

CARR Board Meeting

6/18/24

9AM

Zoom Call

Meeting called by:	Butch Lewis	Type of meeting:	Monthly Meeting
Facilitator:	Butch Lewis	Note taker:	Zoom AI / Christi Romig
Timekeeper:	Christi Romig		

Attendees:	Butch Lewis, Christi Romig, Scott Mounce, Gonzalo Ardavin, Dara Keller, Danielle Gillespe, Alia Andrews, Amy Everet, Cali Peterson, Joy Hart, Tonya Wheeler
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Minutes

Agenda item:	May Financials	Presenter:	Butch Lewis
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Discussion:

- Discussed the 196 Grant and traditional BHA grants.
- Will discuss the fiscal year later in the meeting.
- Requests to approve financials.

Conclusions:

May financials approved.

Agenda item:	Certifications	Presenter:	Butch Lewis
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Discussion:

- Butch discussed the financial challenges with certifications
 - There are 19 certifications scheduled for next week
 - When a house is not approved for certification, he has to reschedule
 - Costs of certification
 - Certification initial visit
 - Travel
 - Findings
 - Documentation
 - Correct in Salesforce
 - Certify residence
- Recovery Residence Operator's portal moving forward - hopefully within 60 days
- 196 Grant expired on 12.31.23 and was extended to 6.30.24
 - CARR may need to go back down to 2 employees
 - Number of grievances increasing
 - Education has to be done - time consuming
 - Currently \$200,000 per year
 - We have a \$700 shortfall per house
 - May need to increase fees
- Scott suggested a 2 year certification rather than every year
 - This inspection every other year will occur if they don't have major infractions or grievances
 - CARR can focus on new recovery residences

- Payment for each year to be paid yearly or both years up front
- Tonya asked if it is realistic for a recovery residence to not have grievances?
- Scott clarified that it is major findings upon inspection
- Cali asked why we can't contract someone to do inspections
- Board discussion
- Consistency is the main issue
 - Investigators interpreting standards is different
 - Issues with time and inspection dates
 - There is an employee law that covers this information
- Increase in fees
- Requires Board vote
 - Requires BHA approval with contract
 - We would have to give notices to operators
- This process is months out
- Concern expressed that people would not keep their houses up if they are not inspected yearly
- Fees would still be yearly
 - A no-notice inspection would occur at 10% of larger organizations residences yearly
- Alia asked if NARR or Peer inspections are a possibility
- Gonzalo states that CARR needs to be 100% sustainable
- This includes an increase in fees
 - CARR is responsible to let operators know there will be an increase
 - Will return money if BHA or grant money allows
 - We should not increase and then decrease - it needs to be consistent
 - This is something that we need to bite the bullet on and have CARR be 100% sustainable
 - Certifications have nothing to do with money
- Amy asked if the increase results in a break even or net positive for CARR?
- Future needs as well as current need to be addressed (staff raises, tax increases, annual increases for software, etc.)
 - Is it better for a big increase at once or smaller ones every few years?
- Butch expressed the concern that the operations that are large are just not going to recertify due to the increase in price. States we already lost 3 large programs.
- Amy asked when the BHA is going to focus on the lack of legal authority to enforce certification requirements.
- Alia states that BHA is in the early stages of discussing legislation to address the issue, but they have no authority to collie uncertified facilities at this time..
- Joy asked for a list of houses not certified.
- Scott states that they cannot receive Signal funding if they are not certified.
- Cali suggested getting a weekly email to treatment centers of the houses that are not certified.
- Suggested a letter letting them know they need to ask if a house is CARR certified.
 - Would like a public real time on website of who is certified with a 30 day grace period
 - No grievances or policies and procedures for programs, but simple information of who is certified and who is avoiding.
- Gonzalo
- Should we do \$700 certification fee and \$840-\$850 per house?
 - Arizona charges the recovery residences \$100/bed/yr and \$200 administrative fee
- Butch explained that currently there is a \$634.99/house deficit - increasing the fee to \$834.99/house/year.
- Dara asked if Board wanted to consider doing fees per bed.
- Discussion that it would need to be based on municipality approved bed and not per occupied bed.
- Current bed count
- 2781 beds today
 - Fees would need to be \$97.62/bed/year or \$120/bed/year for a 20% prudent reserve
- We could raise them for a while until legislation increases grant money and then we can give credit to operators.

- This is going to legislature in 2025
- No findings would result in no fees for operators
- 2 Options:
 1. Switching to \$120/bed/year with reserve (\$100/bed/year to break even)
 2. Increase house fees
- Gonzalo asked when this would be enacted? Would we prorate fees for the year?
- Alia asked who should make decisions - Stakeholder v. Board
- Board will make this decision
- Cali asked if we should hold an open meeting for stakeholders?
- Butch observed that a lot of people will leave
- With the bill being changed, this would not go into effect until 2025.
- Joy stated this won't change for a while.
- Suggested that if the increase is too high, people will just quit. Particularly because there are no consequences to not being certified.
- Is it better to have some fees coming in rather than none?
- Gonzalo asked where programs that are not certified are getting clients?
 - Educate treatment centers
 - If CARR is not sustainable, they cannot continue to be in business
 - Could de-staff CARR and go back to a 2 person skeleton organization
- Suggested that we pair with EHR system
- Scott states that if it will be done in a year, increase the funds \$500/house until next year.
 - Generate some revenue now and increase to per bed next year.
 - Owners have been blessed with a \$500 certification fee
 - Buffer with a slight house increase and then increase to fees per bed
- We will know by May of next year if the bill is passed and legislation goes through.
- Gonzalo reminds everyone that we are talking about something that will happen a year from now. What do we need to do now to remain sustainable without additional state funding?
- Scott asked what's too much right now? States that board should come up with a number that works and increase fees each year.
- Kim Savage is going to do an educational presentation to CML/
- Gonzalo recommends coming up with 3 different packages with criteria to include:
 1. Prudent Reserve
 2. Sustainability
- Gonzalo would like to push this out another month
- Dara states she needs time to think about this
- Options are:
 - \$700 certification fee
 - \$700/house/year or \$120/bed/year

Conclusions:

- Will report next month on criteria through Probation and Parole

Agenda item:	Grievance Policy	Presenter:	Butch Lewis
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Discussion:

- Butch proposed changes to the grievance policies but states we no longer meet the quorum to tackle agenda items.
- Dara suggests that a board vote is not necessary for policy development.
- Butch suggested aligning the grievance policy with BHA's

- Potentially an RRO committee of residents and operators could oversee grievances.
- Gonzalo did not support the idea because there will be no merit - operators should not be regulated by other operators.
- Is it possible to work with Dara after the staff goes through the grievances to decide how they will be solved?

Conclusions:

Grievances will be investigated by staff under the 196 grant

Agenda item:	July meeting	Presenter:	Butch Lewis
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Discussion:

- Butch states he will be out of town for most of July and would like to move the meeting from July 16 to either July 23 or 30.
- Others agree on July 30, 2024.

Conclusions:

-Board invite will be sent for July 30 at 9:00am for the next meeting.

Other Information

Observers: N/A

Resources: N/A

Special notes: N/A