

MINUTES

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC) Division
Broward County Substance Abuse Advisory Board
October 30, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT

Christopher Checke
Stephanie Coberly
Jodi Cowart
Linda Frohring
Jeff Greene
Matthew Hatfield
Kathy Hurt
Eleanor Nelson-Wernick (T)
Ray Rapaglia
Charles Resnick
Garry Smyth
Jonathan Sobelman
Mark Speiser

MEMBERS ABSENT

ALSO PRESENT

Jack Feinberg, Division Director
Patricia Bailey, Recording Secretary
Sal Torre, Recording Secretary
Karen Gordon, Assistant County Attorney
Janet Downie, BARC Behavioral Health Clinician representing PEAT Committee
Yvette Torres, BARC Behavioral Health Clinician representing PEAT Committee

Location

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC)
325 SW 28th Street
Community Room
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Stephanie Coberly, at 7:32 am.

Quorum

It was determined a quorum was present.

Introduction of New Member

Mr. Ray Rapaglia was introduced as the newest member of the Board, recently appointed by Mayor Mark Bogen. Mr. Rapaglia relayed a little about why he chose to serve on this committee.

Minutes

The minutes from the September 25, 2019 meeting were presented for approval. Mr. Jeff Greene mentioned a typographical correction with his name. Ms. Linda Frohring made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Charles Resnick and carried unanimously by all members present.

Public Education and Awareness Team (PEAT Committee)

Ms. Janet Downie and Ms. Yvette Torres, both Behavioral Health Clinicians with BARC, presented information regarding the PEAT Committee and the services they provide to the county. An informational folder was provided to all members showing some of the information shared at community events. Additionally, they asked the Advisory Board if there were any events they would like BARC to attend.

Handouts are attached hereto.

Director's Report

There was some discussion about creating a link between BARC and Baker Act or Marchman Act clients. Judge Mark Speiser expressed concerns about these clients falling through the cracks, the need for transportation and transitional housing. Mr. Jack Feinberg advised that there are some providers working as an ad hoc committee to identify the missing pieces and how to fill the gaps.

Mr. Christopher Checke relayed there is a lack of funding to provide such things as transportation. Several years ago, there was an abundance of bus passes, but with changing times and economics, there are fewer and fewer available. Mr. Feinberg advised that BARC has recognized the need for supportive housing and in fact requested additional funding for this in FY2020. Unfortunately, this request was denied.

Mr. Feinberg discussed the Criminal Mental Health Project (CMHP), the Mental Health Diversion Facility (MHDF) and the Forensic Alternative Center of Miami-Dade County. They seem to have developed a well working program to reach the many "repeat users" of community services that other diversion programs have failed to assist. While the major focus of this program is mental health assistance, through case management they are able to assist many people who have persistently fallen through the cracks.

Mr. Feinberg mentioned that two FBI agents visited the BARC Central Facility yesterday. They have set up an office in Margate, Florida and are investigating insurance fraud by substance abuse providers. They did not think that BARC was involved in any fraud, but they thought BARC might be aware of unscrupulous providers.

Karen Gordon, Assistant County Attorney

Ms. Stephanie Coberly introduced Ms. Karen Gordon. Ms. Gordon is the Assistant County Attorney assigned to support the Substance Abuse Advisory Board. Ms. Coberly explained that for many years the Advisory Board focused on the new building. Now that staff have moved into the new building, the Advisory Board is looking for some guidance and clarity for future endeavors. Ms. Gordon explained that the while the ordinance is vague, it is also very clear in that the Board performs an advisory role. She

stressed the importance of not crossing over those advisory parameters into the operational issues of BARC.

Ms. Gordon used the example of bus passes to illustrate her point. She explained that if the Advisory Board identifies the need to make bus passes available for clients to travel between various locations, they can discuss the need and options at a meeting. They could research how the clients would benefit and, if appropriate, the number bus passes needed and cost. As a group, they would come to a consensus on all aspects and write up the details, including the benefit to the community. Mr. Feinberg would then take it up to the Department.

She summarized:

- Identify a need
- Discuss it at a meeting
- Do your research
- Come to a consensus
- Write it up, explaining how it would benefit the community
- Have Mr. Feinberg take it up the chain of command

Community Room Improvement Estimate

Mr. Jack Feinberg advised that the Division is looking to make audio/visual improvements to the Community Room. The estimate that has been obtained is for a little under \$50,000 and would include: a SMART Board, projector, screen, amplifiers and microphone. The Division would also like to include a telephone integrated audio system to allow teleconferences. This would be the first use of the funds which the Advisory Board previously bestowed to the Division to use for enhancements to the new building

Ms. Karen Gordon advised that the revised County Ordinance requires the Advisory Board create a Broward County Substance Abuse Advisory Board Trust Fund Committee consisting of at least three (3) members. One (1) member shall be the Director of the Broward Addiction Recovery Division ("BARC"), and the remaining members shall be appointed by the Substance Abuse Advisory Board. Further, Ms. Gordon advised that no trust monies shall be disbursed from the Broward County Substance Abuse Advisory Board Trust Fund unless such expenditures have been authorized by a majority of the Trust Fund Committee and approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

Mr. Garry Smyth made a motion to appoint the Advisory Board President, Ms. Stephanie Coberly and the Treasurer, Judge Mark Speiser as the other two members of the Trust Fund Committee. This was seconded by Mr. Matthew Hatfield and carried unanimously by all members present.

Judge Speiser requested a specific estimate to include all the details and a final cost. Mr. Feinberg will obtain an updated estimate and present to the Trust Fund Committee for formal approval. In a show of support for this expense, Mr. Jeff Greene made a motion to approve the expenditure. This was seconded by Ms. Jodi Cowart and carried unanimously by all members present.

Adjourn for the Holidays

Mr. Christopher Checke made a motion that the Advisory Board adjourn for the months of November and December 2019, to allow Board Members to travel and be with their families during the holiday season. This Motion was seconded by Mr. Garry Smyth, and carried unanimously by all members present. The next meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2020.

Ms. Karen Gordon clarified that although the Advisory Board was adjourning until January 2020, the Trust Fund Committee could meet at anytime and approve the disbursement.

Adjourn

There being no further issues, on motion made by Ms. Linda Frohring, seconded by Mr. Matthew Hatfield, and carried unanimously by all members present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 a.m.