



MINUTES

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC) Division
Broward County Substance Abuse Advisory Board
September 29th, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Brewton, Greg
2. Coberly, Stephanie
3. Frohring, Jodi
4. Greene, Jeff
5. Hatfield, Matthew
6. Nelson-Wernick, Eleanor
7. Rapaglia, Ray
8. Resnick, Charles
9. Smyth, Garry
10. Speiser, Mark, Judge

MEMBERS ABSENT

1. Checke, Christopher
2. Cowart, Jodi
3. Hurt, Kathy
4. Sobelman, Jonathan

ALSO PRESENT

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

Quorum

It was determined a quorum was present.

Minutes

The minutes from the June 30th, 2021 meeting were presented for approval. Judge Speiser moved to accept the minutes from the June 30th, 2021 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matthew Hatfield and carried unanimously by all members present.



Division Report

Mr. Jack Feinberg reported on recent staff transitions at BARC and on-going staffing vacancies. Staffing updates included:

- the recent departure of the Assistant Director, William Card. Mr. Card resigned to take up a new position outside of Broward County employment. The position of Assistant Director has been filled internally, with the promotion of Ms. Anika Hamilton who previously served in the position of Business Manager for BARC.
- the continued search and recruitment for the Director of Nursing position.
- the recent hiring of the Programs Assistant Manager at Booher Residential facility, Jessica Murgueytio.
- seeking innovative ways of recruiting needed nursing staff- which has been a challenge due to the industry-wide shortage of staffing.

During the summer months, with the increase in COVID transmissions due to the Delta variant, the ongoing staff shortages, and the limitations on community partners to take on clients leaving BARC- services had to be trimmed down. Mr. Feinberg was proud of staff who made it possible for BARC to continue its mission and provide services to the community during this time.

Mr. Feinberg stated that currently, BARC is doing the best as can be expected under the circumstances, services are back on the increase and looking to get back to a regular level of service at some point in the future.

Chair Coberly thanked Mr. Feinberg for his report and opened the floor to questions.

Judge Mark Speiser asked about vaccination rates for BARC staff and clients.

Mr. Feinberg responded that vaccination rates for BARC staff has been a struggle – currently around 50%. The county will be rolling out a new incentive program to help increase vaccination rates among county employees. The program starts on October 1 and should bring those numbers much higher.

Mr. Feinberg also reported that the Florida Department of Health is coming to both the Central and the Residential facilities and offering vaccine shots on-site to both clients and staff. In addition, all direct care staff are provided the PPE's that are needed and staff on the units are utilizing them fully and correctly.

Human Services Deputy Director Keith Bostick reported on the upcoming county initiative – stating that the new measures beginning on October 1st will give the county the ability to better assess the number of employees county-wide that have been vaccinated. The initiative will seek to increase access and incentives for county employees to get



vaccinated- and will also have punitive measures requiring weekly COVID testing and a benefits surcharge for those who choose not to be vaccinated.

Mr. Matthew Hatfield looked to share recent conversation with an MSW candidate intern. The intern, without being aware of Mr. Hatfield's connection to this board or the BARC, stated that he was amazed by the efficiency and compassion of BARC staff and praised both the Central and Residential facilities.

Mr. Feinberg thanked Mr. Hatfield for sharing the comments with the board.

Ms. Linda Frohling inquired about a recent issue with a person seeking admission to BARC. Heard through the person's mother on the length of time for appointments and the inappropriate advice given by staff. Mr. Feinberg responded that the advice stated was not something that would be given by someone knowledgeable about standard practices and that he would look into the matter further, asking Ms. Frohling to have the person reach out to him for further investigation.

Seeing no further questions, Ms. Coberly thanked Mr. Feinberg for his report and the commitment of BARC staff.

Members Forum

Ms. Coberly stated that the Presidents Report has now been replaced with the Members Forum section on the agenda. This item is open to all board members to discuss concerns, bring up new topics for discussion and have an open forum amongst board members on topics of concern within the community.

Ms. Coberly reported on her attempt to have Broward School Board member Robin Bartleman as a Guest Speaker. Could not arrange in time for this meeting but will look to have Ms. Bartleman at a future date.

Ms. Coberly asked Judge Speiser to comment on the current operations at the county courthouse. Judge Speiser stated that he is present at the courthouse and trying cases almost daily. Judge's work areas are surrounded by plexiglass as well as attorney areas. In jury trials, each juror seat is separated by plexiglass. The courthouse is offering COVID testing on a weekly basis and masks are required- with the exception of when a witness is offering testimony – so that facial expressions can be viewed by jurors and judges. Short meetings are mostly conducted on Zoom but still conducted within the courthouse not remotely. Still the courthouse and cases are no where as busy as in pre-pandemic days.

Mr. Garry Smyth talked about the safe syringe exchange program launched with Care Resources and other community partners. Informed and invited board members of the launch party for the new mobile health unit, The Spot, to be held at Richardson Park in Wilton Manors at 6pm that night. Care Resources is the lead agency and will begin



delivering services to residents of Broward County on October 1st, 2021. The basis of the program is harm reduction and delivering needed services to those county residents who are normally disenfranchised. All funding is from donations mainly through Care Resources and the United Way.

Mr. Smyth also reported on the accolades received for the short film, "Two Paths – A Story of Needle Exchange in Your Town," and the inclusion of the film in the upcoming Fort Lauderdale Film Festival's short film category.

Ms. Coberly closed the Member's Forum seeing no further questions or concerns from board members.

New Business

Ms. Coberly discussed upcoming monthly board meetings and for members to think about the possibility of having quarterly meetings versus the current monthly meeting. Welcomed input from fellow board members on future topics of discussion and possible Guest Speakers.

There being no further issues or discussion. Ms. Frohling made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matthew Hatfield and carried unanimously by all members present. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for October 27th, 2021 beginning at 8:00 AM via Teams.