



## **Meeting Summary**

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC) Division  
Broward County Substance Abuse Advisory Board  
September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### **Members Present**

Bruchwalski, Allison  
Checke, Christopher  
Coberly, Stephanie  
Hatfield, Matthew  
Hurt, Kathy  
Karney, Donald  
Rapaglia, Ray  
Smyth, Garry  
Sobelman, Jonathan

### **Members Absent**

Diego, Elias  
Nelson-Wernick, Eleanor  
Resnick, Charles  
Roy, Brittney  
Speiser, Judge Mark  
Wesley Pile, Tonya

### **Also Present**

Bostick, Keith - Deputy Director Human Services Department  
John, Gerard - Director, Broward Addiction Recovery Division  
Dale, Kacee - Recording Secretary  
Bailey, Patricia - Asst. Recording Secretary  
Fahie, Dale – Medical Director, Broward Addiction Recovery Division  
Mitchell, Barbara – LPN with BARC's Medication Assisted Treatment Program  
Scelfo, Steven – Major with Fort Lauderdale Police Department  
representing the Police Chief's Association.

### **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 7:40 am.

### **Quorum**

It was determined a quorum was present



## **Minutes**

Draft minutes from April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, meeting were presented for approval. Mr. Garry Smyth moved to accept, seconded by Mr. Jonathan Sobelman, and unanimously carried by all members present.

## **Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) - Testimonials**

Ms. Barbara Mitchell, Licensed Practical Nurse, introduced herself and Dr. Dale Fahie, Medical Director. Dr. Fahie briefly spoke about the MAT program.

Three 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. All expressed that BARC saved their lives, and the MAT program played a key role in their recovery.

## **New Members**

Ms. Brittney Roy was recently appointed by Commissioner Alexandra Davis (District 7), but was not present today.

Major Steven Scelfo, Fort Lauderdale Police Department was present representing the Police Chief's Association.

## **Responding to Emails for a Quorum**

Ms. Stephanie Coberly reminded everyone of the importance of responding to email confirming attendance for purposes of a quorum.

## **Elections in April 2026**

Ms. Stephanie Coberly reminded everyone that Advisory Board Elections will be held in April 2026. Per the By-Laws, at the annual Board meeting in each April of even years (2026), the Board shall elect a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer to serve for a period of two years. Elections shall be by nomination and vote. She added that she will not be seeking re-election as the President and urged other members to consider taking on a leadership role.



## **Mr. Keith Bostick, Deputy Director Human Services Department**

Mr. Bostick expressed his appreciation for the Advisory Board and their support and advocacy for the Division. He explained that each member of the Advisory Board is a critical source of strategic guidance for the County Commissioners. They are subject matter experts and use their knowledge and unbiased opinions to help navigate challenges and make better, informed decisions.

Mr. Bostick then discussed his departure from the County, effective October 10, 2025. This was not an easy decision for him, as his time here in Broward has been one of the most meaningful chapters of his life. Working alongside such passionate and dedicated colleagues has been an incredible honor. He is proud of what has been accomplished together — the lives that have been touched, the programs that have been developed, and the community that has been strengthened.

He thanked the staff and BARC leadership for their dedication to the community and the individuals served.

He stressed that although he is leaving the County, he will continue to elevate and cheer about the outstanding work of BARC and the remarkable people who make it what it is.

## **Division Report**

### **Outreach Team**

Mr. Gerard John discussed the Outreach Team, which consists of a Behavioral Health Clinician, Registered Nurse, Substance Abuse Caseworker and Mental Health Specialist. The Team goes to community “hot-spots” that have a high degree of unhoused individuals who are generally experiencing mental health problems and/or trauma. He explained that having a licensed nurse and counselor in the field allows for an immediate physical and mental assessment. The team recently acquired a vital sign monitoring machine, increasing the effectiveness of the nursing assessment.

The Team will transport persons to BARC or certain other locations should they need immediate services and are willing. The Team has served 190 persons, and there are currently six (6) receiving detoxification services and six (6) in our Residential program.



There are many agencies that the Outreach Team works with, including Broward Sheriff's Office Homeless Outreach Unit; Broward County Housing Options, Solutions, and Supports Division (HOSS-D); Broward Partnership for Homelessness; Broward Health; Equity & Community Investment Section of Broward County; and others.

The Outreach Team will also provide education for the community through presentations at schools, community events and local organizations.

Ms. Allison Bruchwalski, Director of Business Development with Fort Lauderdale Behavioral Health, conveyed appreciation and kudos to the Outreach Team. She has heard nothing but positive feedback from her own outreach team and the community.

Major Steven Scelfo inquired about law enforcement accompanying the Outreach Team in the community. Mr. John responded that the Team works closely with several law enforcement agencies including Fort Lauderdale Police (FLPD) and the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO), but would welcome the opportunity to increase collaboration with the FLPD and other agencies.

Ms. Kathy Hurt advised that the Florida Department of Health (DOH) is working on identifying "hot-spots" in Broward County, that would be updated daily. Ms. Hurt will provide the contact information for the person at DOH that is working on this project.

#### New Electronic Health Record

The Division recently began using a new Electronic Health Record system and are working out the kinks. This new system has many features that were not available with the old system and there is always a learning curve with any new software. The new EHR is Arize from Cantata.

#### Outpatient License for Central

Mr. John shared that the agency received an Outpatient license for our Central facility from the Department of Children and Families (DCF). Outpatient (OP) and Intensive Outpatient (IOP) treatment services are now available at BARC Central and Mills. This increases the availability of our services, allowing more flexible options for our clients.



### Intern from the Philippine Islands

BARC will be hosting a Physician Intern from the Philippine Islands at the end of the month. They will be touring James Club also. The purpose of their visit is to learn about our processes and take the information back to their community. Substance use treatment in the Philippines is shifting towards a more health-based and humane approach, moving away from punitive measures seen in previous years. Funding in the Philippines has significantly increased for state-run rehabilitation centers and reinforced community-based programs.

### BARC Census

The Division has 50 detoxification and 92 residential beds. Mr. John stated that the daily census for BARC fluctuates, but it is currently approximately 35 at detoxification and 52 at residential. This is generally the lowest, and often goes up to the low 40's at detoxification and high 70's at residential.

Without adequate funding, BARC cannot consistently maintain a full census.

### Annual Client Retreat

As a part of Recovery Month, the agency has organized an Annual Client Retreat. Since introducing this event, Mr. John has required that two components be highlighted – all staff must serve the clients and all clients be presented a letter of encouragement from family and/or staff. This is an all-day event, focusing on the client. These are meant to act as inspiration, as many clients have never experienced being waited on.

All Members of the Advisory Board were invited to join the celebration today at the Residential Facility in Coral Springs.

### Prevalence of Drugs

Xylazine, known on the street as "tranq," is a powerful, synthetic, non-opioid sedative approved for veterinary use but not for humans. It is increasingly being found mixed with other illicit drugs such as fentanyl, heroin, and cocaine. Since it is not an opioid, Narcan is not effective during an overdose. However, since it is often mixed with opioids, Narcan should still be administered. Long-term xylazine use is associated with severe, necrotic skin ulcers that can appear anywhere on the body, not just at injection sites, but can also affect people who smoke or snort the drug.



Tianeptine is prescribed in some countries for depression and anxiety, but it is not approved for any medical use in the United States. Despite being unapproved, it is illegally sold online and in retail stores under misleading labels like "dietary supplement," or various brand names, such as Neptune's Fix. Its nickname is "gas station heroin" because it is often sold at gas stations and convenience stores, but can produce opioid-like effects when misused

The Division currently uses an 11-panel test, but both of these drugs require a separate test strip to detect their presence.

### Long Term Housing

The biggest challenge in supporting substance use disorder clients is long-term housing, especially those with low incomes, mental health problems, or a history of homelessness. At this time, the County will only pay for 30 days in a Recovery Residence. However, this is often insufficient for someone especially when they do not have identification, current employment, or a support system.

Mr. Keith Bostick noted this is an example of the importance of maintaining General Funds for BARC and encouraged the Board Members to advocate for housing funds.

### Open Forum

Mr. Garry Smyth inquired about the different insurance that BARC accepts. Mr. John provided him with a written list. He also explained that when the agency receives reimbursement from an insurance company, those funds go into the County's general fund, not specifically BARC's budget.

Ms. Kathy Hurt asked about the cost of the monthly Sublocade injectable. Mr. Smyth advised that he believes the corporate price is \$1080, while the general public may pay between \$1500 and \$2000 per shot. Ms. Hurt suggested BARC ask the pharmaceutical company if they would donate some samples. Mr. John advised BARC has received some samples. A daily dose of Sublocade is less expensive than the monthly injections. However, the long-acting formula releases medication slowly over time, ensuring consistent drug levels and improving patient adherence. A daily dose requires consistent, self-administered intake, which can lead to fluctuating drug levels and missed doses.

Mr. Ray Rapaglia, CEO and Founder of James Club Recovery, proudly shared that James Club was recently recognized as the number one sober living facility in



Florida by TopFloridaRehabs.com in 2025. The Oakland Park-based facility was recognized for its structured, faith-based program that supports individuals in long-term recovery.

Additionally, Mr. Rapaglia mentioned that James Club became a licensed Treatment Center on September 19, 2025, but we will not be seeing clients until Monday, November 3, 2025.

Mr. Rapaglia invited everyone to join James Club Ribbon Cutting on Saturday, November 8 at 11 AM at their new Treatment Center in Wilton Manors. The address is: 2650 N. Andrews Ave., Wilton Manors, FL 33334. Invitations will be forwarded.

Ms. Allison Bruchwalski, advised that Fort Lauderdale Behavioral Health (FLBH) will be hosting the 1st Quarterly Baker Act Forum. The meeting is scheduled for October 16th, 2025, 9 am – 11:30 am, at the FLBH Auditorium. and does require registration. The meeting is geared towards Law Enforcement, Community Paramedic Teams, Fire Rescue, Leadership from community agencies, clinicians and all others who are involved in the Baker Act process, including healthcare, law enforcement, managing entities, other first responder leadership. Registration is required and the link will be forwarded to all members.

Ms. Kathy Hurt mentioned that First Responders are receiving training for alternatives to Baker Act. This will require people to agree to voluntarily receive treatment in Aventura for several days. The advantage is that they will not have a Baker Act commitment on their record.

Mr. Chris Checke shared BARC's request for clothing donations. The agency provides clients with clothing and shoes as needed and the inventory is currently low. Donations can be received at Central until 7 pm seven days a week, and at Mills & Residential from 9 am – 5 pm, Monday through Friday. If for any reason we have a surplus of clothing, we will share with our sister agencies.

### The Rotary Connection

Mr. Garry Smyth shared that the Rotary Club of Fort Lauderdale launched "The Rotary Connection" in August 2025. This is free bus transportation dedicated to connecting individuals experiencing homelessness with needed services across Broward County.

This groundbreaking service provides free, reliable transportation to essential resources including food, healthcare, IDs and other documents, Veteran support,



recovery programs, mental health services, medications, Community Court, clothing, job training, mailboxes, Legal Aid, and more.

It is totally privately funded with key support coming from Florida Blue Foundation, Changing Lives - North Broward, Go Therefore, Henderson Behavioral Health, Fellowship Recovery Community Organization, and LifeNet4Families.

The Rotary Connection has a set route and schedule, which will be periodically re-evaluated to ensure they are meeting the needs of the community. Their website will be up and running soon and when it is, it will have additional information and updated schedules. The web address is <https://www.rotary-connection.org/>. Mr. John advised that BARC would be able to provide Narcan if needed.

### **Motion to Change Start Time**

Mr. Garry Smyth made the Motion to change the start time of future meetings from 7:30 am to 8:30 am. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Chris Checke, and unanimously carried by all the members present. Beginning January 2026, all meetings will begin at 8:30 am.

### **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 January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026, beginning at 8:30am, Rocky Rodriguez Community Room – BARC Central.

Future 2026 Meetings – April 29, 2026  
June 24, 2026  
September 30, 2026