



MINUTES

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC) Division
Broward County Substance Abuse Advisory Board
February 23rd, 2022

Members Present

Checke, Christopher
Coberly, Stephanie
Frohring, Linda
Hatfield, Matthew
Nelson-Wernick, Eleanor
Rapaglia, Ray
Smyth, Garry
Sobelman, Jonathan

Members Absent

Brewton, Greg
Greene, Jeff
Hurt, Kathy
Resnick, Charles
Speiser, Mark, Judge

ALSO PRESENT

Jack Feinberg Division Director
Keith Bostick, Deputy Director Human Services
Gerard John, Clinical Director, BARC
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 President Stephanie Coberly, at 8:05 am, via TEAMS.

Quorum

It was determined a quorum was present.

Minutes

The draft minutes from the January 26th, 2022 meeting were presented for approval. Mr. Matthew Hatfield moved to accept the minutes from the January 26th, 2022 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded Mr. Garry Smyth and carried unanimously by all members present.



President Coberly proceeded to the election of officers for the board. Ms. Coberly stated that elections for officers are held during the February meeting of even number years, officers are elected to a two-year term.

Ms. Coberly informed the board that the current officers are herself, Stephanie Coberly serving as President, Mr. Christopher Checke serving as Vice President, Ms. Eleanor Nelson-Wernick serving as Secretary and Judge Mark Speiser serving as Treasurer. Ms. Coberly asked if the current officers were willing to serve another term, three present- Ms. Coberly, Mr. Checke and Ms. Nelson-Wernick stated in the affirmative. Judge Speiser was not in attendance. Ms. Coberly asked if anyone would like to nominate Judge Speiser for another term as Treasurer. Mr. Hatfield motioned, Mr. Smyth seconded, passed unanimously.

Ms. Cobelry opened the floor for any other nominations from the board, seeing none , closed the discussion. Ms. Coberly then asked for a motion to accept the current slate of officers for a new two-year term. Mr. Hatfield motioned to accept the slate of candidates, Mr. Smyth seconded, passed unanimously.

Due to Judge Speiser's absence, Recording Secretary Salvatore Torre will contact Judge Speiser to confirm his acceptance for the position of Treasurer to a new two-year term.

Ms. Coberly thanked the officers and all board members for their continued service. Ms. Coberly proceeded to the Director's Report and turned the floor over to Director Jack Feinberg.

Division Report

Mr. Jack Feinberg reported on the latest substance abuse concern in South Florida, that of the tremendous increase in counterfeit prescription pills, many containing fentanyl. Community members, many completely unaware, will now be exposed to the dangers of fentanyl and the unknown effects of these counterfeit pills.

Mr. Feinberg moved on to speak about the challenges BARC is faced with due to the tremendous staff shortages and current job market trends. While gathering data for the upcoming County Commission Strategic Plan Workshop, Mr. Feinberg was happy to report that many of the performance measures over the past year have still been achieved even with the continued challenges of COVID and staffing issues. This, Mr. Feinberg stated, is due to an amazing and dedicated BARC staff, who have continued to step-up when needed and to take on additional work loads.

Mr. Feinberg spoke on the continued efforts to provide much needed services to the community – with increases in the bed capacity at Residential and plans on bringing back in-person meetings with Outpatient and Intensive Outpatient services. Getting back to in-



person group meetings would be very powerful and beneficial to the community BARC serves.

Mr. Feinberg went on to discuss that current staffing issues are not likely to improve in the short-term and that comprehensive planning for long-term solutions are taking place. Reviewing job clarifications, the creation of part-time positions, recruitment of older staff who have retired from other positions but are seeking to remain in the work force, and other ideas are being discussed by Human Services leadership team.

Mr. Checke agreed that the challenges are many – with the cost of housing and other expenses in South Florida escalating higher and higher, many young people have no choice but to seek higher paying positions outside of Mental Health and related fields.

Discussion took place on the need to bring about an increase in pay and benefits that would attract young professionals into the Mental Health field.

Mr. Feinberg stated that BARC needs to reach out to those who are seeking to do this type of work and let them know that BARC is a great place for them. Pitching the benefits of county employment such as a pension, healthcare and job security as one get older are and should be a big pull to bring people on board.

Mr. Feinberg stated satisfaction with the recent move to enlist a national search firm to assist with the recruitment efforts for BARC's Nursing Director – a very important position which still remains vacant at this time.

Board members asked that a list of current vacancies be sent to the board, so that members can share with colleagues to direct possible candidates to these open BARC positions.

Ms. Coberly thanked Mr. Feinberg for his report and went on to state that BARC was able to make it through the rough challenges of the past year due to the entire BARC staff's hard work and perseverance.

Ms. Coberly turned the meeting chair over to Vice President Checke, due to an unplanned need to leave the meeting caused by work related issue.

Mr. Checke took over as chairperson, thanked Mr. Feinberg for his report and then opened the floor for any questions or comments.

Mr. Jonathan Sobelman echoed the concerns of the challenges for mental health professionals in the current and future labor market. Stated that with demand increasing for mental health professionals and with supply down – funding sources will need to adjust to deal with this new reality.

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Mr. Feinberg offered one additional announcement, that BARC has a new Clinical Director, Gerard John. Gerard John was promoted internally and is replacing Jasmine Bascombe, who recently retired. Mr. Feinberg welcomes Gerard's energy and skills and his new leadership will be a game changer for BARC.

Mr. Checke seeing no other questions or comments from board members- stated that the next board meeting is scheduled for March 30th, 2022 at 8am via Teams, then asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Linda Frohring motioned to adjourn, Mr. Ray Rappaglia seconded, meeting adjourned at 8:05 am .