



MINUTES

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC) Division
Broward County Substance Abuse Advisory Board
June 30th , 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Coward, Jodi

ALSO PRESENT

Jack Feinberg, Division Director
William Card, Assistant Division Director
Patricia Bailey, Recording Secretary
Salvatore 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 May 26th, 2021 meeting were presented for approval. Mr. Jeff Greene moved to accept the minutes from the May 26th, 2021 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matthew Hatfield and carried unanimously by all members present.



Division Report

Mr. Jack Feinberg reported that COVID continues to be a major concern for BARC. A recent outbreak at BARC Residential RTS facility is a reminder that safety protocols and procedures are still very much a necessity.

During the last year- BARC has had very low infection rate with no major incidents. However, with the new Delta variant, BARC is now experiencing a serious outbreak at the Residential RTS facility. Clients that tested negative before entering the facility were then testing positive – demonstrating that the new variant has a much slower incubation period.

Due to this new development- clients believed to be negative- turned up to have COVID and able to spread this to other clients and to staff. Currently new safety measures have been implemented such as longer isolation periods, along with the enforcement of existing safety protocols of mask wearing, social distancing and more.

Mr. Feinberg stated that from the data currently available – it appears that those vaccinated are not getting sick from new variants. Vaccinated staff and clients have not been those who have fallen ill.

Mr. Feinberg discussed how the increase in isolation time from five days to fourteen days has created much more difficulty for staff, programming and for the clients themselves. He congratulated BARC staff on their innovation in dealing with the new difficulties. Clients are being kept occupied constructively and with current low AMA rates, it appears that staff's diligence and innovation are once again on the mark.

Under current conditions and with continued staffing issues, BARC still cannot expand back to full capacity.

Mr. Feinberg announced that BARC was a recent recipient of a NACO Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties. This award was the only one for the Human Services Department and was for the Triage Hold Bay Program. Under this pioneering program, approximately 100 to 120 clients per month can be given some level of treatment when Detox beds are unavailable. Clients can be held in one of the two Triage beds for up to 24 hours, be stabilized and then released under much better conditions, or admitted if a bed has become available. This process also reduces costly 911 calls, Emergency Room visits and other related services having a huge cost benefit to the health care system in the region. This program will likely continue to grow.

President Coberly opened the floor for questions on the Director's Report.

Mr. Greg Brewton inquired about the innovative methods Mr. Feinberg mentioned in his report.



Mr. Feinberg described one very successful idea credited to Mr. William Card, Assistant Division Director. BARC recently received a donation of tablets all loaded and ready to use. Mr. Card thought that these tablets would be best utilized by giving them to the clients in isolation as a means to keep them constructively engaged, which worked out extremely well. In addition, the idea of creating isolation pockets made up of a few clients in similar stages of isolation to be able to socialize and commune with others in a socially distanced environment with staff taking the proper precautionary measures.

Mr. Jeff Green inquired if any positive cases of a vaccinated person now coming up positive with the new Delta variant. Mr. Feinberg stated that to his knowledge, none of the BARC staff or clients who tested positive had been fully vaccinated.

Mr. Jonathan Sobelman asked if there was any guidance forthcoming that would allow facilities such as BARC to require health care workers to be vaccinated. Mr. Feinberg stated that since BARC is a unit of county government, such requirements could not currently be mandated.

Seeing no further questions, Ms. Coberly thanked Mr. Feinberg for his report and the commitment of BARC staff.

Members Forum

Ms. Coberly stated that the Presidents Report has now been replaced with the Members Forum section on the agenda. This item is open to all board members to discuss concerns, bring up new topics for discussion and have an open forum amongst board members on topics of concern within the community.

Ms. Coberly commented on the tragedy that occurred in Surfside with the building collapse. She stated that there was a need for on-site mental health counselors, and anyone interested should contact Daniel Carmi at 305-587-0826.

Mr. Greene stated that he is currently in Washington DC and has noticed a tremendous increase in the homeless population. Inquired if other board members are witnessing similar increases in Broward or elsewhere. Mr. Hatfield stated that grant funding for housing homeless in hotels here in Fort Lauderdale has recently ended and that might lead to a noticeable increase. Mr. Hatfield also stated that on a recent trip to New Orleans, the homeless issue seemed to have an overwhelming presence throughout the city.

Ms. Coberly closed the Member's Forum seeing no further questions or concerns from board members.



New Business

Ms. Coberly discussed upcoming monthly board meetings and having the usual summer break with the cancellation of the July and August board meetings. Resumption of meetings would once again start with the September 29th, 2021 meeting, possibly to be held in-person at BARC Central's Community Room.

Ms. Kathy Hurt made a motion to cancel the July and August monthly board meetings for summer recess. Mr. Checke seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

There being no further issues or discussion. Christopher Checke made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matthew Hatfield and carried unanimously by all members present. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for September 29th, 2021 beginning at 8:00 AM.