

## **MINUTES**

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC) Division  
Broward County Substance Abuse Advisory Board  
January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Brewton, Greg  
Coberly, Stephanie  
Coward, Jodi  
Frohring, Linda  
Greene, Jeff  
Hatfield, Matthew  
Hurt, Kathy  
Nelson-Wernick, Eleanor  
Rapaglia, Ray  
Resnick, Charles  
Smyth, Garry  
Speiser, Mark  
Sobelman, Jonathan

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Checke, Christopher

### **ALSO PRESENT**

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

Lauren Whiteman, Florida Dept. of Health  
Kathleen Contreras, Florida Dept. of Health  
Sherene Samuels-Saunders, Florida Dept. of Health

### **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 October 28th, 2020 meeting were presented for approval.

Mr. Jeff Greene moved to accept the minutes from the October 28th, 2020 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matthew Hatfield and carried unanimously by all members present.

### **Guest Presentation**

Ms. Lauren Whiteman  
Florida Department of Health in Broward County  
Opioid Overdose Program

Ms. Whiteman was introduced by Board President Coberly.

Ms. Whiteman explained that the focus of today's presentation will be on the Center of Disease Control (CDC) Grant which funds the Opioid Overdose Program at the Florida Department of Health. The grant's main objective is the collection of overdose data which can then be studied and utilized for the implementation of overdose prevention activities.

Ms. Whiteman went through a PowerPoint presentation which highlighted the following:

- Hiring a Biological Scientist to gather information from regional hospitals and health records.
- Purchase of additional spectrometers for Broward Sheriffs Office along with a community educator.
- Hiring a Forensic Epidemiologist to review and collect data at the Medical Examiner's Office.
- Outreach to youth through Broward County Public Schools and the Hiring of two RN's to provide education.
- Partnerships with emergency Service personnel along with Peer Support training.
- Public awareness and social marketing campaign.
- Purchase of a Mass Spectrometer for the Medical Examiner's Office.
- Continued partnership with law enforcement to provide naloxone to those in areas of high overdose rates.

Ms. Whiteman encourage board members to reach out to her office for additional information and solicited members for their input, additional resources and assistance.

Ms. Whiteman's contact information: [lauren.whiteman@flahealth.gov](mailto:lauren.whiteman@flahealth.gov) 954-298-4077.

Mr. Jeff Greene inquired about the accuracy of the spectrometers and if the program was utilizing the Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers (MMTC) as a source for education.

Ms. Whiteman responded that current information going to the lab- but will need time to review results and compare data to have a better understanding on the accuracy of the spectrometers. Ms. Whiteman thanked Mr. Greene for the suggestion on utilizing MMTC establishments for education and outreach.

Ms. Coberly thanked Ms. Whiteman for the presentation and then moved to the next agenda item, the Directors Report, turning the floor over to Mr. Jack Feinberg to deliver his report.

### **Director's Report**

Mr. Jack Feinberg thanked Ms. Whiteman for the presentation and stated that BARC is a proud participant of the CDC grant program with the Florida Department of Health.

Mr. Feinberg discussed how BARC has made improvements on data collection, specifically access data. Community concerns on how to get into BARC programs, how quickly an appointment can be scheduled, and what services are available, can now be better answered.

Mr. Feinberg reviewed the December data collected. Of the 415 incoming calls requesting appointments for Detox services: 58% were scheduled to come into the facility within 24 hours of their call; 34% had an appointment set within a 72-hour period; and 6% were scheduled at a date in excess of 72 hours due to the client's preference.

Admissions data shows 263 clients acquiring services. All 263 clients were seen and evaluated by Triage staff with 97 clients being admitted to the detox unit. Another 147 clients received some form of on-the-spot care, whether it be in the 24-hour hold bay or direct care from Triage staff. 5 clients referred to available facilities, 11 admitted to our Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program and no client refused an available bed.

Mr. Feinberg reviewed BARC's progress over the last 10 months dealing with COVID 19 related reduction in services. Over ten months ago, BARC was faced with reducing capacity by 50%, which is a serious decrease of services to the community. Over time with changes to building facilities, faster testing results, mask wearing requirements, social distancing and entrance screeners- BARC has been able to reach back up to a 77.4% capacity, now less than 25% reduction, which has helped many in the community receive services needed.

Currently, BARC is seeking to have staff and clients receive COVID 19 vaccinations. Although there is still no official vaccination program for BARC, the agency is registered as a distribution point for both employees and clients.

Mr. Feinberg closed his report out by stating, "We continue to do the best we can under the circumstances."

Mr. Garry Smyth thanked Mr. Feinberg for his leadership and on how BARC has looked to be more innovative and responsive to the community.

### **President's Report**

Ms. Stephanie Coberly welcomed the newly appointed board member, Mr. Greg Brewton. Mr. Brewton was appointed to the board just the day before at the regular scheduled County Commission meeting. Ms. Coberly read from Mr. Brewton's resume, highlighting his many accomplishments and community involvement.

Mr. Brewton stated that it will be an honor to serve on this board and to serve the community.

Ms. Coberly thanked all for participating and reminded members to offer feedback and suggestions on how best to bring about greater community involvement for upcoming meetings.

Ms. Coberly opened the floor for any new business.

Mr. Jonathan Sobelman offered information regarding COVID vaccinations:  
Automated scheduling service for health care providers- 866-201-6313.

Mr. Garry Smyth discussed legislative issues, particularly the Infectious Disease Elimination Act. This act allows county governments to authorize sterile needle and syringe exchange programs and support services for those who inject drugs. Mr Smyth is serving on a county committee along with Ms. Lauren Whiteman, today's presenter, to put together community efforts to implement this program. Mr. Smyth suggested that this could be an interesting topic for an upcoming meeting.

Ms. Patricia Bailey reminded board members to submit the necessary demographic information recently requested by county administration.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further issues or discussion, Ms. Jodi Cowart made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charles Resnick and carried unanimously by all members present.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 AM.