

MINUTES

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC) Division
Broward County Substance Abuse Advisory Board
March 31st, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT

Coberly, Stephanie
Checke, Christopher
Frohring, Linda
Greene, Jeff
Hatfield, Matthew
Hurt, Kathy
Nelson-Wernick, Eleanor
Rapaglia, Ray
Resnick, Charles
Smyth, Gary
Speiser, Mark

MEMBERS ABSENT

Brewton, Greg
Cowart, Jodi
Sobelman, Jonathan

ALSO PRESENT

Jack Feinberg, Division Director
William Card, Assistant Division Director
Patricia Bailey, Recording Secretary
Sal Torre, 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 February 24th, 2021 meeting were presented for approval.

Mr. Matthew Hatfield moved to accept the minutes from the February 24th, 2021 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Judge Mark Speiser and carried unanimously by all members present.

Division Report

Mr. Jack Feinberg announced that BARC had just recently completed two major accreditations through The Joint Commission:

- Opioid Treatment Program
- Behavioral Health Program

The Opioid Treatment Program was a two-and-a-half-day survey which resulted in a rare 'No Recommendation' report. This survey result was a very strong showing for BARC and an accomplishment to be very proud and excited about.

The Behavioral Health Program was a full four-day accreditation survey of all BARC facilities, staff and programs. In the end, BARC came through once again with a very strong showing and a very clean survey. The two Joint Commission surveyors were very complimentary on BARC's processes, culture, programs and staff commitment.

In addition to the two accreditation surveys, BARC also needed to renew licensing with state regulatory agency, Department of Children and Families, with new rules and regulations to implement. BARC finalized the process and all licensing successfully renewed with a strong showing.

Mr. Feinberg thanked Assistant Director William Card for leading the efforts with the licensing renewal and mentioned the great efforts made by all staff through the accreditation process.

At the conclusion of the report, President Coberly opened the floor for questions.

Mr. Garry Smyth stated praise for a job well done on the accreditation and licensing process. Mr. Smyth went on to describe a situation that exist with community partners' front-line staff who continue to have a negative opinion of BARC and of the Admissions policies. Mr. Smyth was inquiring of why there is such a disconnect between the negative opinions of these front-line workers and those the board is hearing from the Director.

Mr. Feinberg informed the board that he encourages and welcomes anyone to call his office to discuss problems that people are having with BARC policies and staff. He would like to know of the problems and work on correcting those that exist. Some instances have existed where staff reverted to policies of the past or have not fully implemented new policies, and if that is the case, then those actions should be held accountable.

Mr. Feinberg informed the board that some outside entities are once again able to come into the facility, having been unable from the start of the pandemic. BARC has partnered with South Florida Wellness to set-up a table in the Front Lobby to offer services to clients entering and leaving our facility. Mr. Feinberg welcomes the opportunity to have other community partners team up with BARC and to have a better working relationship.

Mr. Smyth steered the discussion to address the need for BARC to have some deeper public relations effort to address the ongoing issues many front-line staff out in the community still have concerning BARC.

Mr. Christopher Checke suggested that BARC could offer CEU's to the staff of community partners by offering a 1-to-2-hour virtual training that highlights the Admissions process and policies of BARC.

Mr. Feinberg thanked Mr. Smyth for bringing this issue to his attention and thanked the board for the discussion. Mr. Feinberg went on to reiterate his earlier statement encouraging people to call his office, so that such problems can be addressed.

Mr. Checke inquired about recent trends for fentanyl and opioid usage. Mr. Feinberg stated that the percentage of those cases remain very high. Fentanyl on its own- not so much, but opioid percentage of cases are higher now than two years ago. Mr. Feinberg discussed how isolation brought on by over a year of COVID-19 restrictions has not been good for substance abuse disorders with usage trending upward from pre-pandemic levels.

President's Report

Ms. Coberly thanked all for participating and reminded members to offer feedback and suggestions on how best to bring about greater community involvement for upcoming meetings.

Ms. Coberly offered congratulations for BARC's completion of the accreditation process and encouraged board members to send a letter to their commissioners informing them of BARC's stellar performance.

Ms. Coberly canvassed the board on how best to move ahead with monthly board meetings. The consensus was to continue with virtual meetings, if permitted, until September, with the usual summer break for July and August. Further discussion with the board demonstrated an interest to continue with mostly virtual meetings moving into a post pandemic planning stage, with the possibility of two or three meetings in person. Designating an Annual and Semi-Annual Meeting when the board would meet in person was discussed as an option.

Ms. Coberly stated that the next monthly board meeting is scheduled for April 28th, 2021 beginning at 8am and will continue to be a virtual Teams meeting.

Ms. Coberly opened the floor for any New Business and recommendations for future topics to be added to future agendas.

Seeing no requests under New Business, Ms. Coberly asked for a motion to adjourn.

Adjourn

There being no further issues or discussion, Mr. Christophe Checke 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 8:55 AM.