



MINUTES

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC) Division
Broward County Substance Abuse Advisory Board
April 28th, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brewton, Greg
Coberly, Stephanie
Cowart, Jodi
Checke, Christopher
Greene, Jeff
Hatfield, Matthew
Hurt, Kathy
Nelson-Wernick, Eleanor
Rapaglia, Ray
Resnick, Charles
Smyth, Gary
Sobelman, Jonathan

MEMBERS ABSENT

Speiser, Mark
Frohring, Linda

ALSO PRESENT

Keith Bostick, Assistant Director Human Services Department
William Card, Assistant Division Director
Patricia Bailey, Recording Secretary

Location

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC)
Via Microsoft TEAMS

Call to Order

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

Quorum

It was determined a quorum was present.

Minutes

The minutes from the March 31st, 2021 meeting were presented for approval. Ms. Eleanor Nelson-Wernick moved to accept the minutes from the March 31st, 2021 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charles Resnick and carried unanimously by all members present.

Division Report



Mr. William Card advised that Mr. Jack Feinberg was out of the office and he would be sitting in for him. He advised that BARC recently completed The Joint Commission full re-accreditation survey with very minimal issues. The surveyors were very complimentary of our competency evaluations. The Joint Commission requires that we evaluate competency every three years, but BARC takes competency much more seriously as evidenced by the frequency in which we evaluate all of our staff. Each job title has a competency specific to that position. Staff are evaluated at orientation, at three months and annually thereafter. The competency evaluation allows for self-evaluation as well as supervisor input.

BARC is gradually increasing the client census, keeping social distancing in mind. Dr. Fahie is an integral part of the decision-making process as we go forward. The Division is trying to coordinate with the Department of Health to offer vaccinations to our residential clients; an extra step to help ensure the wellbeing of our staff and clients.

Mr. Keith Bostick expressed his congratulations to the entire BARC Division on continuing to maintain their high standards and completing the re-accreditation process in such a positive manner. He also expressed his sincere appreciation and wanted to thank the Board publicly and personally for their continual support of the agency.

Mr. Bostick mentioned that the County is currently in Budget season and we are continually looking for ways to sustain the services we currently provide and where possible find supplemental funds to improve and expand our services.

Mr. Bostick shared that a nurse who had been with the Division for over 32 years recently passed away. The County made the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) available for entire agency and asked that the Board keep BARC in their hearts and prayers as they go through this loss.

President's Report

During the March 2021 meeting, Ms. Stephanie Coberly encouraged the Board Members to send a letter to their County Commissioners informing them of BARC's stellar performance during the recent Joint Commission survey. Ms. Eleanor Nelson-Wernick, Mr. Christopher Checke and Ms. Coberly all advised that they had reached out to their Commissioners but had not heard back.

Ms. Coberly suggested that "Members Forum" be added to the agenda instead of or in addition to the "President's Report". She encouraged Members to suggest speakers or specific topics they would like brought to the meeting.

Ms. Coberly mentioned that Texas customs agents had recently seized over \$4 million worth of suspected methamphetamine hidden inside a tractor-trailer carrying pickles. After



hearing that story, she reached out to local DEA officials and inquired about methamphetamines coming into South Florida and learned that they are increasing at alarming levels.

Mr. Christopher Checke indicated he has seen increased use in the community. However, traditionally when specific drug usages are tracked, methamphetamine use tends to remain low. This is not necessarily because usage is low, but because it tends to be underreported. This is due in large part because many people who use this drug are migrant farm workers and other low-income persons who use it to stay awake and work long hours as well as members of the LGBTQ community. These groups are often overlooked or fail to self-report, skewing the true statistics. Mr. William Card reported that methamphetamine use at BARC continues to be less than 5%, with opioid use remaining the outstanding complaint. Mr. Greg Brewton reported opioid use is prevalent at his facility as well.

Mr. Jonathon Sobelman expressed that many COVID survivors experience mental health issues, for some this is new, for others it could just exacerbate existing problems, including substance use disorders. He solicited the Board Members to consider if a special treatment plan for that group would be necessary or effective.

Mr. Sobelman asked if the members could share what they are doing to encourage staff to get vaccinated. Mr. Card shared that much like our flu vaccine program, staff are constantly encouraged and reminded of the importance of getting vaccinated. Additionally, Dr. Fahie provides updates regarding the different vaccines available, providing in-service education to all staff. Further, the Division is accommodating staff time when they need to be out of the office for vaccines. Mr. Keith Bostick explained that as the age limit came down, the County deliberately targeted persons in those age groups to help facilitate getting their vaccinations. Mr. Greg Brewton expressed that he is continually encouraging his staff to get vaccinating, educating them along the way and using staff who have been vaccinated to motivate others.

Adjourn

There being no further issues or discussion, Ms. Kathy Hurt made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ray Rapaglia and carried unanimously by all members present. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 AM. The next meeting is schedule for May 26, 2021.