

MINUTES

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC) Division
Broward County Substance Abuse Advisory Board
October 28th, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jeff Greene

ALSO PRESENT

Judy Couwels, Broward Sheriff's Office
Devon Klapholz, Broward Sheriff's Office
Jessica Bailey-Pierre, Broward Sheriff's Office
Jack Feinberg, 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 September 30th, 2020 meeting were presented for approval.

Mr. Matthew Hatfield moved to accept the minutes from the September 30th, 2020 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Judge Mark Speiser and carried unanimously by all members present.

Guest Presentation

Broward Sheriff's Office – Mental Health Initiative- Threat Management Unit

Ms. Judy Couwels, EAP Program Manager with the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO), introduced herself and fellow team members present, Devon Klapholz and Jessica Bailey-Pierre.

Ms. Couwels was invited to present to the board a new initiative by the Broward Sheriff's Office known as the Behavioral Health Team with the Threat Management Unit.

Ms. Couwels described how the BSO's Threat Management Unit has expanded with the hiring of two licensed Behavioral Health Therapists, Devon Klapholz and Jessica Bailey-Pierre. This Mental Health Initiative by BSO seeks to have licensed clinicians available to ride along with deputies investigating possible threat situations and to assist in de-escalation of situations, specifically dealing with mental health issues.

The Threat Management Unit's objective is aimed at responding to possible threats against large entities, such as schools, government buildings, specific groups and not necessarily responding to individual 911 incidents.

Ms. Couwels stated that the program is totally voluntary and that individuals are asked to sign both Consent and Release forms. Clinicians' role is to assist in linking individuals and family members to community resources. All clinical records are maintained separately from criminal records and are not open to public disclosure.

Mr. Jack Feinberg, BARC Director, stated that such a program is a great asset to clinicians in the field and here at BARC, since clinicians would be more open to bringing in law enforcement if aware that there is an inclusion of mental health professionals.

Mr. Garry Smyth inquired if the team could share a recent incident involving the team. Ms. Jessica Bailey-Pierre described a recent situation where a student who was bullied at school and made threats on social media against those involved. As a licensed clinician she accompanied the Threat Management Team to investigate and meet with the individual and family. Ms. Bailey-Pierre described the different response that is evident from individuals and family members when dealing with law enforcement and then with clinicians. Those involved are much more open to seeking services available in the community when dealing with someone other than law enforcement.

Mr. Jonathan Sobelman inquired about the education and training of police officers so they may better deal with Baker Act and mental health situations. Both Ms. Couwels and Judge Mark Speiser described how BSO is very proactive in training officers, specifically through the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training. CIT training is a 40-hour training program that brings together law enforcement and mental health community partners to better assess and interact with persons with mental health illness in a crisis situation.

Ms. Coberly thanked Ms. Couwels and team members for their presentation and invited the team to return after the New Year for a possible in-person presentation and update on this very important program.

Director's Report

Mr. Jack Feinberg reported on how a discussion which originated at a meeting last month with the Broward Behavioral Health Coalition (BBHC) has brought about positive changes at BARC. The discussion on wait times for Detox appointments led BARC to review and make internal changes to better address the increased demand and needs of the community.

Due to these changes BARC has increased daily appointment slots from 15 to 24. Wait time for appointments has been reduced drastically, however BARC is operating at capacity and although clients are being seen by appointment, the available bed space for Detox cannot accommodate demand. To better handle this situation BARC has coordinated with South Florida Wellness to assist in peer support and related services while clients wait on a bed to be available.

Mr. Feinberg reported that staff morale at BARC is currently stable with the feeling that this is the new norm for the foreseeable future. Currently there have been no new cases of COVID on the unit. Everyone at BARC continues to be cautious with recent news of possible flare ups.

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

President's Report

Ms. Stephanie Coberly stated that the board will not be meeting in the months of November and December. The next meeting is scheduled for January 27th, 2021 in-person beginning at 7:30am. Updates will be sent out concerning how this meeting will be conducted as the COVID pandemic situation is monitored over the next few months.

Ms. Coberly thanked everyone for their continued participation, wished all a safe holiday season and entertained a motion to adjourn.

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Adjourn

There being no further issues or discussion, Judge Speiser made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Hatfield seconded, and the motion carried unanimously by all members present. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 AM.