



Meeting Summary

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC) Division
Broward County Substance Abuse Advisory Board
January 28th, 2026

Members Present

Bruchwalski, Allison
Checke, Christopher
Coberly, Stephanie
Diego, Elias
Roy, Brittney
Hurt, Kathy
Karney, Donald
Nelson-Wernick, Eleanor
Rapaglia, Ray
Smyth, Garry
Sobelman, Jonathan
Speiser, Judge Mark
Wesley Pile, Tonya

Members Absent

Hatfield, Matthew
Resnick, Charles
Roy, Brittney

Also Present

John, Gerard - Director, Broward Addiction Recovery Division
Dale, Kacee - Recording Secretary
Bailey, Patricia - Asst. Recording Secretary
Michelle Espido, RN, BSN – BARC Outreach

Location

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC)
325 SW 28th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315
Rocky Rodriguez Community Room 1001

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Stephanie Coberly **at 8:34 am.**

Quorum

It was determined a quorum was present



Minutes

Draft minutes from September 24th, 2025, meeting were presented for approval. Ms. Eleanor Nelson-Wernick, seconded by Ms. Allison Bruchwalski, and unanimously carried by all members present.

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.

Division Report

Insurance Billing

Mr. Gerard John advised the Board that he anticipates being able to accept Medicare payments within the next three months. Last year (2025) BARC received approximately \$197,000 through insurance claims. At this time, BARC is on track to exceed that amount in 2026.

Persons with insurance that we do not currently accept are referred to a facility that does accept their insurance. Approximately 20% of our clients are insured.

He also mentioned that one of the challenges BARC has seen is clients having insurance, but not being able to pay the required deductible, or the insurance will cover detoxification, but not other levels of care. Mr. John was able to have the managing entity, Broward Behavioral Health Coalition (BBHC), agree to temporarily help cover these costs.

Mr. John clarified that the funds received from insurance is not put back into BARC's budget, but the County's General Fund. This is because the County already provides BARC with an operating budget. Members of the Board asked if they could advocate for those funds to be given back to BARC. Mr. John indicated that would be appreciated, but it would have to be a decision of the Board.



Mr. Garry Smyth asked when BARC began focusing on billing and taking insurance. He expressed concerns about shifting away from the Division's focus of serving all residents as well as paying staff in the billing unit who are not providing direct client care.

Mr. John stated BARC has never deviated from its Mission to provide services to the most vulnerable of our community. While BARC does accept certain insurances, BARC does not turn an otherwise eligible person away if they are uninsured, under insured, or they cannot pay. The current census on the detoxification unit is 32 and at residential it is 62.

BARC's new Electronic Health Record system and real-time insurance verification software that significantly reduce the number of man hours needed for billing and filing insurance claims.

Mr. John advised that BARC is unique and no other agency in the county collects insurance.

Outreach Team

Mr. John introduced Ms. Michelle Espido, RN, from BARC's Outreach Team. She discussed the different sites she visits, the external agencies she collaborates with, the number of people she interacts with, and some of the Team's successes.

Mr. John provided an update on one of the first clients the Outreach Team worked with - from the Pompano Encampment to having her own apartment.

Open Forum

The Board asked that the Director or Deputy Director of the Human Services Department attend a meeting.

They also asked that a Commissioner be invited to each meeting.

Ms. Kathy Hurt advised that she will forward a copy of the United Front Action Plan. This plan was developed during the January 9, 2026, Summit that brought the legal community together with first responders to address drug use and drug trafficking in Broward County.

Adjourn



Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Christopher Checke, seconded by Ms. Allison Bruchwalski, and carried unanimously by all members present. The meeting adjourned at 9:49 am.

Next quarterly meeting to be held on April 29th, 2026, beginning at 8:30am, Rocky Rodriguez Community Room – BARC Central.

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

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