

MINUTES

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC) Division
Broward County Substance Abuse Advisory Board
January 29, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT

Christopher Checke
Stephanie Coberly
Jodi Cowart
Linda Frohring
Jeff Greene
Matthew Hatfield
Kathy Hurt
Eleanor Nelson-Wernick
Charles Resnick
Garry Smyth
Jonathan Sobelman
Mark Speiser

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ray Rapaglia

ALSO PRESENT

Jack Feinberg, Division Director
Patricia Bailey, Recording Secretary
Sal Torre, Recording Secretary

Location

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

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

The minutes from the October 30th, 2019 meeting were presented for approval. Ms. Eleanor Nelson-Warnick made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Garry Smyth and carried unanimously by all members present.

Director's Report

Director Jack Feinberg mentioned the recent passing of two long term BARC staff and the grieving process many staff members are dealing with. Andrea Pollack and Joan Casey, over their many years of service with BARC, made a tremendous impact both here at BARC and out in the community we serve.

Mr. Feinberg went on to describe the many new initiatives here at BARC.

1. 120 in 2020 Initiative

The Division is working on a major reconstruction of the Admissions process with a goal of getting the client from the front door to a bed within 120 minutes.

We are currently pilot testing the Fast Track Triage Process and with the initial 17 cases, all were successfully moved through the process in under 120 minutes.

2. Building a Better BARC

This initiative is employee driven and seeks to address many issues BARC staff have expressed in meetings and surveys.

Comments and suggestions were divided into three categories, High, Medium, and Low Priority. High Priority items will be handled within a six-month period, Medium Priority within a one-year period, and Low Priority with no time frame.

One high priority outcome has been the rewrite of the BARC Mission Statement. Another is to help staff feel more connected with other units. BARC will accomplish this through a variety of trainings and having clients present to share their stories of success.

3. One File / One Love

This initiative deals with creating a workable system for BARC as the procurement process for the new and much-needed electronic medical records system is worked through to completion.

The goal is to make the current system the most usable electronic file for staff to utilize in the most efficient manner.

4. The Division will be restructuring the Outpatient program to better integrate with the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program.

5. We have a new Nursing Director - Valrie Youngs. She is very good for staff morale and is an active team player.

6. Quality Assurance Initiative.

Mr. Feinberg stated that Quality Assurance (QA) was always a priority for BARC, however levels of service have not been measured or demonstrated in the past. The QA Team is tasked with creating methods and processes to measure review services and assemble data with supporting documentation.

One new part of this initiative is a Pledge Card that is given to each new client at Residential. This card clearly states what the client should expect from BARC, how they will be treated correctly and provides a phone number to report any issues that might arise during their stay. That phone number goes directly to Mr. Feinberg's desk.

Mr. Feinberg also mentioned the current legislative session in Tallahassee with BARC having a budget request with HB 3995. This request of \$158,000.00 is to cover the medicine cost of a pilot program to look at the benefit of long-acting buprenorphine. This bill is currently in the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. Stephanie Coberly thanked Director Feinberg for his report. Very excited to hear all the positive initiatives happening at BARC.

Mr. Garry Smyth inquired about the recent activity in the adjacent empty lot. Mr. Feinberg stated that the budget request for the BARC parking lot had not been approved for this fiscal year but will be submitted again in current budget planning for next year. The recent activity is a county study on impact windows and other surfaces making use of the empty lot for the study.

President's Report

Ms. Stephanie Coberly opened the floor for discussion.

Judge Speiser inquired how Community Court was doing. Mr. Feinberg stated that the court was small but doing very well. BARC continues to have a presence every session and receives people at Admissions with many success stories.

Mr. Christopher Checke mentioned the upswing of cases involving meth usage, specifically amongst young LGBTQ individuals. Discussion took place on recent attention being on the opioid crisis but there will be new crisis ahead. Both Mr. Checke and Mr. Garry Smyth will gather information from community sources such as Sunserve on the issue of meth usage.

Mr. Feinberg discussed the need of additional staff to handle complicated discharges such as with homeless population. BARC will be requesting funding for a Coordinated Care Team (CCT) of possibly nine staff positions made up of case managers, clinicians and office support staff. This team will work with difficult discharge cases and track their information over nine months. Henderson currently uses a similar process, but they are constantly full and are unable to accept our referrals. This Team would be important not only for the clients, but also to reduce recidivism as Governor DeSantis is looking at holding agencies responsible for recidivism.

On the topic of the 24-hour hold bays in Triage - Mr. Feinberg stated that the funding had been approved but their implementation has been held off until new changes to Admissions procedures have been implemented. Looking to move this project ahead by mid-March 2020.

Mr. Jeff Greene indicated there are some reported studies that show high doses of CBD can effective in treating opioid cravings. He will try to find the outcomes and provide to the Board. He also advised that the City of Tamarac will be hosting a Medical Marijuana Summit on February 20, 2020 from 6pm to 8pm.

Mr. Garry Smyth inquired about the smart boards and related electronics to be installed in the Community Room. Mr. Feinberg reported that the process has been delayed due to numerous issues and types of products available. Decisions on the final selection and then installation will be forth coming. Mr. Smyth requested an update be given at the next board meeting.

Board Elections

Ms. Stephanie Coberly discussed the requirements for the board to hold elections for officers next month. By-laws require election of officers to be held in February of alternating years, requiring elections this February 2020.

Recommendations on taking nominations and voting on new officers at the February 26, 2020 board meeting were mutually agreed upon.

Sunset Review Panel

Ms. Stephanie Coberly discussed the upcoming Sunset Review Panel meeting scheduled for February 21st, 2020. The County's Sunset Review process provides for an opportunity to review for all county boards and for effectiveness and performance. Mr. Christopher Checke will be representing the board along with Director Feinberg representing BARC.

Adjourn

There being no further issues, on motion made by Mr. Christopher Checke, seconded by Ms. Jodi Cowart, and carried unanimously by all members present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 a.m.