

MINUTES

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC) Division
Broward County Substance Abuse Advisory Board
February 26th, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Linda Frohring
Jeff Greene
Charles Resnick

ALSO PRESENT

Jack Feinberg, Division Director
Orlando Garcia, Boards Administrator/Legislative Policy Analyst
Patricia Bailey, Recording Secretary
Sal Torre, Recording Secretary

Location

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC)
325 SW 28th Street
Community Room
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Stephanie Coberly, at 7:35 am.

Quorum

It was determined a quorum was present.

Minutes

The minutes from the January 29th, 2020 meeting were presented for approval. Mr. Matthew Hatfield made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Judge Mark Speiser and carried unanimously by all members present.

Election of Officers

President Stephanie Coberly opened the floor for nominations. Mr. Matthew Hatfield motioned the current officers as a slate for reelection. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jodi Cowart. President Stephanie Coberly asked if there were any other nominations, seeing no other, asked for discussion. There was no discussion, the floor was then closed and proceeded with the vote on the motion, which carried unanimously by all members present.

The officers elected to serve for two-year terms are:

Ms. Stephanie Coberly- President
Mr. Christopher Checke- Vice President
Ms. Eleanor Nelson-Wernick- Secretary
Judge Mark Speiser- Treasurer.

Sunset Review Panel Meeting

Vice President Christopher Checke introduced Orlando Garcia, Broward County Boards Administrator/Legislative Policy Analyst, who handles the Sunset Review process for the county.

Mr. Checke summarized the results of the February 21, 2020, preliminary Sunset Review meeting. Notable suggestions were to have better communication with Commissioners, to look at the diversity of the board, if any additional members are necessary and the current long-term vacancy on the board allocated to the Police Chief Association for appointment.

Judge Speiser will inquire about filling the seat at the next monthly Broward Police Chiefs Association meeting.

Discussion took place on possibly filling the position with someone other than from the Broward Police Chief Association. Possibilities include the EMS Battalion Chief, someone with medical experience (such as Emergency Room Physician), Epidemiologist, Crisis Intervention (such as Henderson) or a representative from the Broward County School Board.

By-Laws Modification

Several suggestions were made to modify the Board's By-Laws. All suggestions were for clarification and did not reflect substantial revisions.

Proposal #1 – correct the title to reflect the current name of the Board

Proposal #2 – Article III, Section 2- change wording from 'alternating years' to 'even years.'

Proposal #3 – Article IV, Section 1 – Modernize language to include 'February of each even year.'

Proposal #4 – Article IV, Section 1 - modernize language from notifying board members 'at least 10 days prior' to 'at least 48 hours prior to scheduled meeting'. This would be consistent with county ordinance.

Ms, Eleanor Nelson-Wernick motioned to accept the three separate changes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Christopher Checke and carried unanimously by all members present.

The Board will be presented with a draft including all recommended revisions prior to the next meeting for final approval.

Letter of Support for Additional Parking

The Board re-addressed the issue of insufficient parking at the new BARC facility. They requested an updated letter of support be presented to the Mayor of Broward County, the Honorable Dale Holness, and the Broward Board of Commissioners stating support for the additional parking lot for the new BARC facility. President Stephanie Coberly presented a draft letter of support for board review. Judge Mark Speiser motioned to accept draft letter of support for additional parking. The motion was seconded by Garry Smyth and carried unanimously by all members present.

A copy of the signed letter will be sent to all members at the same time it is sent to the Commission.

(Judge Speiser left the meeting at 8:05 am.)

Director's Report

Director Jack Feinberg reviewed the Year To Date Statistics for BARC units. He highlighted the success level of completion of 85.4% with MAT program in connection with Residential treatment. This clearly demonstrates that MAT works and the need to expand the footprint of MAT programs.

Mr. Feinberg reported that the number of individuals considered as homeless coming into BARC has increased 41.9%, a very large increase in recent years.

Mr. Feinberg updated the Board on legislative agenda, specifically on HB 3995, which was included in the Senate budget but not the House. Still hopeful that bill will make it through the negotiations and into the final budget. HB 3995 is Broward Addiction Recovery Center Long Acting Injectable Buprenorphine - Pilot Program: Provides an appropriation for Long Acting Injectable Buprenorphine.

President's Report

Ms. Stephanie Coberly opened the floor for discussion.

Mr. Jonathan Sobelman discussed having the Board advise the County Commissioners on issues not necessarily in relations to BARC. Items concerning community issues as related to EMS and various local police departments that are of concern to residents of the county.

Mr. Christopher Checke added to the discussion with the possibility of having an agenda item each month to highlight such community issues and to invite community partners to the meeting such as EMS Services, Dept. of Health and others.

Mr. Feinberg suggested calling such an agenda item "Community Corner".

Mr. Garry Smyth discussed the ongoing issue resulting from then Sheriff's Scott Israel's dismantling of the DUI Taskforce. Currently police have stopped proactive enforcement of DUI's, which are now mainly resulting from accidents. Many are unaware of the public safety issues and might be an issue for the Board to address.

Mr. Smyth also discussed that domestic violence cases brought to court are not addressing the substance abuse piece as an underlying cause of the incident. He suggested more advocacy for the judicial system to further consider substance abuse issues.

Additional suggestions were for Board members to share more information about what they do and their involvement within the community.

Ms. Kathy Hurt advised that The Board of Directors of CARP (Comprehensive Alcoholism Rehabilitation Programs), Inc. is sponsoring its Annual Spring Luncheon, scheduled for Saturday, February 29, 2020. This is an important part of CARP's fundraising initiatives.

Mr. Smyth asked for an update on the audio-visual upgrades for the Community Room. Mr. Feinberg advised that it has proven to be quite the arduous task considering the height of the ceiling and dimensions of the room. BARC is reaching out to an alternate provider to consider alternatives to improve the Room.

Adjourn

There being no further issues, on motion made by Mr. Garry Smyth, seconded by Mr. Matthew Hatfield, and carried unanimously by all members present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 a.m.