



MINUTES

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC) Division
Broward County Substance Abuse Advisory Board
June 28th, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT

Coberly, Stephanie
Hurt, Kathy
Nelson-Wernick, Eleanor
Rapaglia, Ray
Resnick, Charles
Smyth, Garry
Speiser, Judge, Mark

MEMBERS ABSENT

Christopher Checke
Frohring, Linda
Hatfield, Matthew

ALSO PRESENT

Bostick, Keith – Deputy Director Human Services
John, Gerard – Director Broward Addiction Recovery Division
Major, Vanessa – Assistant Director Broward Addiction Recovery
Torre, Salvatore, Recording Secretary

Location

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC)
Rocky Rodriguez Community Room

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Stephanie Coberly at 7:40 am.

Quorum

It was determined a quorum was present.

Minutes

The draft minutes from the June 28th, 2023, meeting were presented for approval. Ms. Kathy Hurt moved to accept the minutes from the June 28th, 2023, meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Garry Smyth and carried unanimously by all members present.

Meeting

Ms. Coberly welcomed all to the meeting, then introduced the new Assistant Director of the Broward Addiction Recovery Center- Ms. Vanessa Major. Ms. Coberly acknowledged the many years of professional connection with Ms. Major and expressed enthusiasm and well wishes on this new appointment.



Ms. Major briefly introduced herself to the board, stating background, employment history here at BARC serving as Admissions Director and now with the transition from that position to Assistant Director.

Ms. Major discussed interest in educational outreach to the public and cross-training initiatives with BARC staff.

Ms. Coberly and fellow board members welcomed and congratulated Ms. Vanessa Major on her appointment as the new Assistant Director and offered assistance and outreach if needed.

Division Report

Ms. Coberly turned the floor over to BARC Director Gerard John to deliver the Division Report.

Director John informed board members that BARC Central offices affected by recent flooding will be ready for staff's return next week. Restoration work mainly affected the IOP offices, Group Rooms, along with the Administration offices.

HR updates – In addition to Ms. Major's promotion to Assistant Director, the position of Business Manager has been filled – along with additional nursing staff. Hiring has started to increase due to additional assistance within the county Human Resources Department.

Review of proposals for use of Opiate Funds – Director John distributed hand-outs outlining proposed usage of opioid settlement funds that the county is expected to receive. Five main items listed- creation of a Mobile Unit, Peer Support, Community Engagement & Outreach, Expansion of Detoxification Services, and Staff Training.

Mobile Unit would bring needed services into the community – providing case management services, Narcan distribution, MAT services, and STD testing.

Peer Support would assist county residents during their recovery process to maintain sustainability and self-sufficiency. Peer outreach with local schools and universities- assist in lifting the stigma of opioid crisis and in the proper use of Narcan.

Community Engagement will look to provide therapeutic services to those most vulnerable in the community recovering from substance use.

Expansion of Detox Services to provide additional medically monitored detoxification services for county residents in need.

Staff Training would further enhance the competency level of all staff to better serve client needs.

Discussion pursued on the use of settlement funds for MAT Sublocade program and the cost.

Director John stated that short-term – through BBHC – BARC would be receiving 200 shots of Sublocade – that should cover till the end of the year. However, need a plan for



sustainability – need to format long-term planning for the continuation of this much needed program.

Discussion moved on to the issues surrounding Sublocade within the community. The resistance from the ‘abstinence-based therapy’ school of thought. MAT clients will test positive for Buprenorphine while participating in a MAT Sublocade program. This test positive is an issue needing to be address with probation officers, judges, courts, recovery facilities and other community partners.

Old Business

Update on Trust Fund and Committee-

By ordinance, the funds can be dispersed first by approval of the Trust Fund Committee, then approval by the board, with final approval by vote of the County Commissioners. The Trust Fund Committee is made up of at least three members – President and Treasurer of the Substance Abuse Advisory Board along with the Director of the agency, additional members can be appointed by the board.

Ms. Coberly inquired if any other board members would be interested in serving on the Trust Fund Committee – Ms. Kathy Hurt volunteered to serve.

Ms. Coberly stated that due to the recent changes in leadership at BARC, would be best to put this item on hold until the new Director and Leadership Team has time to settle-in and prioritize the needs of the division, board members in verbal agreement.

New Business

Deputy Director Human Services Keith Bostick requested to speak – thanking Director John and Asst. Director Major for taking on their new leadership roles with the division. Expressed full support and excitement with BARC’s new Leadership Team.

Mr. Bostick informed board members BARC’s 50th Anniversary kick-off would take place during Recovery Month in September. Currently in planning sessions and welcomed ideas from board members.

Mr. Garry Smyth expressed hope that client testimonies would be part of the agenda – to have clients talk about how services at BARC helped change their lives.

Mr. Bostick agreed – stating that such testimonials can have enormous impact of those watching and hearing such stories.

Mr. Ray Rapaglia stated his own personal story of coming into BARC as a client 13 years ago – now clean and sober, able to give back to the community.

Member’s Forum



Ms. Coberly asked if board members had any topics for discussion under Member's Forum, seeing none, Ms. Coberly made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Rapaglia second, carried unanimously.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05am.

Next quarterly meeting will be held on September 27th, 2023, beginning at 7:30am.