

Agency receives three year accreditation

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For the last 30 years, the Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities has maintained CARF accreditation status. That tradition continues with the recent three-year accreditation given to the agency last week. CARF, which stands for Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, is an international, independent, non-profit organization whose mission is to promote quality and value of services through an accreditation process that centers on enhancing the lives of people served.

Last November the agency hosted three surveyors. They interviewed stakeholders, including individuals and families who receive services, employees and Board members. Areas reviewed included leadership, financial planning and management, risk management, health and safety, human resources, technology, rights of persons served and accessibility.

The accreditation report highlighted the following as strengths exhibited by Board programs, staff and leadership team:

- The Board is commended for developing a computer data tracking system to track accountability and productivity of early intervention services to families.
- The Early Intervention staff was commended for their use of videotaping as a teaching tool to coach parents how to nurture their child's development.
- The adult services program was commended for the development of the sensory studio, which allows individuals who have severe and or multiple disabilities to express themselves and interact with their environment.
- Staff members are well trained and dedicated to the mission of the organization.
- The organization benefits tremendously from the long history of service from tenured staff members.
- Senior management provides excellent leadership and direction for the organization.
- Fiscal oversight of revenue and expenses is well maintained.
- Stakeholders express satisfaction with services and are extremely complimentary of staff performance and the organization's professionalism.
- The organization developed and implemented a School to Adult Life Transition Series program that gives parents, families, students and young adults the opportunity to learn about moving from the world of school to the adult world.
- The Board has been very creative in developing community partnerships.
- The organization has strong community service coordinators, including nurses and staff, to aid in the development of comprehensive services for persons served.
- The organization has developed supports for individuals so they can become employed.

The Butler County Board's accreditation status applies through November 2012.

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