

MINUTES

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC) Division
Broward County Substance Abuse Advisory Board
September 30th, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT

Christopher Checke
Jeff Greene
Matthew Hatfield
Ray Rapaglia
Charles Resnick
Jonathan Sobelman
Jodi Cowart
Mark Speiser
Kathy Hurt
Linda Frohring

MEMBERS ABSENT

Stephanie Coberly
Eleanor Nelson-Wernick
Garry Smyth

ALSO PRESENT

Jack Feinberg, Division Director
William Card, Assistant Division Director
Keith Bostick, Deputy Director Human Services
Dr. Dale Fahie, Medical 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 Mr. Christopher Checke, Vice President, at 8:05 am, via Skype.

Quorum

It was determined a quorum was present.

Minutes

The minutes from the August 26th, 2020 meeting were presented for approval.

Mr. Matthew Hatfield moved to accept the minutes from the August 26th, 2020 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ray Rapaglia and carried unanimously by all members present.

Guest Speaker- Dr. Dale Fahie, Medical Director, BARC

Vice President Christopher Checke introduced and welcomed Dr. Dale Fahie, Medical Director of the Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC). Dr. Fahie discussed how, from the beginning of the COVID 19 pandemic, BARC has maintained open access to treatment for the community.

This was done through a cautious approach of:

- Telehealth, blending in-person and remote treatment both from a patient and staffing perspective
- Implementing social distancing and screening for everyone entering the facilities.
- Proper use of PPE (mask wearing), sanitizing surfaces, and distribution of hand sanitizer.

In addition, an open-door policy between BARC Administration and staff allowed for many issues of staff anxiety, fears, and concerns of the unknown nature of the pandemic to be addressed early on.

Mr. Checke inquired about recent positive testing of clients. Dr. Fahie stated that BARC Detox recently had one client who had tested positive. That client was being housed in the unit's isolation room with all infection control procedures followed by staff. Upon discharge, the client tested negative for COVID and expressed great satisfaction and was very pleased with the level of treatment received during stay at BARC. Dr. Fahie also reported on cases where clients within the MAT program reported testing positive. He praised the robust infection control plan in place here at BARC and how well the staff has handled and performed over the months dealing with the pandemic.

Judge Mark Speiser inquired about staff testing and those results. Dr. Fahie reported that there have been staff members who have tested positive, but most were due to outside community activity and not as a result of transmission from a client here at BARC.

Mr. Checke thanked Dr. Fahie for his report and for addressing the board.

Director's Report

Mr. Jack Feinberg reported that he was in the process of setting up a meeting to discuss public/private partnerships, not here at BARC, but with Broward Behavioral Health Coalition (BBHC) and others not regularly funded by BBHC. By doing so, a discussion materialized with Lois Wexler concerning the possible expansion of BARC's Triage Unit to possibly include some type of outside Triage set-up that could screen, treat, and address the strong community need for walk-ins. Mr. Feinberg and BBHC are currently researching possibilities and will be following up with a meeting to discuss the private/public possibilities for community partners.

Mr. Feinberg reported that both the Detox and Residential Unit are currently operating at full capacity with a reduced census due to COVID 19 restrictions. Demand has increased significantly and BARC is looking at what possible changes and/or adjustments to current procedures could better address this increase in demand while continuing to protect both clients and staff from the on-going challenges due to COVID 19.

Judge Speiser inquired about current staffing levels at BARC and if clients were still being received from Community Court. Mr. Feinberg responded that currently BARC's main staffing issue is the shortage of nurses, with multiple positions open at this time. One issue seems to be sign-up bonuses and other incentives being offered by the private sector.

BARC must do a better job at selling the very generous benefit package and job security that a county position offers. Mr. Feinberg assured the board that the vacancies are not affecting BARC's ability to perform its mission, especially with the current lower census due to COVID 19, and that all staffing levels remain above regulatory standards.

Mr. William Card reported that Community Court just resumed virtual meetings one week ago. However, the Community Outreach officers have been operating all along, and have continued to direct clients to BARC, including Marchman Act clients.

Mr. Keith Bostick, Deputy Director of Human Services Department, joined in the discussion. Mr. Bostick reported that he and BARC are working with the County Administrator on creative strategies to address staffing issues specifically regarding nursing.

Mr. Bostick also reported that the County Commission recently had a Proclamation recognizing National Recovery Month here in Broward County. He shared that he recently attended a wonderful event at the Booher facility which was part of BARC's Recovery Month Celebration that highlighted clients and staff while observing social distancing.

Mr. Checke thanked Mr. Bostick, Mr. Feinberg and Mr. Card for their input and reports to the board.

President's Report

No President's Report presented.

New Business

Vice President Checke pointed out that the upcoming Holiday Season is fast approaching and that the Board needed to decide if they will meet in November and December. The November meeting is scheduled on the 25th and the December meeting is scheduled on 30th.

Judge Speiser motioned to cancel both the November and December meetings, Ms. Jodi Cowart seconded, the motion passed unanimously by all members present.

The next board meeting will be October 28th, and it will be a virtual meeting. After that, the board will not meet until after the New Year, on January 27th, 2021.

Adjourn

There being no further issues or discussion, Mr. Matthew Hatfield made a motion to adjourn, Judge Mark Speiser seconded, and the motion carried unanimously by all members present. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 AM.