

**Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)
Standards for Unaccredited Providers**

Policy

It is the policy of Central Florida Behavioral Health Network, Inc. (CFBHN) to review Network Service Providers (NSPs) not independently accredited by a nationally or internationally-recognized organization for compliance with standards established for unaccredited providers by CARF.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the criteria used to formally identify the NSPs required to be monitored for compliance with the CARF Standards for Unaccredited Providers.

Procedures

I. Definitions

- A. CARF Standards for Unaccredited Providers: Standards formally established by CARF and that unaccredited NSPs are required to meet each year. Compliance with those standards is assessed by the CFBHN Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) team as part of an NSP's annual monitoring. CARF standards are updated on an annual basis.
- B. CFBHN Network: The formal network of NSPs funded by the Department of Children Families (DCF) under the guidance of CFBHN, as mandated by F.S. 394.9082. This network includes the 14 counties within the SunCoast region.
- C. Network Service Provider: A direct-service agency providing substance use or mental health services under contract with CFBHN.
- D. Network Member: An organization contracted with CFBHN that meets one or more of the criteria outlined in section II.A.(1).of this policy. Due to the nature of their work or time-limited Network funding, these organizations are not recognized by the CQI team as NSPs.

II. Determining NSP Status

- A. To determine if an organization is subject to compliance with CARF Unaccredited Standards, its status as an NSP is first determined.
 - 1) The type of contract in place between CFBHN and each agency is reviewed. In consideration of the special circumstances of their contracts with CFBHN, organizations that meet one or more of the following criteria are recognized as Network Members, not Network Service Providers:
 - a) Member Projects, funded for the time-limited period of one year by a legislative line item budget request;
 - b) Projects that involve a purchase order, rate agreement, or one-time vendor agreement;
 - c) Contracts that limit CFBHN's role to that of fiscal agent;
 - d) School district contracts, for which student services are administered by guidelines of the Florida Department of Education;
 - e) Contracts that do not involve the delivery of mental health, substance use or prevention services;
 - f) Contracts funded by sources other than DCF.

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- B. The next level of review formally identifies organizations funded by CFBHN to provide direct service to others.
 - 1) Agencies funded by CFBHN to provide activities that require direct contact with individuals in care, are recognized by the CQI team as NSPs.
 - 2) Organizations funded by CFBHN to provide activities that *do not* involve or require direct services are not recognized as NSPs, and are not monitored for compliance with CARF Unaccredited Standards.

- 2. Once NSP status has been established, the accreditation status of each organization is reviewed. Accreditation status is documented by the CFBHN Contracts department in the Contracts Tracking System (CTS) database.
 - A. NSPs that are accredited are not required to meet CARF Unaccredited Standards, and are not monitored on this requirement.
 - 1) If an accredited NSP elects to subcontract service delivery to an unaccredited organization, CFBHN will not monitor the unaccredited organization for compliance with the CARF Unaccredited Standards.
 - 2) The unaccredited organization is, however, subject to the standards for subcontracted organizations established by the accredited NSP.
 - 3) NSPs that are not accredited, and that do not have a pending accreditation application, are required to meet the Standards for Unaccredited Providers established by CARF, and are monitored for their compliance by the CQI Team.
 - 4) NSPs that have formally applied for accreditation through a recognized body are evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine if they are monitored for compliance with CARF Unaccredited Standards. Factors taken into consideration include the anticipated date of their formal accreditation survey and the date scheduled for their annual CFBHN monitoring.

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