

## **MINUTES**

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC) Division  
Broward County Substance Abuse Advisory Board  
July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Stephanie Coberly  
Christopher Checke  
Jeff Greene  
Matthew Hatfield  
Eleanor Nelson-Wernick  
Ray Rapaglia  
Charles Resnick  
Garry Smyth  
Jonathan Sobelman  
Jodi Cowart  
Linda Frohring

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Kathy Hurt  
Mark Speiser

### **ALSO PRESENT**

Jack Feinberg, Division Director  
William Card, Assistant Division Director  
Patricia Bailey, Recording Secretary  
Sal Torre, Recording Secretary

### **Location**

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC)  
Via Skype

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Stephanie Coberly, President, at 8:05 am, via Skype.

### **Quorum**

It was determined a quorum was present.

### **Minutes**

The minutes from the May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and the June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meetings were presented for approval. Each voted on separately.

Mr. Garry Smyth made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jeff Greene and carried unanimously by all members present.

Ms. Eleanor Nelson-Wernick made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ray Rapaglia and carried unanimously by all members present.

### **Letter of Appreciation- BARC Staff**

Ms. Stephanie Coberly reviewed the draft Letter of Appreciation, then opened the floor for feedback. All members voiced agreement and approval.

Mr. Christopher Checke made a motion to approve the draft Letter of Appreciation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matthew Hatfield and carried unanimously by all members present.

Mr. Jack Feinberg stated that presenting the letter would be an excellent way to lead off the first of a series of Town Hall meetings planned for later this day with BARC staff.

### **Director's Report**

Mr. Jack Feinberg reported that BARC's Residential facility was almost at full capacity, with 44 clients of a possible 46 beds, under the COVID-19 reduced census.

Mr. Feinberg stated that the current item of concern is the approaching tropical storm. BARC Central operates as the storm shelter for all BARC clients, both Detox and Residential. Due to the current reduced census of both locations, the ability to safely shelter clients under COVID-19 guidelines would not be an issue.

Mr. Feinberg updated the board on legislative issues, specifically on the Governor's line item veto of the budget funding for the Long Acting Injectable Buprenorphine pilot program. Fortunately, funding has been made available from existing sources so BARC will still be able to offer this alternative to clients. County purchasing procedures are currently being updated which will allow the program to proceed. Utilizing the Long Acting Injectable Buprenorphine will reduce the frequency in which clients will need to come to the facility, which is critical during this current pandemic

Ms. Stephanie Coberly thanked Mr. Feinberg for his report and opened the floor for questions.

Mr. Garry Smyth asked if the County was setting aside funds from the Cares Act in anticipation for an increase demand of services. Mr. Feinberg responded that he is aware that the County has a plan but is not aware of the details. He will make inquiries and try to have more information at a future meeting.

Mr. Smyth also asked about the new funding source for the Long Acting Buprenorphine pilot program. Mr. Feinberg stated that the source is not new but an existing source of funding for the Medically Assisted Treatment program. Previously, Sublocade was not an approved use but due to recent changes these funds can now be used to implement the program.

Mr. Jonathan Sobelman asked about the frequency of COVID-19 testing and if BARC had enough Personal Protective Equipment (PPE's). Mr. Feinberg responded that BARC could always use more PPE's, but currently has a workable supply. As for testing, state aid through DCF provides funding for testing clients but not for staff. However, getting the results are taking an extended period. Ideally, having a point of service device that would render results in 15 minutes would give us the ability to quickly check all clients entering the facility. Testing would mean bed reduction, social distancing and the use of PPE's would be less of a concern.

Mr. Sobelman inquired how staff is being screened and tested, since staff presents a greater risk of causing the spread of the virus in a facility. Mr. Feinberg describe the precautionary procedures that have been in place at BARC from early on. Everyone entering the building must pass through screening points where temperatures are taken, and questions asked. If someone has a high temperature or provided uncertain responses to the questionnaire, the screeners call on medical staff to determine if it is safe for the person to enter the building. In addition to these measures, BARC has initiated a program where COVID-19 monitors walk though the facility reminding staff and clients to practice social distances, reporting any safety issues, and ensuring much higher rates of compliance. Mr. Feinberg stated that staff who have tested positive were not due to client contact but from contact outside of the workplace.

Mr. Ray Rapaglia inquired about BARC Detox updates, since Mr. Feinberg discussed Residential in his report. Mr. Feinberg responded that Detox is at 100% capacity. Over the last two weeks demand has definitely increased. The use of a 23-hour hold bay gives staff the ability to have a client ready to be moved onto the Detox unit when anticipating an opening.

### **President's Report**

Ms. Stephanie Coberly thanked everyone for their participation. Ms. Coberly proceeded to call out Patricia Bailey and highlight the many years of dedication and hard work that Ms. Bailey has contributed to the Substance Abuse Advisory Board.

Mr. Jack Feinberg presented Ms. Bailey with a glass desk plague on behalf of the entire Board, thanking Ms. Bailey for over 17 years of service to BARC, to the Substance Abuse Advisory Board and to Broward County.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further issues, on motion made by Mr. Ray Rapaglia, seconded by Mr. Christopher Checke, and carried unanimously by all members present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 via Skype beginning at 8 AM.