

# CARR Board Meeting

09/19/23

9AM

Zoom Call

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<b>Meeting called by:</b>	Standing Monthly Call	<b>Type of meeting:</b>	Monthly Board Meeting
<b>Facilitator:</b>	Butch Lewis	<b>Note taker:</b>	Kevin Fox
<b>Timekeeper:</b>	Butch Lewis		

**Attendees:** Gonzalo Ardavin, Dara Keller, Matt Neptune, Cali Petersen, Rourke Weaver, Tonya Wheeler, Alia Andrews, Amy Cooper

## *Minutes*

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**Agenda item:** Board Member Applications

**Presenter:** Butch Lewis

**Discussion:**

- One more board meeting before the annual in-person meeting
- 5 applications received for open board position.
- Call a special meeting to interview all? Do you all want to review applications beforehand? How would the board like to handle the selection process?
  - Gonzalo – I would like to see the resumes sent to each board member and then set a date to meet, allotting a 15-minute block on Zoom very similar to when I joined.
  - Butch – Do you want me to send out a Google poll on times or just set a date? How would you all like to set a date for that? Or try and do at the next board meeting? My only concern is hopefully we'll be under an executed contract by then with potentially a lot going on.
  - Gonzalo – either, or on my part
  - Tonya – are these all operators?
  - Butch – yes, all operators and the open position we have is for an operator.
  - Rourke – Butch, just get the resumes together and send out, then just set a time when we'll all meet.
  - Butch – OK, can do that. We should try to do this before the next board meeting, so the new board member can be present at the annual in-person meeting.
  - Rourke – make it two (2) weeks from now?
  - Butch – OK, will try to coordinate that.

**Conclusions:**

Butch to send out resumes of applicants to each board member for review and then set a date for 2 weeks from now with board members to meet and interview applicants in 15-minute blocks back-to-back.

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**Agenda item:** WV and VA trainings

**Presenter:** Butch Lewis

**Discussion:**

Sunday, Butch and Kevin travel to WV and VA training with the staff of those NARR affiliates also meeting with the team from Kentucky out there as well. This is to help us understand better how some of the other states are implementing the social model of recovery into their inspections and standards. WV, for example, sends a team to inspect and splits up once on site where one (1) or two (1) performs a physical inspection and one (1) or two (2) conducts interviews with residents and recovery residence staff or employees assessing social model of recovery and how they're effecting social model recovery in that house.

Two (2) weeks after the WV & VA trip, the NARR conference is happening in MI. The NARR conference would be an opportunity for us to ask questions to others and NARR staff as well and then return to begin implementing similar strategies for CARR.

**Conclusions:**

Butch and Kevin traveling to WV and VA NARR affiliates to observe their inspections, traveling to MI for NARR conference and compile observations and trainings to implement into CARR inspections.

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**Agenda item:** Medical Cannabis Policy **Presenter:** Butch Lewis

**Discussion:**

Butch sent all the edits that Amy and Dara made for board members to review. This is the updated policy for reference if operators are using medical cannabis in a recovery residence setting. Would like the board to review for the next 30 days and then provide feedback. Hope to receive as much feedback as possible. Aware this is an incredibly polarizing subject. Likely to have a lot of recovery residences strongly against this and a few likely to be strongly for it. Wants everyone to have a voice in this. What are thoughts about putting this updated policy up on the website, putting a link in the newsletter and asking for essentially open review and input?

It still has a long way to go; we have to receive feedback, go to BHA, go to the AG's office. We'd be lucky to get introduced in November by the summit, if it does, it wouldn't take effect until January.

**Conclusions:**

CARR to post draft of the medical cannabis policy with edits in the newsletter and website for open review and feedback from the recovery community. Board to make an informed decision to adopt as edited then submit to BHA and AG's office for approval.

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**Agenda item:** CORA and CARR **Presenter:** Butch Lewis

**Discussion:**

Recent discussion with Butch and BHA that CARR does not have the staff or legal team to make sure we're in full compliance with state law. So, BHA will represent CARR on all CORA requests and press matters. BHA will use their media and CORA team to help CARR with those requests. Requests will come through BHA, BHA contacts CARR with what information they need, CARR provides them back the information minus the names of residents, addresses of actual recovery residences, etc.

**Conclusions:**

BHA will represent CARR on all CORA requests and press matters.

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**Agenda item:** Medical Cannabis Policy **Presenter:** Butch Lewis

**Discussion:**

You should have all had the chance to review the draft medical cannabis policy. The recovery community did contact CARR quite a bit trying to understand the policy. Their biggest concern, initially, was we were allowing all residents in any program to use medical cannabis; we had to assure operators this was not the case. We had been told that White House was going to push for legalized medical cannabis, we received word it would be happening two (2) days later so we pushed out the policy on Tuesday and on Thursday, Biden administration, through the FDA, tried to it from a Schedule I to a Schedule II medical restrictive. Amy and Dara have reviewed the policy in its current form. Want to allow the board to talk through this and vote to adopt. Once (if) vote to adopt, we have to send the policy to the BHA for approval before adding to CARR standards.

Discussions?

- Gonzalo – Are there any houses looking to do this?
- Butch – yes, there are a few that are.
- Funding impacts?
- Butch – I spoke with Signal and confirmed they can provide state funded housing scholarship to residents on legal medical cannabis, but currently SOAR dollars (federal funds) cannot.
- Butch – To sum up conversations with Amy, Dara and last board meeting; medical cannabis has been approved by Colorado state legislature. Therefore, CARR can not have an outright ban on medical cannabis because we can not go against Colorado constitution and what the legislature has approved for medical cannabis. Hence, why CARR is adopting this policy on if a recovery residence is allowing medical cannabis to be used, then here are the standards by which it can be used. CARR is not banning it, but CARR is placing parameters of how it is used in a medical situation.
- Dara – Yes, this could place recovery residences in a difficult legal position if they're not allowed to use medical cannabis if someone has been recommended that by a health care provider. We want to at least parameters around it so if they are going to allow it a somewhat safer way to allow it.
- Tonya – Do each recovery residences have option to not include residents using medical cannabis, they are not required to correct?
- Dara – correct.
- Tonya – I read in the policy that if it interferes with their recovery activities, they can make a referral. That's a positive for CARR to have this policy. I agree with Gonzalo. I can't imagine being new to recovery and new in a recovery residence and someone there using marijuana and how that might impact their home so glad there's choice in all of that. What does it look like for healthcare providers?
- Dara – residents must have their medical cannabis card, must have a recommendation from healthcare providers (currently healthcare providers cannot prescribe medical marijuana) they have to submit to CDPHE (Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment) that's where they actually get the card from, then they're on that registry.
- Tonya – OK, so the operator or staff could connect with the healthcare provider?
- Dara - If the resident signs a release, yes.
- Tonya – I vote yes, I feel it's important for CARR to have this policy in place. Good that there are recovery residences doing this for clients, but all of this is a mess for recovery community to navigate.
- Rourke – Important to recognize this (medical marijuana) is already happening. We could be upset or disagree with it, but there's nothing stopping a medical marijuana specific sober living from opening, that's likely on the way. Historically, recovery community and treatment community protested because they disagreed with MAT or long ago, anti-depressant or medications in general. It's important to have a policy around this and engage in conversation. Personally, not every sober living should be mandated to accept MAT, having sober livings that function off an abstinence base model is a good thing if it's diverse enough. This would allow those programs that do choose to begin offering those services to maintain and operate the way they always have. How do we make sure that operators that don't want to do those services will always be protected to operate the way they want, knowing that no matter what we do the other ones may open regardless.
- Tonya – my concern people opening these places where there's potential to become a "flop house" sitting around using marijuana and not real recovery activities happening, and yet gets to carry the name of a recovery residence.
- Rourke – that may happen, if CARR maintains an ability to have discussions, we can respond appropriately to that instead of getting pushed further out. Even to some degree, I can understand the benefits of medical marijuana on some levels. Do I believe that in all forms of recovery? No, absolutely not. But there may be benefits there? This is something the state needs to figure out and CARR would be able to walk with the state to determine solutions along the way.
- Butch – does anyone have anything else on the policy as it's written right now that they want to add?
- Tonya – are there any recovery residences that allow alcohol?
- Butch – No. The law is very clear on that I believe.
- Cali – Is there something in there about testing levels for THC in urine tests?
- Dara – We do say that evidence of resident's use of medical cannabis other than as recommended by their healthcare provider, so excess or anything that suggest misuse is grounds for dismissing that resident, which would include UAs.
- Matt – So does that mean the recovery residence is responsible for using lab services to monitor those levels? This would be an added cost to the recovery residence.
- Rourke – Yes, but do you allow marijuana in your program?
- Matt – I don't.
- Rourke – Yeah, so you don't have to incur that cost. If a program decides they want to allow those things, then they can incur those costs.

- Cali – I don't think it's specific enough. Should we be more specific? Then monitoring would be just them watching them take it versus "hey, what is your baseline?" and if your levels are (for example) x3 then you're abusing it.
- Butch – we could get more granular within the policy.
- Tonya – Why is there a policy around this and not alcohol?
- Butch – There's no research showing medical benefit of alcohol.
- Butch – For this, we will roll call vote:
  - Gonzalo – Yes
  - Dara – Yes
  - Tonya – Yes
  - Matt – Abstain
  - Rourke – Yes
  - Cali – Abstain
  - Amy – Yes
- Butch – OK, policy passes. Will send to Mark and Alia at BHA for approval.

**Conclusions:**

CARR draft policy on medical marijuana in a recovery residence passes board of directors, policy to be sent to BHA for review and approval.

**Agenda item:** August Financials

**Presenter:** Butch Lewis

**Discussion:**

Asked if everyone has had the opportunity to review financials sent out.

Butch – As you can see, we're consistent on how we spend funds across the board. About \$20K to \$25K month is where we are. Nothing out of the ordinary from August than what a normal month would be for us.

Butch – Any question on financials.

Butch - hearing no opposed, July financials approved.

**Conclusions:**

August financials approved.

**Agenda item:** Cashflow with new grant

**Presenter:** Butch Lewis

**Discussion:**

With the contract, CARR will have roughly 2.4 million dollars to spend between contract execution (October 1<sup>st</sup>) and the last day of June '24.

The challenge is cashflow.

Butch to work with Gonzalo to create a way in which we can support the grant but keep operations going at the same time.

Butch to establish a revolving line of business credit that we can draw against to be able to cashflow this. The problem could be the bank will want to see a return on their investment. The expenditure is only about 10% of the admin cost, so we don't want to get into a situation losing money because of interest.

The board has already approved the budget for office space, location & layout. But have been unable to execute that contract. Working with Dara and her firm to edit the contract lease and property management company has been informed. But we cannot finalize it until we have signed the contract back from BHA.

CARR will still continue to utilize the PO box address.

**Conclusions:**

August financials approved.

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**Agenda item:** Rural Expansion Update

**Presenter:** Butch Lewis

**Discussion:**

With the delay in contracting from the BHA we lost 3 – 4 months from what originally anticipated, the number of recovery residences has been reduced from 31 down to 25. Funding for those houses has been redistributed.

We had a town hall meeting with all the judicial districts in the state and asked them what their needs were and where recovery residences are most needed. Example: we've been in prior conversations with Cortez in Montezuma County and in La Plata County.

Butch asking boards opinion on assisting Oxford House in Moffat County w/ egress window.

Tonya – has no problem with it, I think we should do it.

The board has no concerns helping Oxford House in this instance.

**Conclusions:**

August financials approved.

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**Agenda item:** Update to training videos

**Presenter:** Butch Lewis

**Discussion:**

Butch to send out a preliminary list of training videos CARR is creating for recovery residences operators. Several have already been created by Fletcher Group, but CARR will be creating videos for Colorado specifically.

Examples: videos on how inspections happen; how the standards are, what the standards mean; how to deescalate issues with clients, how to do a SWOT analysis for opening up a new recovery residence; how do recovery residences operate in rural communities.

We're doing another series with Kim Savage for county attorneys, county commissioners, legalities of recovery residences, ADA & FHA and how they apply in their communities. Some for operators, some for communities, some legal for attorneys & commissioners.

Working with a doctor out of Kentucky to produce content, will include test to go along with videos.

**Conclusions:**

Butch to send out list of training videos being produced to board members when more finalized along with explanation of other videos coming up including expectations and timelines.

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**Agenda item:** Update on new staff positions filled

**Presenter:** Butch Lewis

**Discussion:**

Rourke Weaver has accepted the new Deputy Director position with CARR and is stepping down from the board effective October 4th. He will also be assisting expansion efforts, advocacy with legislation, working w/ Rep. Kennedy and the consortium who are sponsoring a new anti-recovery residence discrimination bill to clarify in statute that recovery residences are single-family homes allowing protection of recovery residences from HOAs and municipalities who are not as familiar with ADA & FHA in hopes to stop these 4 yearlong lawsuits that we've been fighting, expanding CARR's budget to continue supporting staff after the grant funding has ended.

Tonya – does CARR have a registered lobbyist?

Butch – No, we do not have a registered lobbyist.

Taylor Wright accepted the Expansion Manager position. Taylor was formerly with Oxford House for state of Colorado. He understands the law around ADA, FHA and is able to talk to county attorneys and educate municipalities. He would be able to hit the ground running. He also has relationships with investors to assist with expansion projects.

**Conclusions:**

Rourke Weaver accepted the position of Deputy Director and Taylor Wright accepted the position of Expansion Manager.

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***Other Information***

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**Observers:****Resources:****Special notes:**

Reminder that annual CARR Summit is November 9<sup>th</sup> at the Sheraton Denver West on the corner of Union & 6<sup>th</sup> with annual in-person board meeting November 10<sup>th</sup>. Calendar invites will be sent out to board members.

Dara has agreed to speak at the summit on the new medical cannabis policy and new discharge & transfer bill to help operators understand.