



Meeting Summary

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC) Division
Broward County Substance Abuse Advisory Board
April 23rd, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bruchwalski, Allison
Checke, Christopher
Coberly, Stephanie
Hatfield, Matthew
Hurt, Kathy
Karney, Donald
Nelson-Wernick, Eleanor
Rapaglia, Ray
Smyth, Garry
Sobelman, Jonathan
Wesley Pile, Tonya

MEMBERS ABSENT

Diego, Elias
Resnick, Charles
Speiser, Judge Mark

ALSO PRESENT

Vanessa Major - Assistant Director, Broward Addiction Recovery Division
Dale, Kacee - Recording Secretary
Bailey, Patricia - Asst. Recording Secretary
Dr. Dale Fahie – Medical Director, Broward Addiction Recovery Division
Mitchell, Barbara – LPN with BARC's Medication Assisted Treatment Program
William Derby – Behavioral Health Clinician, Broward Addiction Recovery Division
Karen Gordon – Assistant County Attorney
Ronald Honick – Assistant County Attorney
Client/Family to provide testimonial

Location

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC)
325 SW28th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315
Rocky Rodriguez Community Room 1001

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

Minutes

Draft minutes from January 29th, 2025, meeting were presented for approval. Mr. Donald Karney moved to accept, seconded by Mr. Matthew Hatfield, and unanimously carried by all members present.

New Members

Ms. Allison Bruchwalski was appointed by Commissioner Hazelle Rogers. Ms. Tonya Wesley Pile was appointed by Commissioner Rober McKenzie. They briefly introduced themselves and shared why they chose to join this Board.

Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) - Client/Family to Provide Testimonial

Dr. Dale Fahie, Medical Director, provided a brief overview of the Division's Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) unit and introduced Ms. Barbara Mitchell, Licensed Practical Nurse and William Derby, Behavioral Health Clinician, who work closely with MAT clients.

Dr. Fahie explained that the program utilizes FDA-approved medications, counseling, and behavioral therapies to treat substance use disorders, including opioid use disorders. The program aims to help individuals stabilize, reduce cravings, prevent relapses, and improve overall recovery.

Two clients shared their positive experiences with the program, highlighting its effectiveness in managing withdrawal symptoms, reducing cravings, and facilitating a return to a productive life. A family member also shared the profound impact on the entire family, fostering stronger bonds, increasing everyone's well-being, leading to a more resilient and supportive family unit.



Division Report

Ms. Vanessa Major, Assistant Division Director, discussed the activities and successes of the BARC Outreach Team.

The Outreach Team has been very busy attending the Marchman Court and all Community Courts, including Hollywood, Fort Lauderdale, and Pompano Beach. Additionally, they have attended resource fairs and several school presentations.

They recently began joining the First Baptist Church of Pompano on the first Saturday of each month for their community engagement initiative. During April 5, 2025, event the team brought in three clients for detoxification after being assessed in the field. The Team was able to complete the majority of the admissions process prior to the client's arrival at the Central facility by coordinating with BARC's medical staff. Since BARC's Outreach Team started, they have brought 99 clients in for detoxification.

Ms. Eleanor Nelson-Wernick, discussed her experience when she recently joined an outreach event on February 4, 2025, at the Pompano Bus Terminal. She found the event to be very well coordinated with other agencies. She was able to observe BARC staff's substantial commitment to assisting the homeless, providing minor medical care, assessing mental health, and encouraging them to seek treatment if appropriate.

Ms. Major also reported

- The Division successfully completed two audits (one with BBHC and one with DCF), during the past couple of months.
- BARC has renewed all DCF licenses. The Division is awaiting a final walkthrough for a new Outpatient license for BARC Central.
- Everything is status quo for the Opioid Settlement Funds.
- A new Electronic Health Record system was recently approved after a lengthy purchasing process. The system is Arize from Cantata Health Solutions and initialization is expected to occur in July or August.
- The County has introduced an additional step in the hiring process. For each vacant position the Division must submit a justification for filling critical positions. These justifications must be reviewed and approved by the Human Resources Division and County Administrator's Office.



Review Sunshine Laws

Ms. Karen Gordon and Mr. Ronald Honick from the County Attorney's Office discussed *Sunshine Law, Public Records & Ethics*. All Board members were provided a copy of the informational PowerPoint.

A copy of the PowerPoint is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes.

Open Forum

Ms. Stephanie Coberly advised that Mr. Chuck Resnick has resigned. He was a member of the Board for almost 20 years and his advocacy will be duly missed. He was a very vocal advocate for the construction of the new BARC Central facility.

Ms. Kathy Hurt asked if BARC staff could advise which Commissioners have a vacant seat on the Board so potential candidates can reach out to those Commissioners. Ms. Kacee Dale will forward this information to all members.

Ms. Coberly reminded Ms. Major that she and other Board Members would like to join some staff meetings. Ms. Dale will gather meeting schedules and share the information with the Board.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Christopher Checke, seconded by Mr. Matthew Hatfield, and carried unanimously by all members present. The meeting adjourned at 8:49 am.

Next quarterly meeting to be held on June 25th, 2025, beginning at 7:30am, Rocky Rodriguez Community Room – BARC Central.