

Proposed (SOR) Programmatic and Sober Housing Services Expansion with Medication Assisted Recovery Hub and Spoke Model



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Background: Bonfire Recovery Services is an invaluable resource for chemically addicted individuals who want to achieve permanent sobriety and healthy reintegration with society. Their mission is to provide the highest quality recovery services at an affordable cost to our clients who live with a substance use disorder, as well as engage in meaningful service to our general community.

Founded in 2014, Bonfire Recovery Services, LLC has become the premiere model for sober living for men that has been replicated in other areas of NH and their expanded model has shown promising, demonstrative outcomes through data collected using Appreciate Inquiry (AI), tracking life skills gained, quality and length of sobriety among its residents and graduated individuals.

Located in downtown Dover, it's location search was critical, so residents could have access to employment and transportation services, thereby affording residents the opportunity to expand their life skills and develop a strong foundation of recovery.

Since its inception, Bonfire has expanded their programmatic offerings to Behavioral Health services, Neuro-Feedback, formalized relationships with area employment services as well as be a company that gives back to its community through various services projects that increases self-confidence of Bonfire residents and has an impact on the community. There is no shaming of residents of Bonfire; the Dover community has come to rely on the strengths and skills of Bonfire residents and rallies around their success. We hope to see every community that Bonfire locates in can provide the same supportive community.

Capacity: Bonfire has access to staff with retired veteran status, staff that have overcome justice involvement and maintained their sobriety and has key relationships with area jails and drug courts. Bonfire has insurance and billing components in place as well as a sliding fee scale for the uninsured. A few key elements that make Bonfire different from other sober living locations is that it also has rolled out behavioral health supports that include an intensive outpatient program for residents and non-residents and this will be expanded to various day and evening schedules to align with the needs of the client.

Additionally, Bonfire has relationships with a variety of medical providers who could become the Medication Assisted Recovery administrator, for residents who need medication, with the hope of titrating down drugs such as Suboxone and Vivitrol over the generally accepted timeline in SAMHSA's guidance documents. Client goals as part of treatment planning are geared towards stabilization for those with mental health issues that may require medication to treat the underlying mental health diagnosis. There is a Master's level LADC on staff who oversees behavioral health staff, components of behavioral health programming and provides supervision per the licensing board for the State of NH. Other therapies utilized include neurofeedback, access to Boost Outdoors,

an adventure-based program for people in recovery and EMDR which has shown great promise when working with clients who have PTSD as well as Trauma.

Proposed: Bonfire seeks to implement a state-wide expansion. We believe our primary behavioral and substance use disorder strategies that honor clients' dignity and reintegrates them slowly back into the community.

The focus would be to expand one-two locations in the North Country, one location in western NH, such as the Claremont area and if funding and finance options are available for upgrades to appropriate properties that have dual locations, we intend to offer behavioral health outpatient services for non-residents. We are carefully eyeing the possibility of opening a partial hospitalization model in one location. Andrew West, Executive Director, has extensive experience in bringing buildings up to code to meet the local inspections criteria and zoning demands and is well versed in the state's licensing guidelines. Much of this work would require Andrew to add staff to run some of the day to day operations related to grant oversight, state reporting and oversight of grant outcomes.

Bringing buildings up to code and zoning compliance is a costly endeavor, and Bonfire would need to work with the state as well as municipalities to determine fit and feasibility of sober living locations. Bonfire can only bill the grant if all avenues of funding have been exhausted by a client's insurance and personal income, however, since this grant would not allow funding for bricks and mortar, we would need to work with stakeholders from a variety of agencies to cover the costs of needed upgrades, if buildings are not available with the needed and required code compliance. Such stakeholders to approach include NH Housing Finance Authority, Community Action Program's and potential Community Development Block Grants to assist funding renovations of proposed locations. Bonfire is shovel ready to accept these funds and open very quickly.

Below is an illustration of how we envision the Hub and Spoke model working in tandem with all elements a resident would need to gain and sustain long term sobriety and prevent recidivism. Bonfire is committed to expanding its services because the need is so great. For now, services within the recovery housing program would be limited to men, and if successful over the next two years, Bonfire may consider a women's sober living demonstration project.

Bonfire and its staff is uniquely positioned to bring its experience and values to other areas of the state that need recovery supportive housing which offers medication assisted recovery. We believe all clients should be provided services with humility and dignity as the cornerstone of any relationship between staff and client.

