

**CARF Accreditation Report  
for  
Phoenix Resource Center, Inc.  
Three-Year Accreditation**



# Contents

[Executive Summary](#)

[Survey Details](#)

[Survey Participants](#)

[Survey Activities](#)

[Program\(s\)/Service\(s\) Surveyed](#)

[Representations and Constraints](#)

[Survey Findings](#)

[Program\(s\)/Service\(s\) by Location](#)

## 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 an on-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**

Phoenix Resource Center, Inc.  
85 Tyus Carrollton Road  
Carrollton, GA 30117

**Organizational Leadership**

Allison Pressley, MEd, Co-Founder  
Deborah Stewart, LPC, Co-Founder  
Elizabeth Reaves, MEd, LPC, NCC, Program Director

**Survey Number**

124806

**Survey Date(s)**

September 12, 2019–September 13, 2019

**Surveyor(s)**

Thomas Williams, LPC, FACHE, Administrative  
Tisha Johnson, PsyD, Program

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

Outpatient Treatment: Family Services (Adults)  
Outpatient Treatment: Family Services (Children and Adolescents)

**Accreditation Decision****Three-Year Accreditation**

**Expiration: October 31, 2022**

# Executive Summary

This report contains the findings of CARF's on-site survey of Phoenix Resource Center, Inc. conducted September 12, 2019–September 13, 2019. 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, Phoenix Resource Center, Inc. demonstrated substantial conformance to the standards. It is evident that the organization provides excellent behavioral health treatment and is dedicated to ongoing quality improvement. The organization's leadership and staff members are respected and appreciated by the clients and other stakeholders. The organization's professional and dedicated team members provide a safe and attractive therapeutic environment, and the staff members are empowered to provide services efficiently and effectively. The organization clearly strives to meet its mission "to serve children and families by providing outcome focused, preventative, and ethical therapeutic services in an effort to stabilize the living environment through safety, permanency, and well-being." Opportunities for improvement noted in the recommendations in this report relate to financial planning and management, assessments, and person-centered plan development. Phoenix Resource Center demonstrates a strong commitment to its clients and community through the provision of person-centered innovative behavioral health treatment for children and families.

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

**Phoenix Resource Center, Inc. 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 Phoenix Resource Center, Inc. was conducted by the following CARF surveyor(s):

- Thomas Williams, LPC, FACHE, Administrative
- Tisha Johnson, PsyD, 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 Phoenix Resource Center, Inc. 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):

- Outpatient Treatment: Family Services (Adults)
- Outpatient Treatment: Family Services (Children and Adolescents)

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 on-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 Phoenix Resource Center, Inc. demonstrated the following strengths:

- Phoenix Resource Center's board of directors is highly engaged and supportive of the leaders and staff. The director is a family law attorney who has been on the board of the organization since its inception. She was enthusiastic in her praise for the fine work the organization does for many families and individuals in the community.
- The organization is so highly regarded for its support of its employees, clients, and the community that counseling professionals are requesting to be hired and, as a result, the organization has not experienced hiring shortages.
- The office staff members at Phoenix Resource Center displayed a genuine sense of caring for their community, staff, and clients. The office environment exuded collaboration, support, and structure.

- Organizational staff members appear to work well in conjunction with the referral sources, which include the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS), to ensure effective communication and appropriate treatment and community services. When interviewed, representatives from DFCS reported that a strength of staff members was "their responsiveness."
- The cofounders of Phoenix Resource Center displayed dedication to helping the community and providing quality services to the community as well as an ambition to expand their services to help meet additional community needs. They have established an organization that feels and works as a healthy, functional family. This is immediately apparent upon walking through the door to the warm home environment of their clinic, which includes inviting meeting spaces, play areas, pets, music, commitment, and sincerity.
- The organization's child and adolescent biopsychosocial assessment is client focused and comprehensive, and it thoroughly assessed the youth's needs.
- Clients who were interviewed were able to identify treatment goals and objectives that they were working toward in their services. One client reported, "I'm much better than I was when I first started." A client reported that her community counselor is "Probably the best counselor I've ever had!"
- Phoenix Resource Center's use of technology in its community services is forward thinking. The organization has tablets that the community staff members have access to when needed. The organization also encourages the community staff to have laptops to use while in the field and has helped those who needed assistance acquiring electronic devices. The staff members in the community use electronic devices to obtain signatures and also use the internet to provide education to clients.

## 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

#### 1.A.7.c.(1)

#### 1.A.7.d.(1)

It is recommended that Phoenix Resource Center document the designation of a staff member to serve as the organization's compliance officer. The organization should also ensure that training of personnel on corporate compliance includes the role of the compliance officer.

### Consultation

- It is suggested that the organization's current policies and procedures be signed and dated, and the organization might consider adding a signature and date of revision table to these.
- The organization has opportunities to grow, and it is suggested that it seek consultation as needed to consider how best to grow as an organization while preserving its ability to provide the person-centered management it does so well.
- It is suggested that the organization consider utilizing a confidential email or voicemail box that could be accessed by anyone wishing to share a potential compliance concern that could be accessed by leadership, including the members of the board of directors.

## 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.



## 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**

### **1.F.2.b.(1)(a)(i)**

It is recommended that budgets include reasonable projections of revenue.

### **1.F.3.a.**

Actual financial results should be compared to budget.

## **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.

## **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**

There are no recommendations in this area.

### **Consultation**

- It is suggested that the organization enhance its emergency lighting compliance by installing additional emergency lighting.
- It is suggested that the organization enhance the identification of fire extinguisher locations by adding overhead fire extinguisher location signage.
- It is suggested that the organization utilize an automated reminder system, such as an Outlook® calendar reminder, to enhance its drill completion process.

## 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

- The organization currently maintains job descriptions in its Relias training database. It is suggested that the organization also include each staff member's job description in personnel files for ease of access and annual review.

## 1.J. Technology

### Description

CARF-accredited organizations plan for the use of technology to support and advance effective and efficient service and business practices.

### 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.

## **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.

## **1.M. Performance Measurement and Management**

### **Description**

CARF-accredited organizations are committed to continually improving their organizations and service delivery to the persons served. Data are collected and analyzed, and information is used to manage and improve service delivery.

### **Key Areas Addressed**

- Data collection
- Establishment and measurement of performance indicators

### **Recommendations**

There are no recommendations in this area.

## Consultation

- It is suggested that Phoenix Resource Center utilize a dashboard format such as a Walker Grid to illustrate the organization's performance measurement, management, and improvement activities.
- It is suggested that the organization consider utilizing external data sources that could represent program effectiveness, such as data compiled by the state on family restoration.

## 1.N. Performance Improvement

### Description

The dynamic nature of continuous improvement in a CARF-accredited organization sets it apart from other organizations providing similar services. CARF-accredited organizations share and provide the persons served and other interested stakeholders with ongoing information about their actual performance as a business entity and their ability to achieve optimal outcomes for the persons served through their programs and services.

### Key Areas Addressed

- Analysis of performance indicators in relation to performance targets
- Use of performance analysis for quality improvement and organizational decision making
- Communication of performance information

### Recommendations

There are no recommendations in this area.

## Section 2. General Program Standards

### Description

For an organization to achieve quality services, the persons served are active participants in the planning, prioritization, implementation, and ongoing evaluation of the services offered. A commitment to quality and the involvement of the persons served span the entire time that the persons served are involved with the organization. The service planning process is individualized, establishing goals and objectives that incorporate the unique strengths, needs, abilities, and preferences of the persons served. The persons served have the opportunity to transition easily through a system of care.

## 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

- Written program plan
- Crisis intervention provided
- Medical consultation
- Services relevant to diversity
- Assistance with advocacy and support groups
- Team composition/duties

- Relevant education
- Clinical supervision
- Family participation encouraged

### **Recommendations**

- 2.A.25.a.(1)(c)**
- 2.A.25.a.(2)(a)**
- 2.A.25.a.(2)(b)**
- 2.A.25.a.(2)(c)**
- 2.A.25.a.(2)(d)**

The program's policies and procedures should also address the handling of items brought into the program by visitors, including illegal drugs, legal drugs, prescription medication, and weapons.

## **2.B. Screening and Access to Services**

### **Description**

The process of screening and assessment is designed to determine a person's eligibility for services and the organization's ability to provide those services. A person-centered assessment process helps to maximize opportunities for the persons served to gain access to the organization's programs and services. Each person served is actively involved in, and has a significant role in, the assessment process. Assessments are conducted in a manner that identifies the historical and current information of the person served as well as his or her strengths, needs, abilities, and preferences. Assessment data may be gathered through various means including face-to-face contact, telehealth, or written material; and from various sources including the person served, his or her family or significant others, or from external resources.

### **Key Areas Addressed**

- Screening process described in policies and procedures
- Ineligibility for services
- Admission criteria
- Orientation information provided regarding rights, grievances, services, fees, etc.
- Waiting list
- Primary and ongoing assessments
- Reassessments

### **Recommendations**

- 2.B.13.f.(1)**
- 2.B.13.t.**

The assessment process should include information about the person's diagnostic history as well as advance directives, when applicable.

## **2.C. Person-Centered Plan**

### **Description**

Each person served is actively involved in and has a significant role in the person-centered planning process and determining the direction of his or her plan. The person-centered plan contains goals and objectives that incorporate the unique strengths, needs, abilities, and preferences of the person served, as well as identified challenges and

potential solutions. The planning process is person-directed and person-centered. The person-centered plan may also be referred to as an individual service plan, treatment plan, or plan of care. In a family-centered program, the plan may be for the family and identified as a family-centered plan.

### **Key Areas Addressed**

- Development of person-centered plan
- Co-occurring disabilities/disorders
- Person-centered plan goals and objectives
- Designated person coordinates services

### **Recommendations**

**2.C.2.b.(5)**

**2.C.2.c.**

**2.C.2.d.**

**2.C.2.e.(2)**

**2.C.2.e.(3)**

**2.C.2.f.(1)**

**2.C.2.f.(2)**

It is recommended that the person-centered plan include specific service or treatment objectives that are measurable. It is suggested that the organization follow the specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time-based (SMART) format. The person-centered plan should also include identification of specific interventions, modalities, and/or services to be used; the frequency of specific interventions, modalities, or services; when applicable, information on, or conditions for referrals for additional services and/or transition to other community services, such as rehabilitation services for drug use; and, when applicable, identification of legal requirements and/or legally imposed fees, such as any court-ordered restitution or fines.

**2.C.6.a.(1)(a)**

**2.C.6.a.(1)(b)**

**2.C.6.a.(2)**

**2.C.6.a.(4)(a)**

It is recommended that progress notes document progress toward achievement of identified objectives and goals, significant events or changes in the life of the client, and changes in the frequency of services.

## **2.D. Transition/Discharge**

### **Description**

Transition, continuing care, or discharge planning assists the persons served to move from one level of care to another within the organization or to obtain services that are needed but are not available within the organization. The transition process is planned with the active participation of each person served. Transition may include planned discharge, placement on inactive status, movement to a different level of service or intensity of contact, or a re-entry program in a criminal justice system.

The transition plan is a document developed with and for the person served and other interested participants to guide the person served in activities following transition/discharge to support the gains made during program participation. It is prepared with the active participation of person served when he or she moves to another level of care, after-care program, or community-based services. The transition plan is meant to be a plan that the person served uses to identify the support that is needed to prevent a recurrence of symptoms or reduction in functioning. It is expected that the person served receives a copy of the transition plan.

A discharge summary is a clinical document written by the program personnel who are involved in the services provided to the person served and is completed when the person leaves the organization (planned or unplanned). It is a document that is intended for the record of the person served and released, with appropriate authorization, to describe the course of services that the organization provided and the response by the person served.

Just as the assessment is critical to the success of treatment, the transition services are critical for the support of the individual's ongoing recovery or well-being. The organization proactively attempts to connect the persons served with the receiving service provider and contact the persons served after formal transition or discharge to gather needed information related to their post-discharge status. Discharge information is reviewed to determine the effectiveness of its services and whether additional services were needed.

Transition planning may be included as part of the person-centered plan. The transition plan and/or discharge summary may be a combined document or part of the plan for the person served as long as it is clear whether the information relates to transition or pre-discharge planning or identifies the person's discharge or departure from the program.

### **Key Areas Addressed**

- Referral or transition to other services
- Active participation of persons served
- Transition planning at earliest point
- Unplanned discharge referrals
- Plan addresses strengths, needs, abilities, preferences
- Follow up for persons discharged for aggressiveness

### **Recommendations**

There are no recommendations in this area.

## **2.F. Promoting Nonviolent Practices**

### **Description**

CARF-accredited programs strive to create learning environments for the persons served and to support the development of skills that build and strengthen resiliency and well-being. The establishment of quality relationships between personnel and the persons served provides the foundation for a safe and nurturing environment. Providers are mindful of creating an environment that cultivates:

- Engagement.
- Partnership.
- Holistic approaches.
- Nurturance.
- Respect.
- Hope.
- Self direction.

It is recognized that persons served may require support to fully benefit from their services. This may include, but is not limited to, praise and encouragement, verbal prompts, written expectations, clarity of rules and expectations, or environmental supports.

Even with support there are times when persons served may demonstrate signs of fear, anger, or pain that could lead to unsafe behaviors. Personnel are trained to recognize and respond to these behaviors through various interventions, such as changes to the physical environment, sensory-based calming strategies, engagement in meaningful activities,



redirection, active listening, approaches that have been effective for the individual in the past, etc. When these interventions are not effective in de-escalating a situation and there is imminent risk to the person served or others, seclusion or restraint may be used to ensure safety. Seclusion and restraint are never considered treatment interventions; they are always considered actions of last resort.

As the use of seclusion or restraint creates potential physical and psychological risks to the persons subject to the interventions, to the personnel who administer them, and to those who witness the practice, an organization that utilizes seclusion or restraint should have the elimination thereof as its goal.

Seclusion refers to restriction of the person served to a segregated room or space with the person's freedom to leave physically restricted. Voluntary time out is not considered seclusion, even though the voluntary time out may occur in response to verbal direction; the person served is considered in seclusion only if freedom to leave the segregated room or space is denied.

Restraint is the use of physical force or mechanical means to temporarily limit a person's freedom of movement; chemical restraint is the involuntary emergency administration of medication as an immediate response to a dangerous behavior. The following are not considered restraints for the purposes of this section of standards:

- Assistive devices used for persons with physical or medical needs.
- Briefly holding a person served, without undue force, for the purpose of comforting him or her or to prevent self-injurious behavior or injury to others.
- Holding a person's hand or arm to safely guide him or her from one area to another or away from another person.
- Security doors designed to prevent elopement or wandering.
- Security measures for forensic purposes, such as the use of handcuffs instituted by law enforcement personnel. When permissible, consideration is given to removal of physical restraints while the person is receiving services in the behavioral healthcare setting.
- In a correctional setting, the use of seclusion or restraint for purposes of security.

Seclusion or restraint by trained and competent personnel is used only when other, less restrictive measures have been ineffective to protect the person served or others from unsafe behavior. Peer restraint is not an acceptable alternative to restraint by personnel. Seclusion or restraint is not used as a means of coercion, discipline, convenience, or retaliation or in lieu of adequate programming or staffing.

### **Key Areas Addressed**

- Policy addressing how the program will respond to unsafe behaviors of persons served
- Competency-based training for direct service personnel on the prevention of unsafe behaviors
- Policies on the program's use of seclusion and restraint, if applicable
- Competency-based training for personnel involved in the direct administration of seclusion and restraint, if applicable
- Plan for elimination of the use of seclusion and restraint, if applicable
- Written procedures regarding orders for and the use of seclusion and restraint, if applicable
- Review and analysis of the use of seclusion and restraint, if applicable

### **Recommendations**

There are no recommendations in this area.

## 2.G. Records of the Persons Served

### Description

A complete and accurate record is developed to ensure that all appropriate individuals have access to relevant clinical and other information regarding each person served.

### Key Areas Addressed

- Confidentiality
- Timeframes for entries to records
- Individual record requirements
- Duplicate records

### Recommendations

2.G.2.b.

2.G.2.c.

2.G.2.e.

It is recommended that the individual record communicate information in a manner that is clear, complete, and legible, including handwritten documentation.

## 2.H. Quality Records Management

### Description

The organization implements systems and procedures that provide for the ongoing monitoring of the quality, appropriateness, and utilization of the services provided. This is largely accomplished through a systematic review of the records of the persons served. The review assists the organization in improving the quality of services provided to each person served.

### Key Areas Addressed

- Quarterly professional review
- Review current and closed records
- Items addressed in quarterly review
- Use of information to improve quality of services

### Recommendations

There are no recommendations in this area.

## Section 3. Core Treatment Program Standards

### Description

The standards in this section address the unique characteristics of each type of core program area. Behavioral health programs are organized and designed to provide services for persons who have or who are at risk of having psychiatric disorders, harmful involvement with alcohol or other drugs, or other addictions or who have other behavioral health needs. Through a team approach, and with the active and ongoing participation of the persons served, the overall goal of each program is to improve the quality of life and the functional abilities of the persons served. Each program selected for accreditation demonstrates cultural competency and relevance. Family members and significant others are involved in the programs of the persons served as appropriate and to the extent possible.

### **3.O. Outpatient Treatment (OT)**

#### **Description**

Outpatient treatment programs provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services that include, but are not limited to, individual, group, and family counseling and education on wellness, recovery, and resiliency. These programs offer comprehensive, coordinated, and defined services that may vary in level of intensity. Outpatient programs may address a variety of needs, including, but not limited to, situational stressors, family relations, interpersonal relationships, mental health issues, life span issues, psychiatric illnesses, and substance use disorders and other addictive behaviors.

#### **Key Areas Addressed**

- Therapy services
- Education on wellness, recovery, and resiliency
- Accessible services
- Creation of natural supports

#### **Recommendations**

There are no recommendations in this area.

## **Section 5. Specific Population Designation Standards**

### **5.C. Children and Adolescents (CA)**

#### **Description**

Programs for children and adolescents consist of an array of behavioral health services designed specifically to address the treatment needs of children and adolescents. Such programs tailor their services to the particular needs and preferences of children and adolescents and are provided in a setting that is both relevant to and comfortable for this population.

#### **Key Areas Addressed**

- Comprehensive assessments
- Services based on needs of child
- Criminal background checks for staff providing direct services

#### **Recommendations**

There are no recommendations in this area.

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

## Phoenix Resource Center, Inc.

85 Tyus Carrollton Road  
Carrollton, GA 30117

Outpatient Treatment: Family Services (Adults)

Outpatient Treatment: Family Services (Children and Adolescents)