and they are all licensed by DCF. The irony is that what they are driven by is urine! There are frequent reports of people being approached on the street with proposals of room, board and "help", if they sign off on assigning their benefits to a 1/2 way house

## Appendix 1

and their related "institute"/ IOP. In some cases, all they require from the insured is the urine to send to their lab and they have a (albeit toxic) place to live. . Please address this, and a lot of the people that are in is for the wrong reasons will go away.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>  
08/08/2013 07:31 AM

To SAMH@DCF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Robert Piper  
County: Sarasota  
Email: bobbpiper@verizon.net

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: By DCF, however if operated by an entity already licensed to provide treatment, that entity should be exempt from regulation.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: Thousands, a guess based on knowledge of local area.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: Costs unknown. Major benefit would be twofold: provide assurance of quality and lessen the occurrence of entities providing "treatment" in the guise of "sober housing" and thereby circumventing licensure. "Treatment" is already spelled out in current law and the few exemptions from licensure are clearly defined as well. The definition of "sober housing" needs to clearly be identified as "post treatment". Halfway, Partway Houses still contain treatment and are therefor already required to have DCF licensure. Sober housing is a minimally supervised housing that is the last part of a comprehensive continuum of care. "No" treatment services are provided. The "environment" is being monitored, residents are post "treatment" and in self-directed recovery.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: Department of Children and Family

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?:  
1. Monitoring to ensure a sober housing entity is not an "under the radar" unlicensed treatment entity.

2. Monitoring to ensure that sober residences meet minimal sanitation standards.

3. Ensure policies and procedures exist to address consequences of relapse while in sober housing.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: A clear definition of Sober housing is a crucial first step. It needs to clearly be delineated as "not involving treatment" on any level.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

08/08/2013 07:58 AM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Laura Kelley  
County: Florida  
Email: aonecoach@gmail.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: I have read FARR responses to this survey and agree with them all.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?:

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?:

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?:

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?:

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?:

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

08/08/2013 08:08 AM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Kay Hayes  
County: FLORIDA  
Email: kayhayes@avenues12.org

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: FARR (Florida Association of Recovery Residences) has a set of standards that should represent the recovery house business. They have a plan that will help all involved.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: I am not sure.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: Many of the "good" recovery residences may not have the type of licensing needed to be regulated by DCF. Our recovery is accredited through FARR and we maintain the highest of standards for the women who enter our facilities.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: FARR

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: FARR standards have the framework for regulating recovery residences.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?:

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

08/08/2013 09:36 AM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: William Atkinson  
County: Tampa Bay  
Email: tampabaysoberliving@yahoo.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: Recovery Residences should be held to a standard of care, by the substance abuse industry. The Florida Association of Recovery Residences Accreditation provides that accountability, and that is why Tampa Bay Sober Living, Inc. sought their accreditation.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: I have no idea how many recovery residences operate in the state of Florida. I do know that Florida is comparable to California as a destination for individuals seeking treatment in our state. Treatment is only the beginning of providing clients with a foundation in recovery, and so recovery residences are important to the long term maintenance of a clients sobriety. So, I imagine there are well over a thousand recovery residences in this state to support the hundreds of public as well as private treatment centers operating in Florida.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: I think it would be very difficult to find every single recovery residences in this state. It would cost millions of dollars, and it would not eliminate individuals who choose to run their personal homes as recovery residences. Regulation is important though, so that individuals who chose to live in a recovery residence are not taken advantage of. Thus I would propose that the state of Florida acknowledge the Florida Association of Recovery Residences (FARR) as the standard and I propose fines and possible criminal action against businesses that are unwilling to abide by FARR's standards

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: Government should defer to the substance abuse industry and specifically the Florida Association of Recovery Residences (FARR). Why burden the tax payers when an independent body is doing the job for you?

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Any regulatory framework should begin with client level of care. This would include safety, but should also support the recovery of the homes residents. If we establish so many controls, the purpose of a recovery home is null and voice. What makes such environments important to the growth and maintenance of an addicts sobriety, is that recovery homes are a place where a resident can practice the tools of recovery in a real world environment. Thus residents need to have enough room to make mistakes, but there also needs to be a firm boundary on what kinds of mistakes are tolerated. All homes must be abstinence based. If a resident relapses he or she is a danger to the health and wellness of the rest of the home, and must be removed from that environment immediately. In removing said person from the home, it is the responsibility



## Appendix 1

of the recovery residence to make sure that person is now not a danger to the greater community the recovery residences operates within. Thus agreements with family, local detox's, and shelters are an important aspect of making sure our recovery residences stay abstinent environments while providing for the welfare of the relapsed resident and protecting the larger community.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: Right now anyone who has the desire to help, or has a home, can open a recovery residence in the State of Florida. This should not be the case. While some operate good homes, the majority of people only provide such environments because they believe they can make money off of those who are trying to put their lives back together. FARR is a standard of care, that adheres to the National Association of Recovery Residences standards, and should be the standard that all existing as well as new recovery residences abides by.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

08/08/2013 12:37 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Linda Palmer  
County: USA  
Email: lpalmer@sanctuarydelraybeach.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: Through FARR in conjunction with the state.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: around 1,800. A friend told me.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: Very feasible if recovery residences had to be certified through FARR. Cost is minimal. If all referents only referred to FARR certified residences, then the other non certified residents would go out of business. This was we get rid of places that are not meeting certain requirements.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: State

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: They need to have regulations which include building standards, as well as policy and procedures that meet certain standards.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?:

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

## Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>  
08/08/2013 02:09 PM

To SAMH@DCF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Ginny LaRue  
County: Volusia  
Email: laruehouse341@gmail.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: Oversight of recovery residences is appropriate and necessary.

Some recovery residences are part of treatment centers that are currently licensed by DCF - Substance Abuse (DCF-SA). These entities should be exempt from further licensing and/or certification.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: This is difficult to answer. According to our accreditation agency, there are 800-1,200 unique recovery residence organizations within Florida, which operate between 3,500-5,000 unique addresses, and have approximately 17,500-30,000 beds.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?:  
Feasibility: In order to certify, license, regulate or register all recovery residences, it would require oversight from an outside accreditation agency (i.e. FARR). The feasibility of this is that it is possible, but would require 6 months to one year from date of application for inspection. The cost would be minimal, if an agency like FARR was used, the cost of accreditation is minimal. The bigger cost to the Recovery House owner is the cost of bringing the facility up to standard. That would provide a positive consequence for the outcome of the recovering person, as they are ensured of a clean and safe environment.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: Government is not the appropriate regulatory body. Recovery Residence operators are housing providers who provide safe, drug and alcohol free, structured environments to a disabled class of individuals. The Fair Housing Act protects the rights of these disabled individuals to reside wherever they choose. Further; the Fair Housing Act suggests that there is an evidenced-based, therapeutic value to cohabitation. Recovery Residences are not treatment providers and are therefore not subject to licensing by DCF-SA.

If licensing and/or registration is contemplated by the legislature, the Department of Business and Professional Regulations would be the most appropriate authority to license recovery housing providers.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?:  
Maybe more appropriately, self-regulating certification authorities such as FARR work closely with both state and local governments to ensure that recovery houses restrict support of residents to a non-treatment activities including housing, life-skills mentoring, recovery planning and transportation to 12 step and/or faith-based self-help support groups. That

## Appendix 1

recovery residences comply with both local and/or state permitting requirements as discussed earlier in this position paper. That recovery residence management does, in fact, take the steps necessary to ensure they provide an alcohol and drug free environment for residents. That grievances against a recovery residence be forwarded to the appropriate local and/or state authority when the scope of the grievance extends beyond the certification entity's purview.

That recovery residence owner/operator and staff are held accountable to the ethics and standards set forth by the certifying entity; including, but not limited to, a comprehensive set of good neighbor standards.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: That "renegade" recovery houses (flop houses) be eliminated through private oversight with such agencies as FARR, and that treatment centers are required to only make referrals to accredited recovery residences.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

08/09/2013 07:03 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Christy Henriquez  
County: Miami-Dade  
Email: pa55me8y@yahoo.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: Someone needs to specialize in something. Anyone can't just open up a recovery house without the knowledge of the people and problems that they will be dealing with.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: I would suppose that hundreds operate, some I've heard of, some I haven't. I arrived at this number because addiction and recovery is a serious social issue (its not really known about but its happening) and these people need a place to go as they are rebuilding their life.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: It should be like a barber shop or restaurant. Show the proper license and you can run. Keep it clean and you can stay open. It would ensure that the care that people are receiving will benefit them and not hurt them. It is also a way for the state to make money which in turn they will realize what a real problem they have with their citizens and the steps they need to take to help.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: I think a county government would run it just fine, or build a board for it. Drug Abuse and Recovery Board, or something like that, made up of social workers, addiction specialists, and so forth.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Owners who are successful in their recovery or people who are educated in substance abuse is the base regulation for a recovery house. Men and women need to be separated. Firm and consistent rules. Some should be high level care that can support special demands such as mental health issues, others can be basic recovery houses.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: The people recovering can become successful members of society with the right guidance. These are individuals that struggle with social issues of all kinds, like self esteem. These places give people the ability to grow and learn and be independent. We need to support this.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

08/10/2013 12:29 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Jo-Anne Stone  
County: Seminole  
Email: jojomkstone@aol.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: membership with FARR to provide oversight

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: No idea

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: certifying houses would be the most feasible, since most small residences do not make a lot of money off the house. I think that regulation is a good thing as it will help to ensure houses follow good ethics and good service, as well as ways to be consistent.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: No government please! An entity like FARR would be the best! No DCF

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Drug screening, house meetings, curfews, attendance at 12 step or faith based groups, and treatment if affordable with outside providers. No treatment in the houses unless they have a special certification

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?:

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?



Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>  
08/14/2013 01:30 PM

To SAMH@DCF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Keven Klopp  
County: Broward  
Email: doskimp@netzero.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: Strictly

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: Probably too many.

The number of complaints I hear about them.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?:  
Feasibility - Good

Cost - One borne by the industry

Consequence - Reduction of complaints, protection of neighborhood integrity

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: State

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?:  
Whatever is included by the best practice for such regulation as done by other states. This has long been an issue with many models proposed.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: ADA, Fair Housing, Local Zoning and the protection of neighborhoods from negative impacts which can result from unregulated "recovery residences"

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?



Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>  
08/15/2013 11:43 AM

To SAMH@DCF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Andrew Z  
County: Broward  
Email: az@the-factory.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: License and set backs between properties so not to have a concentration.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: 10,000

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?:

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: A license like any other type of Assited Living Facility.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Set Backs so they are not concentrated in a community. Set backs from schools and parks. Commercial areas only.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?:

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.  
us>  
08/16/2013 10:57 AM

To SAMH@DCF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Richard Joslin  
County: Palm Beach  
Email: Sobersystems@gmail.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: no

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?:

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: Not enough quality residences to accomodate those who need it.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: Money needs to be directed from Corrections to treatment.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: Local municipality.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?:

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: Some regulations need to be grandfathered in. I bought several properties years ago to be used as recovery residences. They were well kept and equally well self-regulated. When zoning was changed they ended up in foreclosure.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>  
08/16/2013 04:45 PM

To SAMH@DCF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: David Templer  
County: Miami-Dade  
Email: dlt@templerhirsch.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: The patients are extremely vulnerable but for FDCF to ask lay folks how regulation should happen is idiotic.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: I have no idea

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: Are you kidding? Who is this survey designed be answered by?

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: Local

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: I am stunned by the questions on this survey of lay people.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?:

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>  
08/16/2013 10:53 PM

To SAMH@DCF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: rick riccardi c/o fellowship living facilities inc. 501-c-3  
County: broward  
Email: rriccardi@fellowshipliving.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: A state authorized accreditation

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: No real Idea, I would guess hundreds.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: It already exists with FARR, a self regulation association paid by the dues of its members. No or little cost to the government.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: The State

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: FARR regulations are very basic and comprehensive and should be the standards used by any regulatory authority.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?:

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

08/16/2013 11:07 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Beth Caron  
County: Broward  
Email: [ecaronlippert@spectrumprograms.org](mailto:ecaronlippert@spectrumprograms.org)

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: By dcf, broken down by county

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?:

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: Operators should have a license of some sort ; with a minimum of a CAC. Owners/operators should not be driven only by financial gain.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: Regulated by state but monitored on county level, such as dcf funded substance treatment facilities

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: Regular testing, licensed/qualified staff member 24 hours a day (not just an individual currently living there titled "house mom/ dad" or "house manager",) that is trained for emergencies, can be responsible fiscally (petty cash), provides crisis intervention and de-escalation, etc

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: Zoning needs to be more widespread if houses will be regulated. Currently they are in the ghettos due to the "not in my backyard" stigma, however that increases recidivism.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

## Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

08/19/2013 12:51 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Tanya Johnson~Duclona  
County: LEE  
Email: wecareoutreach@comcast.net

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: Yes; They should have a business tax license. As well as health dept certification, annual inspections, and any other fire marshall certifications required locally and at state levels.

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: There are about 23 residences here in lee county alone. The areas with higher populations also tend to have more issues with addiction and homelessness.

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: It is just as feasible as is the regulation and licensing for assisted living or group homes. DCF is required to cooperate with regulations for juvenile group homes. It requires the residence and the operator to be accountable, at the local and state level.

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?: Beginning at the county level and going up from there.

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: First and foremost sobriety, cleanliness, safety, balanced nutrition, balanced infrastructure to support clients, as well as, certified case managers to validate continuing care.

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: Mass home subletting just to produce revenue and build bottom lines, which in turn become eyesores in the community and digress instead of progress.

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing?

Appendix 1



<SAMH\_Survey@dcf.state.fl.us>

08/20/2013 01:37 PM

To SAMH@DCF

cc

bcc

Subject SAMH Survey Response

From: Jessica Cohen  
County: Palm Beach  
Email: jessisfinallysober@gmail.com

Should recovery residences be regulated?: yes

If yes, how should recovery residences be regulated?: Independent oversight group - FARR  
DCF has too much on their plate!!!

How many recovery residences operate in Florida? What is your methodology for arriving at this number?: 250+ -- although the vast majority are not worthwhile recovery residences

What would be the feasibility, cost and consequence of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?: Standard cost that most treatment programs pay for annual DCF re-certification or less given they are less profitable; FARR should determine what the cost is based on their operating expenses

If there were to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government for it to operate?:

What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?: DCF, FARR, local city ordinance

Are there any other issues that need to be addressed?: the difference between flop houses vs. recovery residences

Are you a registered lobbyist? : no

If yes, who are you representing? independent





# POMpano BEACH Highlands

## Civic IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

### Highlands Boundaries

*From Dixie Highway to Federal Highway  
and from N.E. 54th Street to Sample Road*

P.O. Box 5788

Lighthouse Point

Florida 33074-5788

September 11, 2013

Elizabeth Hockensmith, MPA  
Department of Children and Families  
1317 Winewood Blvd, Building 1  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

RE: Sober House proposed regulations

Dear Ms. Hockensmith,

Our association has been struggling with the undesirable side effects of unlicensed sober houses located in our single-family neighborhood for some time. Almost everyone who attends our meetings has stories to tell of fights, crime and loitering in and around these facilities. The time has come to place reasonable regulations on individuals who wish to rent single-family houses for transient residents who may or may not be addicted, if they wish to be exempt from the restrictions imposed by our city zoning ordinance (no more than three un-related individuals in a single-family dwelling).

Our 1.2 square-mile neighborhood has at least a dozen of these sober houses, and maybe more. In most of them, neither the property owner nor the residents are responsible for cleaning, maintenance and ensuring peaceable habitation. Third party operators lease the houses from owners, and solicit occupants using craigslist, referrals from drug treatments facilities, and other means. The lack of accountability can only be addressed through county or state regulation.

Attached please find a list of the proposed regulations we have solicited from our board and neighbors. If you have any questions, please call us at (954) 933-6393.

Sincerely,

POMpano BEACH Highlands CIVIC IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Jeff Torrey, President

Todd Hennen, Vice President

CC: City of Pompano Beach  
State Representative George Moriatis

## RECOVERY HOUSE REGULATIONS

Suggested by Pompano Beach Highlands Civic Improvement Association

September 2013

1. How many recovery residences operate in Florida?

We don't know because no licensing is required!

2. What is the feasibility, cost and consequences of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying recovery residences and their operators?

In order to gain the benefit of protection under ADA from local zoning ordinances, recovery residences operated by a third party for profit should be required to register with appropriate agency.

3. Should recovery residences be regulated?

Transients represent a continuing and ongoing threat to the security of our neighborhood. Broward Sheriff's Office tells us that we are their eyes and ears in the neighborhood. They state that if we see any one out of the ordinary, we should call them. The presence of sober houses by any name in a single-family neighborhood undermines our ability to protect ourselves.

If they cannot be banned from our neighborhoods, basic rules to insure health and safety of the occupants of the recovery house, and to preserve the characteristics of single-family neighborhoods where they may be located are warranted.

4. If there was to be a regulating body, what is the appropriate level of government?

County level should provide for best balance among urban south Florida and more rural areas.

5. What should be included in any regulatory framework for a recovery residence?

Operator of recovery house must obtain a license, stipulate the responsible party to handle complaints, certify the property owner's consent to operate a recovery residence, establish the maximum number of residents in a property.

There should be a minimum square foot area per resident, and adequate bathroom facilities for the number of occupants. Residents should not be permitted to relieve themselves outdoors.

Recovery residences for more than three occupants should have interior alterations to be wheelchair accessible per ADA Accessibility Guidelines.

Operator must agree to abide by basic rules (no business to be operated from the house, no signs/insignia visible from exterior to identify the dwelling as a recovery house, restrictions on number of vehicles parked at house, no aa events or other public functions to occur).

Owner/operator must adhere to minimum property maintenance standards and code standards for refuse storage/disposal established by municipality.

Recovery House Operator should file a contingency management plan detailing actions in the event one of the residents is found taking drugs/drinking and is evicted from the recovery house (can't just kick them into the street with no where to go).

No more than one convicted felon should be permitted to reside. When a resident is a convicted felon, the Recovery House Operator must notify local police department when that resident moves in, leaves or is ejected from house.

No minors under the age of 18 should be permitted as guests or residents.

The recovery house should be subject to annual inspection by the Fire Department, at the Operators expense, to ensure adequate emergency egress, smoke detectors, absence of faulty wiring, and other fire safety concerns.