



## **MINUTES**

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC) Division  
Broward County Substance Abuse Advisory Board  
March 30th, 2022

### **Members Present**

Brewton, Greg  
Checke, Christopher  
Coberly, Stephanie  
Hatfield, Matthew  
Nelson-Wernick, Eleanor  
Rapaglia, Ray  
Resnick, Charles  
Smyth, Garry  
Speiser, Mark, Judge  
Sobelman, Jonathan

### **Members Absent**

Frohring, Linda  
Greene, Jeff  
Hurt, Kathy

### **ALSO PRESENT**

Jack Feinberg Division Director  
Keith Bostick, Deputy Director Human Services  
Gerard John, Clinical Director, BARC  
Patricia Bailey, Recording Secretary  
Salvatore Torre, Recording Secretary

### **Location**

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC)  
Via Microsoft TEAMS

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Stephanie Coberly, at 8:05 am, via TEAMS.

### **Quorum**

It was determined a quorum was present.

### **Minutes**

The draft minutes from the February 23rd, 2022 meeting were presented for approval. Ms. Eleanor Nelson-Wernick moved to accept the minutes from the February 23rd, 2022 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded Mr. Christopher Checke and carried unanimously by all members present.



Ms. Coberly welcomed board members and turned the floor over to Director Jack Feinberg for the Division Report.

### **Division Report**

Mr. Jack Feinberg reported no major COVID outbreaks or issues for BARC over the last month. Broward County has changed protocols concerning masks and social distancing requirements. However, BARC was successful in having special protocols remain in place due to Dr. Fahie issuing a standing order that BARC is a medical treatment facility which deals with clients who are immunocompromised. BARC facilities are continuing with masks and social distancing requirements at this for staff and client safety.

Mr. Feinberg moved on to speak about the resumption of in-house services for both Out-Patient and Intensive Out-Patient services. So far all is going well with the resumption of in-person groups and clients returning back to the facilities. Census for both the Detox Unit and Residential have been on the increase, being raised in small increments. However, at a point now that the current staffing issues are hindering the continued return back to full capacity.

Mr. Feinberg spoke on the efforts to improve the current staffing issues. The Human Services Division has created the 'Star Team' to address this important issue.

Mr. Keith Bostick asked to speak on this issue. Mr. Bostick explained that the Star initiative is an internal team of the Human Services Department that is tasked to not only seek to expedite and to improve staffing issues, but also to examine why current staff are departing, why they choose to work for the county initially, and what recommendations might be made to help retain them. Star is an acronym for Support Talent Acquisition & Retention. This team is looking at all elements to retain staff and coming up with new and creative ideas to be more competitive. Working within a large county system offers challenges but the Star Team will be compiling a report to county administration requesting certain changes and improvements in the recruitment and retention of much needed staffing.

Mr. Feinberg went on to report on the recent DCF Tri-Annual Licensing Review for BARC. Although the final report has not been issued, licensing was renewed, and all appears to indicate a good final report. BARC's review was the first large program to come under the DCF regulatory specifications under the direct supervision of Tallahassee. Many community partners have concerns on the monetary fines that DCF can now impose. BARC has no Level One violation – and items identified have already had corrective action plans submitted.

Mr. Feinberg was happy to state that all recent audits by The Joint Commission, FADAA, BBHC, Dept. of Health and DCF have all gone very well. Speaks highly of the quality of staff and the level of professionalism at BARC.



Mr. Feinberg inquired if the current BARC vacancy list had been distributed to the board. Sal Torre stated that the vacancy list along with instructions on how potential applicants can access the Careers site on the county website, Broward.org, would be distributed to board members by tomorrow, 03-31-2022. The electronic version of the recruitment pamphlet for the position of Director of Nursing will also be distributed to board members. This will give board members the opportunity to share the information with colleagues and to direct possible candidates to apply.

Ms. Coberly thanked Mr. Feinberg for his report and asked board members if there were any questions on the Directors Report. Seeing no additional questions, Ms. Coberly moved to the Members Forum portion of the meeting.

### **Members Forum**

Mr. Checke encouraged all members who have funders, to request a review and increases in current reimbursement rates. Inflation and employment costs are creating the need for reimbursement rates to be adjusted. Mr. Checke asked all board members to advocate for these needed adjustments.

Mr. Jonathan Sobelman echoed the concerns of the challenges for mental health professionals in the current and future labor market. Stated that with demand increasing for mental health professionals and with supply down – funding sources will need to adjust to deal with this new reality.

Mr. Checke raised the question on conducting in-person meetings and asked fellow members for their feedback on the issue. The topic also raised the question on conducting quarterly meetings rather than the current monthly board meetings. Judge Mark Speiser stated his preference for quarterly meetings and a hybrid meeting structure, so that those not able or willing to meet in-person can still participate in a virtual manner. Ms. Eleanor Nelson-Wernick voiced support for in-person meetings. Mr. Greg Brewton stated that since his appointment to the board took place during COVID restrictions, he has never met the full board in-person and lacks this vital part of being a member.

Mr. Bostick suggested that the board liaison reach out to the county's Intergovernmental Affairs department for guidance on both issues- the in-person meetings and conducting quarterly meetings. Mr. Salvatore Torre will inquire and report back to the board concerning these two questions.

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Ms. Coberly inquired if there was any additional business to discuss, seeing none, asked for a motion to adjourn, Mr. Hatfield so motioned, Mr. Checke seconded, meeting was adjourned at 8.50am.