



MINUTES

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC) Division
Broward County Substance Abuse Advisory Board
June 29th, 2022

Members Present

Brewton, Greg
Checke, Christopher
Greene, Jeff
Hatfield, Matthew
Hurt, Kathy
Nelson-Wernick, Eleanor
Rapaglia, Ray
Resnick, Charles
Smyth, Garry
Speiser, Mark, Judge
Sobelman, Jonathan

Members Absent

Coberly, Stephanie
Frohring, Linda

ALSO PRESENT

Jack Feinberg Division Director
Salvatore Torre, Recording Secretary

Location

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC)
Community Room

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Christopher Checke at 7:35am, in the absence of President Stephanie Coberly.

Quorum

It was determined a quorum was present.

Minutes

The draft minutes from the April 27th, 2022, meeting were presented for approval. Ms. Kathy Hurt moved to accept the minutes from the April 27th, 2022, meeting as presented. The motion was seconded Judge Mark Speiser and carried unanimously by all members present.

Mr. Checke welcomed board members to the first in-person meeting of the Substance Abuse Advisory Board since the COVID pandemic began over two years ago, with the last in-person meeting being held on February 26th, 2020. Upon completion of welcoming members and introductions, Mr. Checke turned the floor over to Director Jack Feinberg for the Division Report.

Division Report



Mr. Jack Feinberg advised that the Division has been working to bring the census back up to full capacity of 50 clients. Detox Unit census currently at 41 clients. Maintenance issues with two Detox rooms has temporarily restricted the census from being even higher. This is a long way from where BARC Detox has been during most of the COVID outbreak, when capacity was diminished to approximately 25 clients, or about half capacity.

One the main obstacles facing BARC currently is the on-going staff shortages that is plaguing not only BARC but county-wide. BARC currently has 80 active vacancies. Human Resources is actively seeking to fill these positions, but the process will take some time. Mr. Feinberg mentioned the many positives for working for Broward County, such as benefits package and job security.

Mr. Feinberg discussed current trends in recruitment and on the lack of individuals becoming licensed professionals, who are becoming much harder to find and recruit. BARC is currently looking at utilizing additional Peer Mentors and peer support to assist with current staff shortages and to become more recovery orientated.

Mr. Feinberg moved on to his next topic – of informing the board of the recent violent assault on a BARC Admissions staff that took place right outside of the Front Entrance. The Admissions staff member was seeking to assist the client with information, when he was punched in the face resulting with both individuals falling to the ground in a struggle before Security could intervene.

Mr. Feinberg reported that BARC staff are seeing a growing number of people seeking services with far greater needs than just substance use disorders. Even though BARC is able to handle some level of co-occurrence disorders, BARC is not equipped to handle clients with more advanced mental health issues. Additionally, this issue poses a very dangerous work environment for BARC staff.

Unfortunately, when dealing with those in need of detox, the emergence of certain disorders might not emerge until 2 to 3 days into treatment, since these symptoms are masked by the more visible addiction issues. Keeping such clients at BARC is no longer do-able and pose a very real risk to both the other clients in treatment and to BARC staff. Community providers of services need to do a better job in documenting such cases and must be educated in not directing such clients to BARC for treatment, especially without disclosing such information. Human Services and County Administration must lead a major initiative to bring about the change needed with all players receiving funding from the county.

Mr. Feinberg went on to discuss the very poor response time from Fort Lauderdale Police Department. Thankfully a BSO officer came on the scene for an unrelated issue and was able to assist and request a Fort Lauderdale response.



Upon completion of the Director's Report- Vice President Checke opened the floor to questions from board members.

Judge Mark Speiser expressed concern over the response time from Fort Lauderdale Police. Both Judge Speiser and Mr. Checke suggested having a meeting with Fort Lauderdale Mayor Dean Trantalis – so that his office is more aware of the service BARC provides and the special needs – such as security and emergency response that are required when needed.

Mr. Garry Smyth pointed out the need for better community awareness of the scope of services that BARC provides. Providers need to understand that BARC is a substance abuse facility and those with greater mental health needs and other disorders need to be directed to a central receiving facility within the county.

Members Forum

Mr. Matthew Hatfield inquired about the additional parking lot that was discussed prior to COVID and about the solar panel coverage installed over the existing lot.

Mr. Feinberg stated that the solar panels have been in place for some time now- which shows how long of a period it has been since the last in-person meeting of the advisory board here at BARC Central.

Mr. Feinberg went on to discuss the possibility of utilizing the adjacent property not only for additional parking but for an expansion of BARC to include an additional 15-25 beds for specialized detox needs, such as pregnant female clients. The expansion is tied to the settlement money from opioid litigation that would be allocated to municipalities throughout Broward County. Funding can be up to 82 million dollars but spread out over 18 years.

Judge Speiser requested that the advisory board and BARC look to have some tangible tribute to Rocky Rodriguez who recently passed away in April. Judge Speiser suggested a plaque affixed to the building naming the facility in his honor and to commemorate his many years of advocacy and hard work to bring about this current facility here in Broward County.

Mr. Feinberg responded that the county has a process in place for such matters and the board can look into this if it so chooses.

Board members discussed possible options and if best to petition their respective County Commissioners for support.

After discussion a Motion was made by Mr. Jeff Greene – Request to have BARC Central's Community Room named the Rocky Rodriguez Community Room with a commemorative plaque installed within. Letter of Request to be drafted by the Substance Abuse Advisory Board and delivered to BARC Director Jack Feinberg so that he can deliver to County Administration for consideration.

Motion seconded by Kathy Hurt.

Motion passed unanimously by members present.



Workshop Meetings

The board was canvassed to see if there was an interest or need to schedule a workshop meeting during the months of July and August, prior to the next regularly scheduled quarterly meeting on September 28th, 2022. All in agreement that no workshops were needed at this time and will discuss the possibility for October and November at the next quarterly meeting in September.

Meeting Adjourned

Mr. Checke inquired if there was any additional business to discuss, seeing none, asked for a motion to adjourn, Mr. Jeff Greene so motioned, Mr. Hatfield seconded, meeting was adjourned at 8:40 AM.