



# CARF Accreditation Report for It's My Life Kamloops Society Three-Year Accreditation



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## About CARF

CARF is an independent, non-profit 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**

It's My Life Kamloops Society  
#308 – 444 Victoria Street  
Kamloops BC V2C 2A7  
CANADA

**Organizational Leadership**

Dawn Khadikin, Executive Director

**Survey Date(s)**

April 18, 2018–April 20, 2018

**Surveyor(s)**

Nancy L. Gale, M.C.E., CAE, Administrative and Program

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

Community Integration  
Supported Living

**Accreditation Decision**

**Three-Year Accreditation**

**Expiration: April 30, 2021**

# Executive Summary

This report contains the findings of CARF's on-site survey of It's My Life Kamloops Society conducted April 18, 2018–April 20, 2018. 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, It's My Life Kamloops Society demonstrated substantial conformance to the standards. It's My Life Kamloops Society (IMLKS) provides value-driven, high-quality, and person-centred services to the persons served. The board, management, and staff work diligently to provide the best possible services and supports in the homes of the persons served. The service recognizes the unique personalities, gifts, and strengths of the persons served and their families. During the tenure of this accreditation, the organization should focus on the documentation of transition and exit criteria and processes and procedures when the circumstances of a person served change and he/she is found ineligible for services.

It's My Life Kamloops Society appears likely to maintain and/or improve its current method of operation and demonstrates a commitment to ongoing quality improvement. It's My Life Kamloops Society is required to submit a post-survey Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) to CARF that addresses all recommendations identified in this report.

**It's My Life Kamloops Society 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 It's My Life Kamloops Society was conducted by the following CARF surveyor(s):

- Nancy L. Gale, M.C.E., CAE, Administrative and 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 It's My Life Kamloops Society 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):

- Community Integration
- Supported Living

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 It's My Life Kamloops Society demonstrated the following strengths:

- IMLKS, including its board, management, and frontline staff, is recognized by funders, referral sources, parents, and persons served as an organization that honours, respects, and delivers the best possible services and supports in the homes of the persons served and that recognizes the unique personalities, gifts, and strengths of the persons served.
- The executive director has operationalized her commitment; enthusiasm for relentless quality improvement; and person-centred, long-term, and respectful relationships in the organizational culture.
- Multiple feedback loops exist within the organization and provide opportunities for the persons served and their families to converse with leadership, management, and staff to address concerns and share successes. In many instances, family members actively participate in frontline staff recruitment and selection.

- The organization provides extensive resources and education for personnel to provide programs, services, medical supports, and interventions that are relevant, meaningful, and responsive to the changing needs of the persons served and their families.
- After five years of service delivery, the organization appears to be financially solvent and has been able to remain value driven and works collaboratively with the Interior British Columbia Community Services Co-operative (IBCCSC) to enhance fiscal and administrative functions.
- Funders report that the organization has a history of timely reporting and comprehensive documentation. Its knowledge of the persons served is extensive, and positive relationships with families are recognized strengths in providing services to persons with complex health needs.
- Service teams include not only staff but the person served and family members and are encouraged to share experiences, brainstorm ideas, and find solutions together to improve quality of life and outcomes for the persons served so they can have the best life possible.

## 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 non-conformance 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 an 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
- Leadership guidance
- Commitment to diversity
- Corporate responsibility
- Corporate compliance

### Recommendations

There are no recommendations in this area.

### Consultation

- It is suggested that the organization consider expanding its current succession planning to include the board. Furthermore, it is suggested that the organization consider applying the governance standards in its next accreditation survey.

## 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

- Strategic planning considers stakeholder expectations and environmental impacts
- Written strategic plan sets goals
- Plan is implemented, shared, and kept relevant

### Recommendations

There are no recommendations in this area.

### Consultation

- It is suggested that IMLKS consider conducting a collaborator environmental scan to assist with identifying opportunities to diversify or amalgamate contracts as a strategy to meet the changing needs of the persons served.

## 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

- Ongoing collection of information from a variety of sources
- Analysis and integration into business practices
- Leadership response to information collected

### Recommendations

There are no recommendations in this area.

### Consultation

- It is suggested that the organization consider developing an input map to demonstrate visually how the organization obtains input and how this input is collected, analyzed, and used in program planning, performance improvement, strategic planning, and advocacy. Furthermore, this input map could be used in orientation sessions to illustrate the importance of documentation in service delivery, medication monitoring and management, and critical incident reporting.

## 1.E. Legal Requirements

### Description

CARF-accredited organizations comply with all legal and regulatory requirements.

### Key Areas Addressed

- Compliance with all legal/regulatory requirements

### 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

- Budget(s) prepared, shared, and reflective of strategic planning
- Financial results reported/compared to budgeted performance
- Organization review
- Fiscal policies and procedures

- Review of service billing records and fee structure
- Financial review/audit
- Safeguarding funds of persons served

### **Recommendations**

There are no recommendations in this area.

### **Consultation**

- It is suggested that IMLKS consider developing a finance policy with respect to the IBCCSC that defines the role, the reporting relationships, and the responsibilities of each organization in financial planning, management, and reporting.

## **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**

- Identification of loss exposures
- Development of risk management plan
- Adequate insurance coverage

### **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**

- Inspections
- Emergency procedures
- Access to emergency first aid
- Competency of personnel in safety procedures
- Reporting/reviewing critical incidents
- Infection control

### **Recommendations**

There are no recommendations in this area.

## 1.I. Human Resources

### Description

CARF-accredited organizations demonstrate that they value their human resources. It should be evident that personnel are involved and engaged in the success of the organization and the persons they serve.

### Key Areas Addressed

- Adequate staffing
- Verification of background/credentials
- Recruitment/retention efforts
- Personnel skills/characteristics
- Annual review of job descriptions/performance
- Policies regarding students/volunteers, if applicable

### Recommendations

There are no recommendations in this area.

### Consultation

- It is suggested that IMLKS consider expanding its employee turnover review to include a separate analysis of regular full-time and part-time employees from casual staff to determine the turnover rates for each of these employee classifications. This research may provide the opportunity to identify additional strategies to retain employees and reduce turnover rates.
- It is suggested that IMLKS consider amending its annual performance evaluations to include only annual goals that pertain to the job competencies. Furthermore, it is suggested that a summary of the previous year's performance objectives be added to the performance evaluation form and that employees be encouraged to complete their self-reflection prior to the annual performance 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

- Written technology and system plan
- Written procedures for the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) in service delivery, if applicable
- Training for personnel, persons served, and others on ICT equipment, if applicable
- Provision of information relevant to the ICT session, if applicable
- Maintenance of ICT equipment in accordance with manufacturer recommendations, if applicable
- Emergency procedures that address unique aspects of service delivery via ICT, if applicable

### Recommendations

There are no recommendations in this area.

### Consultation

- It is suggested that IMLKS tie the technology plan with other plans, including accessibility, risk, and strategic plans, and address the role of technology in performance improvement.

## 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

- Communication of rights
- Policies that promote rights
- Complaint, grievance, and appeals policy
- Annual review of complaints

### 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

- Written accessibility plan(s)
- Requests for reasonable accommodations

### Recommendations

There are no recommendations in this area.

### Consultation

- It is suggested that the technology plan be referenced in the accessibility plan and highlight how proposed projects will address identified barriers in attitudes and communication.

## 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

- Information collection, use, and management
- Setting and measuring performance indicators

### Recommendations

There are no recommendations in this area.

## 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

- Proactive performance improvement
- Performance information shared with all stakeholders

### Recommendations

There are no recommendations in this area.

## Section 2. Quality Individualized Services and Supports

### 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

- Services are person-centred and individualized
- Persons are given information about the organization's purposes and ability to address desired outcomes
- Documented scope of services shared with stakeholders
- Service delivery based on accepted field practices
- Communication for effective service delivery
- Entrance/exit/transition criteria

#### Recommendations

##### 2.A.3.b.

##### 2.A.3.c.

Based on the scope of each program/service provided, the organization should document its transition and exit criteria.

##### 2.A.4.a.

##### 2.A.4.b.(1)

##### 2.A.4.b.(2)

##### 2.A.4.c.

When a person served is found ineligible for services, the organization should ensure that the person served is informed as to the reasons; in accordance with the choice of the person served, the family/support system and the referral source are informed as to the reasons; and recommendations are made for alternative services.

## **2.B. Individual-Centred Service Planning, Design, and Delivery**

### **Description**

Improvement of the quality of an individual's services/supports requires a focus on the person and/or family served and their identified strengths, abilities, needs, and preferences. The organization's services are designed around the identified needs and desires of the persons served, are responsive to their expectations and desired outcomes from services, and are relevant to their maximum participation in the environments of their choice.

The person served participates in decision making, directing, and planning that affects his or her life. Efforts to include the person served in the direction or delivery of those services/supports are evident.

### **Key Areas Addressed**

- Services are person-centred and individualized
- Persons are given information about the organization's purposes and ability to address desired outcomes

### **Recommendations**

There are no recommendations in this area.

## **2.C. Medication Monitoring and Management**

### **Key Areas Addressed**

- Current, complete records of medication used by persons served
- Written procedures for storage and safe handling of medications
- Educational resources and advocacy for persons served in decision making
- Physician review of medication use
- Training and education for persons served regarding medications

### **Recommendations**

There are no recommendations in this area.

## **2.E. Community Services Principle Standards**

### **Description**

An organization seeking CARF accreditation in the area of community services assists the persons and/or families served in obtaining access to the resources and services of their choice. The persons and/or families served are included in their communities to the degree they desire. This may be accomplished by direct service provision or linkages to existing opportunities and natural supports in the community.

The organization obtains information from the persons and/or families served regarding resources and services they want or require that will meet their identified needs, and offers an array of services it arranges for or provides. The organization provides the persons and/or families served with information so that they may make informed choices and decisions.

The services and supports are changed as necessary to meet the identified needs of the persons and/or families served and other stakeholders. Service designs address identified individual, family, socioeconomic, and cultural needs.

Expected results from these services may include:

- Increased or maintained inclusion in meaningful community activities.
- Increased or maintained ability to perform activities of daily living.
- Increased self-direction, self-determination, and self-reliance.
- Increased self-esteem.

#### **Key Areas Addressed**

- Access to community resources and services
- Enhanced quality of life
- Community inclusion
- Community participation

#### **Recommendations**

There are no recommendations in this area.

## **Section 4. Community Services**

### **Description**

An organization seeking CARF accreditation in the area of community services assists the persons served through an individualized person-centred process to obtain access to the services, supports, and resources of their choice to achieve their desired outcomes. This may be accomplished by direct service provision, linkages to existing generic opportunities and natural supports in the community, or any combination of these. The persons served are included in their communities to the degree they desire.

The organization provides the persons served with information so that they may make informed choices and decisions. Although we use the phrase person served, this may also include family served, as appropriate to the service and the individual.

The services and supports are arranged and changed as necessary to meet the identified desires of the persons served. Service designs address identified individual, family, socioeconomic, and cultural preferences.

Depending on the program's scope of services, expected results from these services/supports may include:

- Increased inclusion in community activities.
- Increased or maintained ability to perform activities of daily living.
- Increased self-direction, self-determination, and self-reliance
- Self-esteem.
- Housing opportunities.
- Community citizenship.
- Increased independence.
- Meaningful activities.
- Increased employment options.

## 4.G. Community Integration (COI)

### Description

Community integration is designed to help persons to optimize their personal, social, and vocational competency to live successfully in the community. Persons served are active partners in determining the activities they desire to participate in. Therefore, the settings can be informal to reduce barriers between staff members and persons served. An activity centre, a day program, a clubhouse, and a drop-in centre are examples of community integration services. Consumer-run programs are also included.

Community integration provides opportunities for the community participation of the persons served. The organization defines the scope of these services and supports based on the identified needs and desires of the persons served. This may include services for persons who without this option are at risk of receiving services full-time in more restrictive environments with intensive levels of supports such as hospitalization or nursing home care. A person may participate in a variety of community life experiences or interactions that may include, but are not limited to:

- Leisure or recreational activities.
- Communication activities.
- Spiritual activities.
- Cultural activities.
- Pre-vocational experiences.
- Vocational pursuits.
- Volunteerism in the community.
- Educational and training activities.
- Development of living skills.
- Health and wellness promotion.
- Orientation, mobility, and destination training.
- Access and utilization of public transportation.
- Interacting with volunteers from the community in program activities.
- Community collaborations and social connections developed by the program (partnerships with community entities such as senior centres, arts councils, etc.).

### Key Areas Addressed

- Opportunities for community participation

### Recommendations

There are no recommendations in this area.

## 4.I. Supported Living (SL)

### Description

Supported living addresses the desires, goals, strengths, abilities, needs, health, safety, and life span issues of persons usually living in their own homes (apartments, townhouses, or other residential settings). Supported living services are generally long-term in nature but may change in scope, duration, intensity, or location as the needs and preferences of individuals change over time.

Supported living refers to the support services provided to the person served, not the residence in which these services are provided. A sampling of people receiving services/supports in these sites will be visited as part of the interview process. Although the residence will generally be owned, rented, or leased by the person who lives there,

the organization may occasionally rent or lease an apartment when the person served is unable to do so. Typically, in this situation the organization would co-sign or in other ways guarantee the lease or rental agreement; however, the person served would be identified as the tenant.

Supported living programs may be referred to as supported living services, independent living, supportive living, semi-independent living, and apartment living; and services/supports may include home health aide and personal care attendant services. Typically there would not be more than two or three persons served living in a residence, no house rules or structure would be applied to the living situation by the organization, and persons served can come and go as they please. Service planning often identifies the number of hours and types of support services provided.

The home or individual apartment of the person served, even when the organization holds the lease or rental agreement on behalf of the person served, is not included in the survey application or identified as a site on the accreditation outcome.

Some examples of the quality results desired by the different stakeholders of these services/supports include:

- Persons served achieving choice of housing, either rent or ownership.
- Persons served choosing whom they will live with, if anyone.
- Minimizing individual risks.
- Persons served have access to the benefits of community living.
- Persons served have autonomy and independence in making life choices.

### **Key Areas Addressed**

- Safe, affordable, accessible housing chosen by the individual
- In-home safety needs
- Support personnel available based on needs
- Supports available based on needs and desires
- Living as desired in the community
- Persons have opportunities to access community activities

### **Recommendations**

There are no recommendations in this area.

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

## **It's My Life Kamloops Society**

#308 – 444 Victoria Street  
Kamloops BC V2C 2A7  
CANADA

Community Integration  
Supported Living