

**CARF Accreditation Report  
for  
The Arc Carroll County  
Three-Year Accreditation**



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## About CARF

CARF is an independent, nonprofit accreditor of health and human services, enhancing the lives of persons served worldwide.

The accreditation process applies CARF's internationally recognized standards during a site survey conducted by peer surveyors. Accreditation, however, is an ongoing process that distinguishes a provider's service delivery and signals to the public that the provider is committed to continuous performance improvement, responsive to feedback, and accountable to the community and its other stakeholders.

CARF accreditation promotes providers' demonstration of value and Quality Across the Lifespan® of millions of persons served through application of rigorous organizational and program standards organized around the ASPIRE to Excellence® continuous quality improvement framework. CARF accreditation has been the recognized benchmark of quality health and human services for more than 50 years.

For more information or to contact CARF, please visit [www.carf.org/contact-us](http://www.carf.org/contact-us).

**Organization**

The Arc Carroll County  
180 Kriders Church Road  
Westminster, MD 21158

**Organizational Leadership**

Donald Rowe, Executive Director

**Survey Number**

135807

**Survey Date(s)**

March 24, 2021–March 26, 2021

**Surveyor(s)**

Darlene J. Kratt, DESS Administrative  
Parvin H. Thomas, LCSW, CCM, DESS Program  
Leila Wheeler, BA, CBIS, DESS Program

**Program(s)/Service(s) Surveyed**

Community Employment Services: Employment Supports  
Community Employment Services: Job Development  
Community Housing  
Community Integration  
Family Services  
Personal Supports Services  
Respite Services  
Supported Living  
Transition Services

**Previous Survey**

October 4, 2017–October 6, 2017  
Three-Year Accreditation

**Accreditation Decision**

**Three-Year Accreditation**  
**Expiration: November 30, 2023**

# Executive Summary

This report contains the findings of CARF's site survey of The Arc Carroll County conducted March 24, 2021–March 26, 2021. This report includes the following information:

- Documentation of the accreditation decision and the basis for the decision as determined by CARF's consideration of the survey findings.
- Identification of the specific program(s)/service(s) and location(s) to which this accreditation decision applies.
- Identification of the CARF surveyor(s) who conducted the survey and an overview of the CARF survey process and how conformance to the standards was determined.
- Feedback on the organization's strengths and recognition of any areas where the organization demonstrated exemplary conformance to the standards.
- Documentation of the specific sections of the CARF standards that were applied on the survey.
- Recommendations for improvement in any areas where the organization did not meet the minimum requirements to demonstrate full conformance to the standards.
- Any consultative suggestions documented by the surveyor(s) to help the organization improve its program(s)/service(s) and business operations.

## Accreditation Decision

On balance, The Arc Carroll County demonstrated substantial conformance to the standards. The Arc Carroll County offers a wide variety of services that include community employment, community housing, community integration, family services, personal support services, respite services, supported living services, and transition services. The organization has experienced and knowledgeable leadership and staff members that are committed to quality improvement in their approach to cultural competency, person-centered service delivery, community inclusion, and development of partnerships in the community. Areas for improvement include ongoing review of all staff members' driver's licenses, contingency planning, consistency in releases of information, and communication. The Arc Carroll County appears to possess the willingness and ability to bring it into full conformance to CARF standards.

The Arc Carroll County appears likely to maintain and/or improve its current method of operation and demonstrates a commitment to ongoing quality improvement. The Arc Carroll County is required to submit a post-survey Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) to CARF that addresses all recommendations identified in this report.

**The Arc Carroll County has earned a Three-Year Accreditation.** The leadership team and staff are complimented and congratulated for this achievement. In order to maintain this accreditation, throughout the term of accreditation, the organization is required to:

- Submit annual reporting documents and other required information to CARF, as detailed in the Accreditation Policies and Procedures section in the standards manual.
- Maintain ongoing conformance to CARF's standards, satisfy all accreditation conditions, and comply with all accreditation policies and procedures, as they are published and made effective by CARF.

# Survey Details

## Survey Participants

The survey of The Arc Carroll County was conducted by the following CARF surveyor(s):

- Darlene J. Kratt, DESS Administrative
- Parvin H. Thomas, LCSW, CCM, DESS Program
- Leila Wheeler, BA, CBIS, DESS Program

CARF considers the involvement of persons served to be vital to the survey process. As part of the accreditation survey for all organizations, CARF surveyors interact with and conduct direct, confidential interviews with consenting current and former persons served in the program(s)/service(s) for which the organization is seeking accreditation. In addition, as applicable and available, interviews may be conducted with family members and/or representatives of the persons served such as guardians, advocates, or members of their support system.

Interviews are also conducted with individuals associated with the organization, as applicable, which may include:

- The organization's leadership, such as board members, executives, owners, and managers.
- Business unit resources, such as finance and human resources.
- Personnel who serve and directly interact with persons served in the program(s)/service(s) for which the organization is seeking accreditation.
- Other stakeholders, such as referral sources, payers, insurers, and fiscal intermediaries.
- Community constituents and governmental representatives.

## Survey Activities

Achieving CARF accreditation involves demonstrating conformance to the applicable CARF standards, evidenced through observable practices, verifiable results over time, and comprehensive supporting documentation. The survey of The Arc Carroll County and its program(s)/service(s) consisted of the following activities:

- Confidential interviews and direct interactions, as outlined in the previous section.
- Direct observation of the organization's operations and service delivery practices.
- Observation of the organization's location(s) where services are delivered.
- Review of organizational documents, which may include policies; plans; written procedures; promotional materials; governing documents, such as articles of incorporation and bylaws; financial statements; and other documents necessary to determine conformance to standards.
- Review of documents related to program/service design, delivery, outcomes, and improvement, such as program descriptions, records of services provided, documentation of reviews of program resources and services conducted, and program evaluations.
- Review of records of current and former persons served.

## Program(s)/Service(s) Surveyed

The survey addressed by this report is specific to the following program(s)/service(s):

- Community Employment Services: Employment Supports
- Community Employment Services: Job Development
- Community Housing
- Community Integration
- Family Services
- Personal Supports Services
- Respite Services
- Supported Living
- Transition Services

A list of the organization's accredited program(s)/service(s) by location is included at the end of this report.

## Representations and Constraints

The accreditation decision and survey findings contained in this report are based on an on-balance consideration of the information obtained by the surveyor(s) during the site survey. Any information that was unavailable, not presented, or outside the scope of the survey was not considered and, had it been considered, may have affected the contents of this report. If at any time CARF subsequently learns or has reason to believe that the organization did not participate in the accreditation process in good faith or that any information presented was not accurate, truthful, or complete, CARF may modify the accreditation decision, up to and including revocation of accreditation.

## Survey Findings

This report provides a summary of the organization's strengths and identifies the sections of the CARF standards that were applied on the survey and the findings in each area. In conjunction with its evaluation of conformance to the specific program/service standards, CARF assessed conformance to its business practice standards, referred to as Section 1. ASPIRE to Excellence, which are designed to support the delivery of the program(s)/service(s) within a sound business operating framework to promote long-term success.

The specific standards applied from each section vary based on a variety of factors, including, but not limited to, the scope(s) of the program(s)/service(s), population(s) served, location(s), methods of service delivery, and survey type. Information about the specific standards applied on each survey is included in the standards manual and other instructions that may be provided by CARF.

## Areas of Strength

CARF found that The Arc Carroll County demonstrated the following strengths:

- The organization's executive director is a strength. His longevity with the organization has allowed for stability, especially through the COVID-19 pandemic. His dedication and enthusiasm for quality services is credible, as is his vision for person-centered service provision. Of note is the fact that he has been a mentor to other executive directors in the field.
- There is a strong leadership team that is tenacious in its application of the organization's mission and values. Members of the leadership team possess a high level of knowledge and skills that provide a cornerstone to the organization's success.
- The board of directors is active and engaged, and the board members are valued for their diverse skills that support the organization. A solid relationship exists between the board and the executive director.
- The leadership's determination to transition from reliance on all-day, facility-based services to a community-based and virtual model is commendable and in alignment with home- and community-based services.
- An excellent cultural diversity plan exists, and it is evident that the organization pays particular attention to cultural diversity for persons served and personnel.
- The administration building renovations are noteworthy. The building is aesthetically pleasing, easily accessible, and spacious enough to accommodate a variety of training purposes.
- The organization was expeditious in applying for and receiving grants that facilitated, among other things, the hiring of a training manager and the purchase of 47 iPad® tablets to support the transition to a more virtual climate.
- The organization appears to have a financially solvent climate and maintains strong financial policies.
- There is an extremely comprehensive and well-defined performance measurement system for all of the programs that were surveyed.
- Funders expressed a high degree of satisfaction with services, and they appreciate how the organization is always ready to step up to the plate to develop new services or to work with a person served with higher needs.
- The Arc Carroll County has been able to select a highly committed workforce. The organization's staff members and the families of the persons served overwhelmingly spoke to the resilience of the organization and compassion shown to the persons served. This compassion is clearly demonstrated in the concern and care provided by the staff members and is reflected by an overall improvement in the quality of life of the persons served.
- The clinical documentation maintained in the iCare system is very thorough, complete, and well organized, which enhances the ability to share relevant information regarding persons served with other service providers.
- Persons served are treated with dignity and respect. Individualization of the living environment is clear, and persons served are given the right to choose with whom to live. The Arc Carroll County also has several co-ed housing options.
- The rights of the persons served handbook employs a very effective use of both written word and colorful pictures to emphasize rights.

- There was a list of community involvement options before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the true creativity of the staff members in finding ways to keep persons served engaged despite the restrictions brought on by the pandemic is appreciated and celebrated. Two activities of note are the Westminster Rocks and making face masks. Westminster Rocks is a Facebook group that decorates and places rocks throughout the Westminster, Maryland, community. Persons served post findings and interact through the Facebook group. The second activity occurred at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic when cases of infections were high and personal protective equipment supplies were low. A house manager, along with persons served, made face masks for the organization’s staff members and persons served.
- The Arc Carroll County is commended for providing COVID-19 vaccines to every person served who was medically able to receive it and to all staff members who chose to get the vaccine.
- The Arc Carroll County is applauded for its ongoing collaboration with post-secondary education. The organization partners with the Carroll County Public Schools to provide Transition Connections Academy, which offers five levels of service provision to assist transition youth at their skill and interest levels. In the Community Integration for Transition Youth (CITY) program, The Arc Carroll County provides job search, job coaching, and work-based experience for those youth requiring a high level of support. For the Transitioning Opportunities for Personal Success (TOPS) program, The Arc Carroll County helps youth with identifying their strengths and skills and helps them with developing their résumés. The other three programs that The Arc Carroll County provides support for are Seamless Transition at Carroll College (ST@CC), Transition Education at Carroll Hospital (TE@CH), and Transition Education at McDaniel College (TE@M). This is a program that could be a model for other organizations.
- The organization’s culture, particularly in the areas of community employment, supports and fosters an environment of inclusion, safety, dignity, and acceptance of the persons served by the local community. For example, the organization partners with several local community job sites to place the persons served in meaningful, gainful employment—and continued to do so in these unprecedented times of the COVID-19 pandemic. The organization is commended for continuing to make connections, foster and strengthen existing relationships, and explore ways to integrate the persons served into the community and keep them engaged in meaningful activities.
- The experienced, knowledgeable staff members of the community employment services team demonstrate a belief in the organization’s mission. The staff members are committed to enhancing the independence and quality of life of the persons served. These qualities promote the organization’s capacity to provide services of high quality that demonstrate community inclusion and a sense of family.
- Staff members have done an excellent job adapting to the many changes that were necessary to continue services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many staff members have gone above and beyond, as demonstrated by thinking outside of the box to come up with an alternative virtual service that is embraced by the persons served and their family members.

## Opportunities for Quality Improvement

The CARF survey process identifies opportunities for continuous improvement, a core concept of “aspiring to excellence.” This section of the report lists the sections of the CARF standards that were applied on the survey, including a description of the business practice area and/or the specific program(s)/service(s) surveyed and a summary of the key areas addressed in that section of the standards.

In this section of the report, a recommendation identifies any standard for which CARF determined that the organization did not meet the minimum requirements to demonstrate full conformance. All recommendations must be addressed in a QIP submitted to CARF.



In addition, consultation may be provided for areas of or specific standards where the surveyor(s) documented suggestions that the organization may consider to improve its business or service delivery practices. Note that consultation may be offered for areas of specific standards that do not have any recommendations. Such consultation does not indicate nonconformance to the standards; it is intended to offer ideas that the organization might find helpful in its ongoing quality improvement efforts. The organization is not required to address consultation.

When CARF surveyors visit an organization, their role is that of independent peer reviewers, and their goal is not only to gather and assess information to determine conformance to the standards, but also to engage in relevant and meaningful consultative dialogue. Not all consultation or suggestions discussed during the survey are noted in this report. The organization is encouraged to review any notes made during the survey and consider the consultation or suggestions that were discussed.

During the process of preparing for a CARF accreditation survey, an organization may conduct a detailed self-assessment and engage in deliberations and discussions within the organization as well as with external stakeholders as it considers ways to implement and use the standards to guide its quality improvement efforts. The organization is encouraged to review these discussions and deliberations as it considers ways to implement innovative changes and further advance its business and service delivery practices.

## **Section 1. ASPIRE to Excellence®**

### **1.A. Leadership**

#### **Description**

CARF-accredited organizations identify leadership that embraces the values of accountability and responsibility to the individual organization's stated mission. The leadership demonstrates corporate social responsibility.

#### **Key Areas Addressed**

- Leadership structure and responsibilities
- Person-centered philosophy
- Organizational guidance
- Leadership accessibility
- Cultural competency and diversity
- Corporate responsibility
- Organizational fundraising, if applicable

#### **Recommendations**

There are no recommendations in this area.

#### **Consultation**

- The Arc Carroll County is encouraged to continue its pursuit of transitioning service provision from facility-based services to community and virtual services.
- Although there is evidence of ongoing annual reviews of the organization's policies, it is suggested that review/revision dates be added to the policies when completed.

### **1.C. Strategic Planning**

#### **Description**

CARF-accredited organizations establish a foundation for success through strategic planning focused on taking advantage of strengths and opportunities and addressing weaknesses and threats.

## **Key Areas Addressed**

- Environmental considerations
- Strategic plan development, implementation, and periodic review

## **Recommendations**

There are no recommendations in this area.

## **Consultation**

- The organization presented a strategic initiative update, and it is encouraged to utilize the plethora of input received from persons served and other stakeholders to expand the strategic plan.

# **1.D. Input from Persons Served and Other Stakeholders**

## **Description**

CARF-accredited organizations continually focus on the expectations of the persons served and other stakeholders. The standards in this subsection direct the organization's focus to soliciting, collecting, analyzing, and using input from all stakeholders to create services that meet or exceed the expectations of the persons served, the community, and other stakeholders.

## **Key Areas Addressed**

- Collection of input
- Integration of input into business practices and planning

## **Recommendations**

There are no recommendations in this area.

# **1.E. Legal Requirements**

## **Description**

CARF-accredited organizations comply with all legal and regulatory requirements.

## **Key Areas Addressed**

- Compliance with obligations
- Response to legal action
- Confidentiality and security of records

## **Recommendations**

There are no recommendations in this area.

# **1.F. Financial Planning and Management**

## **Description**

CARF-accredited organizations strive to be financially responsible and solvent, conducting fiscal management in a manner that supports their mission, values, and performance objectives. Fiscal practices adhere to established accounting principles and business practices. Fiscal management covers daily operational cost management and incorporates plans for long-term solvency.

## **Key Areas Addressed**

- Budgets
- Review of financial results and relevant factors
- Fiscal policies and procedures
- Reviews of bills for services and fee structures, if applicable
- Safeguarding funds of persons served, if applicable
- Review/audit of financial statements

## **Recommendations**

There are no recommendations in this area.

## **1.G. Risk Management**

### **Description**

CARF-accredited organizations engage in a coordinated set of activities designed to control threats to their people, property, income, goodwill, and ability to accomplish goals.

### **Key Areas Addressed**

- Risk management plan implementation and periodic review
- Adequate insurance coverage
- Media relations and social media procedures
- Reviews of contract services

### **Recommendations**

There are no recommendations in this area.

### **Consultation**

- It is suggested that the organization consider developing its risk management plan in an abridged format, such as in a grid or table.

## **1.H. Health and Safety**

### **Description**

CARF-accredited organizations maintain healthy, safe, and clean environments that support quality services and minimize risk of harm to persons served, personnel, and other stakeholders.

### **Key Areas Addressed**

- Competency-based training on safety procedures and practices
- Emergency procedures
- Access to first aid and emergency information
- Critical incidents
- Infection control
- Health and safety inspections

## Recommendations

### 1.H.13.b.

Although the organization does a regular review of the staff members' driver's licenses when they are operating buses or vehicles owned by the organization, this is not done consistently when the staff members use personal vehicles for transportation. When transportation is provided for persons served, there should be evidence of regular review of driving records of all drivers.

## Consultation

- It might be helpful for the organization to have Material Safety Data Sheets available at the service provision sites so that staff members can have the information readily available to them.
- Although the organization follows the emergency procedures that are in place at each service delivery site and educates persons served and staff members on all emergency procedures, it might consider developing a more global policy as it continues to transition services from facility-based delivery to service provision in the community.
- The organization's trend analysis suggests a trend in the area of falls. It might be beneficial for the organization to visit the National Council on Aging's website ([ncoa.org](http://ncoa.org)) to research the evidenced-based falls prevention program, A Matter of Balance, which includes some easy exercises to help persons with balance issues that can be done conveniently with the use of a chair at home.

## 1.I. Workforce Development and Management

### Description

CARF-accredited organizations demonstrate that they value their human resources and focus on aligning and linking human resources processes, procedures, and initiatives with the strategic objectives of the organization. Organizational effectiveness depends on the organization's ability to develop and manage the knowledge, skills, abilities, and behavioral expectations of its workforce. The organization describes its workforce, which is often composed of a diverse blend of human resources. Effective workforce development and management promote engagement and organizational sustainability and foster an environment that promotes the provision of services that center on enhancing the lives of persons served.

### Key Areas Addressed

- Composition of workforce
- Ongoing workforce planning
- Verification of background/credentials/fitness for duty
- Workforce engagement and development
- Performance appraisals
- Succession planning

### Recommendations

There are no recommendations in this area.

### Consultation

- Although the organization has adequate staffing to ensure the safety of the persons served, it might consider developing a plan to address recruitment and retention, especially as it transitions from facility-based services to a community-based model.

## 1.J. Technology

### Description

Guided by leadership and a shared vision, CARF-accredited organizations are committed to exploring and, within their resources, acquiring and implementing technology systems and solutions that will support and enhance:

- Business processes and practices.
- Privacy and security of protected information.
- Service delivery.
- Performance management and improvement.
- Satisfaction of persons served, personnel, and other stakeholders.

### Key Areas Addressed

- Ongoing assessment of technology and data use
- Technology and system plan implementation and periodic review
- Technology policies and procedures
- Written procedures for the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) in service delivery, if applicable
- ICT instruction and training, if applicable
- Access to ICT information and assistance, if applicable
- Maintenance of ICT equipment, if applicable
- Emergency procedures that address unique aspects of service delivery via ICT, if applicable

### Recommendations

There are no recommendations in this area.

## 1.K. Rights of Persons Served

### Description

CARF-accredited organizations protect and promote the rights of all persons served. This commitment guides the delivery of services and ongoing interactions with the persons served.

### Key Areas Addressed

- Policies that promote rights of persons served
- Communication of rights to persons served
- Formal complaints by persons served

### Recommendations

There are no recommendations in this area.

### Consultation

- Although the organization indicates that there were no formal complaints in the past three years, it is suggested that it still ensure that the staff members are trained on a regular basis on the procedures for which persons served may make complaints. It is also suggested that the procedures be user-friendly and readily accessible.

## 1.L. Accessibility

### Description

CARF-accredited organizations promote accessibility and the removal of barriers for the persons served and other stakeholders.

### Key Areas Addressed

- Assessment of accessibility needs and identification of barriers
- Accessibility plan implementation and periodic review
- Requests for reasonable accommodations

### Recommendations

There are no recommendations in this area.

### Consultation

- The organization might consider developing its accessibility plan in a more succinct fashion, such as a table or a grid, to allow for easy application.

## 1.M. Performance Measurement and Management

### Description

CARF-accredited organizations demonstrate a culture of accountability by developing and implementing performance measurement and management plans that produce information an organization can act on to improve results for the persons served, other stakeholders, and the organization itself.

The foundation for successful performance measurement and management includes:

- Leadership accountability and support.
- Mission-driven measurement.
- A focus on results achieved for the persons served.
- Meaningful engagement of stakeholders.
- An understanding of extenuating and influencing factors that may impact performance.
- A workforce that is knowledgeable about and engaged in performance measurement and management.
- An investment in resources to implement performance measurement and management.
- Measurement and management of business functions to sustain and enhance the organization.

### Key Areas Addressed

- Leadership accountability for performance measurement and management
- Identification of gaps and opportunities related to performance measurement and management
- Input from stakeholders
- Performance measurement and management plan
- Identification of objectives and performance indicators for service delivery
- Identification of objectives and performance indicators for priority business functions
- Personnel training on performance measurement and management

### Recommendations

There are no recommendations in this area.

## 1.N. Performance Improvement

### Description

CARF-accredited organizations demonstrate a culture of performance improvement through their commitment to proactive and ongoing review, analysis, reflection on their results in both service delivery and business functions, and transparency. The results of performance analysis are used to identify and implement data-driven actions to improve the quality of programs and services and to inform decision making. Performance information that is accurate and understandable to the target audience is shared with persons served, personnel, and other stakeholders in accordance with their interests and needs.

### Key Areas Addressed

- Analysis of service delivery performance
- Analysis of business function performance
- Identification of areas needing performance improvement
- Implementation of action plans
- Use of performance information to improve program/service quality and make decisions
- Communication of performance information

### Recommendations

There are no recommendations in this area.

## Section 2. Quality Individualized Services and Supports

### Description

For an organization to achieve quality services, the persons served are active participants in the planning, implementation, and ongoing review and revision of the services offered. The organization's commitment to quality and the involvement of the persons served spans the entire time that the persons served are involved with services. The service planning process is individualized, establishing goals and measurable objectives that incorporate the unique strengths, abilities, needs, and preferences of the persons served. Services are responsive to the expectations of persons served and their desired outcomes from services, and are relevant to their maximum participation in the environments of their choice.

### 2.A. Program/Service Structure

#### Description

A fundamental responsibility of the organization is to provide a comprehensive program structure. The staffing is designed to maximize opportunities for the persons served to obtain and participate in the services provided.

#### Key Areas Addressed

- Services are person centered and individualized
- Persons are given information about the organization's purposes and ability to address desired outcomes
- Documented scope of services shared with stakeholders
- Service delivery based on accepted field practices
- Communication for effective service delivery
- Entrance/exit/transition criteria

## **Recommendations**

### **2.A.6.a.(3)(a)**

To facilitate integrated service delivery, each program/service should implement communication mechanisms regarding the person served that address continuity of services, including contingency planning. This topic could be introduced during intake/orientation and expanded or updated during annual person-centered plan reviews.

### **2.A.12.b.**

### **2.A.12.c.**

Although The Arc Carroll County has a comprehensive form for release of confidential information, it was noted that, while the form was consistently signed, there were inconsistencies in appropriately completing all sections of the form. Any release of confidential information should be limited to the specific information identified and have a time limitation. As a part of the quality assurance (QA) process, the appropriate QA designee may consider devising a list of critical documents for review to include release of information forms. The organization might also benefit from incorporating a peer chart-review process.

## **2.B. Individual-Centered Service Planning, Design, and Delivery**

### **Description**

Improvement of the quality of an individual's services/supports requires a focus on the person and/or family served and their identified strengths, abilities, needs, and preferences. The organization's services are designed around the identified needs and desires of the persons served, are responsive to their expectations and desired outcomes from services, and are relevant to their maximum participation in the environments of their choice.

The person served participates in decision making, directing, and planning that affects the person's life. Efforts to include the person served in the direction or delivery of those services/supports are evident.

### **Key Areas Addressed**

- Services are person centered and individualized
- Persons are given information about the organization's purposes and ability to address desired outcomes

### **Recommendations**

There are no recommendations in this area.

## **2.C. Medication Monitoring and Management**

### **Key Areas Addressed**

- Current, complete records of medications used by persons served
- Written procedures for storage and safe handling of medications
- Educational resources and advocacy for persons served in decision making
- Physician review of medication use
- Training and education for persons served regarding medications

### **Recommendations**

There are no recommendations in this area.



## 2.D. Employment Services Principle Standards

### Description

An organization seeking CARF accreditation in the area of employment services provides individualized services and supports to achieve identified employment outcomes. The array of services and supports may include:

- Identification of employment opportunities and resources in the local job market.
- Development of viable work skills that match workforce needs within the geographic area.
- Development of realistic employment goals.
- Establishment of service plans to achieve employment outcomes.
- Identification of resources and supports to achieve and maintain employment.
- Coordination of and referral to employment-related services and supports.

The organization maintains its strategic positioning in the employment sector of the community by designing and continually improving its services based on input from the persons served and from employers in the local job market, and managing results of the organization's outcomes management system. The provision of quality employment services requires a continuous focus on the persons served and the personnel needs of employers in the organization's local job market.

Some examples of the quality results desired by the different stakeholders of these services and supports include:

- Individualized, appropriate accommodations.
- A flexible, interactive process that involves the person.
- Increased independence.
- Increased employment options.
- Timely services and reports.
- Persons served obtain and maintain employment consistent with their preferences, strengths, and needs.
- Person served obtains a job at minimum wage or higher and maintains appropriate benefits.
- Person served maintains the job.

### Key Areas Addressed

- Goals of the persons served
- Community resources available
- Personnel needs of local employers
- Economic trends in the local employment sector

### Recommendations

There are no recommendations in this area.

## 2.E. Community Services Principle Standards

### Description

An organization seeking CARF accreditation in the area of community services assists the persons and/or families served in obtaining access to the resources and services of their choice. The persons and/or families served are included in their communities to the degree they desire. This may be accomplished by direct service provision or linkages to existing opportunities and natural supports in the community.

The organization obtains information from the persons and/or families served regarding resources and services they want or require that will meet their identified needs, and offers an array of services it arranges for or provides. The organization provides the persons and/or families served with information so that they may make informed choices and decisions.

The services and supports are changed as necessary to meet the identified needs of the persons and/or families served and other stakeholders. Service designs address identified individual, family, socioeconomic, and cultural needs.

Expected results from these services may include:

- Increased or maintained inclusion in meaningful community activities.
- Increased or maintained ability to perform activities of daily living.
- Increased self-direction, self-determination, and self-reliance.
- Increased self-esteem.

### **Key Areas Addressed**

- Access to community resources and services
- Enhanced quality of life
- Community inclusion
- Community participation

### **Recommendations**

There are no recommendations in this area.

## **Section 3. Employment Services**

### **Description**

An organization seeking CARF accreditation in the area of employment services assists the persons served through an individualized person-centered process to obtain access to the services, supports, and resources of their choice to achieve their desired outcomes. This may be accomplished by direct service provision, linkages to existing generic opportunities and natural supports in the community, or any combination of these. The persons served are included in their communities to the degree they desire.

The organization provides the persons served with information so that they may make informed choices and decisions. Although we use the phrase person served, this may also include family served, as appropriate to the service and the individual.

The services and supports are arranged and changed as necessary to meet the identified desires of the persons served. Service designs address identified individual, family, socioeconomic, and cultural preferences.

Depending on the program's scope of services, expected results from these services/supports may include:

- Increased inclusion in community activities.
- Increased self-direction, self-determination, and self-reliance.
- Self-esteem.
- Community citizenship.
- Increased independence.
- Meaningful activities.

- Increased employment options.
- Employment obtained and maintained.
- Competitive employment.
- Employment at or above minimum wage.
- Economic self-sufficiency.
- Employment with benefits.
- Career advancement.

### **3.G. Community Employment Services (CES)**

#### **Description**

Community employment services assist persons to obtain successful community employment opportunities that are responsive to their choices and preferences. Through a strengths-based approach, the program provides person-directed services/supports to individuals to choose, achieve, and maintain employment in integrated community employment settings.

Work is a fundamental part of adult life. Individually tailored job development, training, and support recognize each person's employability and potential contribution to the labor market. Persons are supported as needed through an individualized person-centered model of services to choose and obtain a successful employment opportunity consistent with their preferences, keep the employment, and find new employment if necessary or for purposes of career advancement.

Such services may be described as individualized competitive employment, individual placements, contracted temporary personnel services, competitive employment, supported employment, transitional employment, mobile work crews, contracted work groups in the community, community-based SourceAmerica® contracts, and other business-based work groups in community-integrated designs. In Canada, employment in the form of bona fide volunteer placements is possible.

Individuals may be paid by community employers or by the organization. Employment is in the community.

The following service categories are available under Community Employment Services (please refer to the program descriptions and applicable standards):

- Job Development (CES:JD)
- Employment Supports (CES:ES)

If an organization provides only Job Development or Employment Supports, then it may be accredited for only that service. If it is providing both Job Development and Employment Supports, then it must seek accreditation for both. If any clarification is needed, please contact your CARF resource specialist. There is no charge for consultation.

Depending on the scope of the services provided, some examples of the quality outcomes desired by the different stakeholders of these services include:

- Persons obtain community employment.
- Persons obtain individualized competitive employment.
- Employment matches interests and desires of persons.
- Wages, benefits, and hours of employment achieved as desired.
- Average number of hours worked per week increases.
- Average number of hours worked per week meets the desires of the person served.
- Full-time employment with benefits.
- Transition-age youth move directly from their educational environment into community employment.
- Potential for upward mobility.

- Self-sufficiency.
- Integration.
- Responsive services.
- Safe working conditions.
- Cost-effective for placement achieved.
- Performance level achieved meets requirements of job or position.
- Increase in skills.
- Increase in productivity.
- Increase in hours worked.
- Increase in pay.
- Employment retention.
- Increase in natural supports from coworkers.
- Persons served treated with respect.
- Minimize length of time for supports.
- Type and amount of staff interaction meets needs.
- Employer satisfaction.
- Responsiveness to customers.

Job Development (CES:JD): Successful job development concurrently uses assessment information about the strengths and interests of the person seeking employment to target the types of jobs available from potential employers in the local labor market. Typical job development activities include reviewing local employment opportunities and developing potential employers/customers through direct and indirect promotional strategies. Job development may include facilitating a hiring agreement between an employer and a person seeking employment. Some persons seeking employment may want assistance at only a basic, informational level, such as support for a self-directed job search.

Employment Supports (CES:ES): Employment support services promote successful training of a person to a new job, job adjustment, retention, and advancement. These services are based on the individual employee with a focus on achieving long-term retention of the person in the job. The level of employment support services is individualized to each employee and the complexity of the job.

Often supports are intensive for the initial orientation and training of an employee with the intent of leading to natural supports and/or reduced external job coaching. However, some persons may not require any employment supports at the job site; others may require intensive initial training with a quick decrease in supports, while some will be most successful when long-term supports are provided.

Supports can include assisting the employee with understanding the job culture, industry practices, and work behaviors expected by the employer. It may also include helping the employer and coworkers to understand the support strategies and accommodations needed by the worker.

Supports are a critical element of the long-term effectiveness of community employment. Support services address issues such as assistance in training a person to complete new tasks, changes in work schedule or work promotion, a decrease in productivity of the person served, adjusting to new supervisors, and managing changes in nonwork environments or other critical life activities that may affect work performance. Routine follow-up with the employer and the employee is crucial to continued job success.

### **Key Areas Addressed**

- Integrated employment choice
- Integrated employment obtainment
- Employment provided in regular business settings
- Integrated employment retention
- Provides career advancement resources

## Recommendations

There are no recommendations in this area.

# Section 4. Community Services

## Description

An organization seeking CARF accreditation in the area of community services assists the persons served through an individualized person-centered process to obtain access to the services, supports, and resources of their choice to achieve their desired outcomes. This may be accomplished by direct service provision, linkages to existing generic opportunities and natural supports in the community, or any combination of these. The persons served are included in their communities to the degree they desire.

The organization provides the persons served with information so that they may make informed choices and decisions. Although we use the phrase person served, this may also include family served, as appropriate to the service and the individual.

The services and supports are arranged and changed as necessary to meet the identified desires of the persons served. Service designs address identified individual, family, socioeconomic, and cultural preferences.

Depending on the program's scope of services, expected results from these services/supports may include:

- Increased inclusion in community activities.
- Increased or maintained ability to perform activities of daily living.
- Increased self-direction, self-determination, and self-reliance.
- Self-esteem.
- Housing opportunities.
- Community citizenship.
- Increased independence.
- Meaningful activities.
- Increased employment options.

## 4.B. Transition Services (TS)

### Description

Transition services are integrated, community-oriented, systematic services for students/transition-age youth and their families provided through a jointly planned approach, involving broad-based community collaboration, linkages, advocacy, and natural supports.

Transition services/supports are planned and coordinated for multiple outcomes for youth leaving school, including post-secondary education, supported education, vocational assessments and targeted training, community employment (including supported employment and volunteer placement), independent or supported living, and community participation. The organization demonstrates early active outreach to and connection and partnership with school districts to address the transition needs of students and their families. The purpose of this collaboration and early planning is focused on ensuring that transition-age youth are not "missed" as they move from one system to another.

Some examples of the quality results desired by the different stakeholders of these services include:

- Community-oriented services.
- Post-secondary education.
- Transition-age youth move directly from their educational environment into community employment.
- Transition-age youth explore alternative community employment situations.
- Access to targeted vocational training or apprenticeships.
- Independent or supported living.
- Community participation.
- Employment.
- Volunteer placement.
- Connections to community resources.
- Appropriate benefits/supports as persons leave school.

### **Key Areas Addressed**

- Integrated services for students and their families
- Jointly planned approach with community collaboration and linkages
- Outcomes such as postsecondary education, vocational training, and integrated employment

### **Recommendations**

There are no recommendations in this area.

## **4.C. Family Services (FS)**

### **Description**

Family services are provided to persons served and/or their families, either to enable the person and the family to stay together or to enable persons served to remain involved with their family. Families, including the persons served, are the key decision makers in identifying the services/supports needed and in choosing how those services/supports will be delivered.

Some examples of the quality results desired by the different stakeholders of these services include:

- Resources to support family stability.
- Availability of respite services.
- Emergency response system for family relief.
- Families remaining together.

### **Key Areas Addressed**

- Families enabled to stay together
- Persons served remain involved with their families
- Supports and services established as needed

### **Recommendations**

#### **4.C.1.f.**

Although The Arc Carroll County reports instances of verbal discussions for some persons served surrounding the issue of contingency planning, planning should consistently address contingency planning in the event of loss of the primary caregiver. While this planning may be a part of the coordination of community services (CCS) plan, the organization's staff members are encouraged to have an active role in the planning process.

## 4.F. Respite Services (RS)

### Description

Respite services facilitate access to time-limited, temporary relief from the ongoing responsibility of service delivery for the persons served, families, and/or organizations. Respite services may be provided in the home, in the community, or at other sites, as appropriate. An organization providing respite services actively works to ensure the availability of an adequate number of direct service personnel.

Some examples of the quality results desired by the different stakeholders of these services/supports include:

- Services/supports are responsive to the family's needs.
- Services/supports are safe for persons.
- Services/supports accommodate medical needs.

### Key Areas Addressed

- Time-limited, temporary relief from service delivery
- Accommodation for family's living routine and needs of person served

### Recommendations

There are no recommendations in this area.

## 4.G. Community Integration (COI)

### Description

Community integration is designed to help persons to optimize their personal, social, and vocational competency to live successfully in the community. Persons served are active partners in determining the activities they desire to participate in. Therefore, the settings can be informal to reduce barriers between staff members and persons served. An activity center, a day program, a clubhouse, and a drop-in center are examples of community integration services. Consumer-run programs are also included.

Community integration provides opportunities for the community participation of the persons served. The organization defines the scope of these services and supports based on the identified needs and desires of the persons served. This may include services for persons who without this option are at risk of receiving services full-time in more restrictive environments with intensive levels of supports such as hospitalization or nursing home care. A person may participate in a variety of community life experiences or interactions that may include, but are not limited to:

- Leisure or recreational activities.
- Communication activities.
- Spiritual activities.
- Cultural activities.
- Pre-vocational experiences.
- Vocational pursuits.
- Volunteerism in the community.
- Educational and training activities.
- Development of living skills.
- Health and wellness promotion.
- Orientation, mobility, and destination training.

- Access and utilization of public transportation.
- Interacting with volunteers from the community in program activities.
- Community collaborations and social connections developed by the program (partnerships with community entities such as senior centers, arts councils, etc.).

Some examples of the quality results desired by the different stakeholders of these services include:

- Community participation.
- Increased independence.
- Increased interdependence.
- Greater quality of life.
- Skill development.
- Slowing of decline associated with aging.
- Volunteer placement.
- Movement to employment.
- Center-based socialization activities during the day that enable persons to remain in their community residence.
- Activity alternatives to avoid or reduce time spent in more restrictive environments, such as hospitalization or nursing home care.

#### **Key Areas Addressed**

- Opportunities for community participation

#### **Recommendations**

There are no recommendations in this area.

## **4.H. Community Housing (CH)**

### **Description**

Community housing addresses the desires, goals, strengths, abilities, needs, health, safety, and life span issues of the persons served, regardless of the home in which they live and/or the scope, duration, and intensity of the services they receive. The residences in which services/supports are provided are typically owned, rented, leased, or operated directly by the organization, or may be owned, rented, or leased by a third party, such as a governmental entity. Providers exercise control over these sites in terms of having direct or indirect responsibility for the physical conditions of the facility.

Community housing is provided in partnership with individuals. These services/supports are designed to assist the persons served to achieve success in and satisfaction with community living. They may be temporary or long-term in nature. The services/supports are focused on home and community integration and engagement in productive activities. Community housing enhances the independence, dignity, personal choice, and privacy of the persons served. For persons in alcohol and other drug programs, these services/supports are focused on providing sober living environments to increase the likelihood of sobriety and abstinence and to decrease the potential for relapse.

Community housing programs may be referred to as group homes, halfway houses, three-quarter way houses, recovery residences, sober housing, domestic violence or homeless shelters, and safe houses. These programs may be located in rural or urban settings and in houses, apartments, townhouses, or other residential settings owned, rented, leased, or operated by the organization. They may include congregate living facilities and clustered homes/apartments in multiple-unit settings. These residences are often physically integrated into the community, and every effort is made to ensure that they approximate other homes in their neighborhoods in terms of size and number of individuals.



Community housing may include either or both of the following:

- Transitional living that provides interim supports and services for persons who are at risk of institutional placement, persons transitioning from institutional settings, or persons who are homeless. Transitional living is typically provided for six to twelve months and can be offered in congregate settings that may be larger than residences typically found in the community.
- Long-term housing that provides stable, supported community living or assists the persons served to obtain and maintain safe, affordable, accessible, and stable housing.

The residences in which community housing services are provided must be identified in the survey application. These sites will be visited during the survey process and identified in the survey report and accreditation decision as a site at which the organization provides a community housing program.

### **Key Areas Addressed**

- Safe, secure, private location
- Support to persons as they explore alternatives
- In-home safety needs
- Access as desired to community activities
- Options to make changes in living arrangements
- System for on-call availability of personnel

### **Recommendations**

#### **4.H.2.a.**

While The Arc Carroll County facilitates as-needed house meetings and one-on-one conversations with persons served, the staff members reported that communication between house staff “could be improved if everyone was on the same page.” The organization is urged to provide regular meetings between the persons served and staff. Staff members and persons served might benefit from virtual meetings to encourage increased participation. These virtual meetings could be expanded on a quarterly basis to include staff members and persons served from all community housing programs to share creative ideas and celebrate achievements by spotlighting a house, person served, or staff member each quarter.

## **4.I. Supported Living (SL)**

### **Description**

Supported living addresses the desires, goals, strengths, abilities, needs, health, safety, and life span issues of persons usually living in their own homes (apartments, townhouses, or other residential settings). Supported living services are generally long-term in nature but may change in scope, duration, intensity, or location as the needs and preferences of individuals change over time.

Supported living refers to the support services provided to the person served, not the residence in which these services are provided. A sample of people receiving services/supports in these sites will be visited as part of the interview process. Although the residence will generally be owned, rented, or leased by the person who lives there, the organization may occasionally rent or lease an apartment when the person served is unable to do so. Typically, in this situation the organization would co-sign or in other ways guarantee the lease or rental agreement; however, the person served would be identified as the tenant.

Supported living programs may be referred to as supported living services, independent living, supportive living, semi-independent living, and apartment living, and services/supports may include home health aide and personal care attendant services. Typically there would not be more than two or three persons served living in a residence, no house rules or structure would be applied to the living situation by the organization, and persons served can come and go as they please. Service planning often identifies the number of hours and types of support services provided.

The home or individual apartment of the person served, even when the organization holds the lease or rental agreement on behalf of the person served, is not included in the survey application or identified as a site on the accreditation outcome.

Some examples of the quality results desired by the different stakeholders of these services/supports include:

- Persons served achieving choice of housing, either rent or ownership.
- Persons served choosing whom they will live with, if anyone.
- Minimizing individual risks.
- Persons served have access to the benefits of community living.
- Persons served have autonomy and independence in making life choices.

### **Key Areas Addressed**

- Safe, affordable, accessible housing chosen by the individual
- Supports available based on needs and desires
- In-home safety needs
- Living as desired in the community
- Support personnel available based on needs
- Persons have opportunities to access community activities

### **Recommendations**

There are no recommendations in this area.

## **4.P. Personal Supports Services (PSS)**

### **Description**

Personal supports services are designed to provide instrumental assistance to persons and/or families served. They may also support or facilitate the provision of services or the participation of the person in other services/programs, such as employment or community integration services. The services are supports that are not provided by skilled healthcare providers (please see the Glossary for a definition of skilled healthcare provider), are primarily delivered in the home or community, and typically do not require individualized or in-depth service planning.

Services can include direct personal care supports such as personal care attendants and housekeeping and meal preparation services; services that do not involve direct personal care supports such as transporting persons served, information and referral services, translation services, senior centers, programs offering advocacy and assistance by professional volunteers (such as legal or financial services), training or educational activities (such as English language services), mobile meal services; or other support services, such as supervising visitation between family members and parent aides.

A variety of persons may provide these services/supports other than a program's staff, such as volunteers and subcontractors.

### **Key Areas Addressed**

- Training for personnel
- Supervision of personnel
- Identification of supports provided by program

### **Recommendations**

There are no recommendations in this area.

# Program(s)/Service(s) by Location

## **The Arc Carroll County**

180 Kriders Church Road  
Westminster, MD 21158

Community Employment Services: Employment Supports  
Community Employment Services: Job Development  
Community Integration  
Family Services  
Personal Supports Services  
Respite Services  
Supported Living  
Transition Services

## **Baronet's ALU**

444 Baronet's Court  
Westminster, MD 21157

Community Housing

## **Bond Street ALU**

90 Bond Street  
Westminster, MD 21157

Community Housing

## **Gist Road ALU**

699 Gist Road  
Westminster, MD 21157

Community Housing

## **Greengate 2 ALU**

314 Greengate Court  
Westminster, MD 21158

Community Housing

## **Kwanzan ALU**

23 Kwanzan Street  
Taneytown, MD 21787

Community Housing

## **Mayfield Court ALU**

305 Mayfield Court  
Westminster, MD 21158

Community Housing

**Monocacy ALU**

37 Monocacy Circle  
Taneytown, MD 21787

Community Housing

**Morning Frost ALU**

127 Morning Frost Street  
Taneytown, MD 21787

Community Housing