



## **"News You Use" – September 2013**



Ok, folks, it's that time again! Time to gear up for our accreditation visit from CARF! For those of you who don't already know, CARF is the national accrediting body that reviews our agency and then decides the level of accreditation that they believe we deserve.

CARF stands for Commission on Accreditation for Rehabilitation Facilities. Providers are required to obtain a 3-year accreditation in order to provide services for the MH/ID/DD/SAS population in North Carolina.

CARF will be visiting all of our offices in 2014. This will be the third visit we have had from CARF. We received our first accreditation in October of 2008. I am thrilled to let you know that we not only received a 3-year accreditation in 2008, but also received a 3-year accreditation in 2011.

While we have always done very well in our accreditation visits, this is by no means an event that we can just sit back and relax about. CARF visits are tough and require the hard work and dedication of every Universal team member. (This includes all Universal staff, part-time, direct care, support staff, Qualified Professionals, etc.) No one is exempt from the hard work required for this task.

Becoming accredited is a very expensive process and not one that we would want to repeat more frequently than required.

I hope that I have been able to project the seriousness of this upcoming accreditation to everyone. While I have absolutely no doubt that we can obtain another 3-year accreditation, I also know that we must have the entire team on board working toward this goal!

I will give you with more information in November regarding some of the specific areas that CARF will be looking at and some of the things that you will be expected to know and do.

'Til next month,

Tracy Frye,  
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