

## **MINUTES**

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC) Division  
Broward County Substance Abuse Advisory Board  
May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Christopher Checke  
Stephanie Coberly  
Jeff Greene  
Linda Frohring  
Matthew Hatfield  
Kathy Hurt  
Eleanor Nelson-Wernick  
Ray Rapaglia  
Charles Resnick  
Garry Smyth  
Mark Speiser

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Jodi Cowart  
Jonathan Sobelman

### **ALSO PRESENT**

Jack Feinberg, Division Director  
Keith Bostick, Deputy Director Human Services  
Orlando Garcia, Boards Administrator/Legislative Policy Analyst  
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 President Stephanie Coberly, at 8:05 am, via Skype.

### **Quorum**

It was determined a quorum was present.

### **Minutes**

The minutes from the February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting were presented for approval. Mr. Ray Rapaglia asked the minutes be corrected to reflect that he was present. Ms. Linda Frohring made a motion to approve the minutes with this correction. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matthew Hatfield and carried unanimously by all members present.

### **Keith Bostick, Deputy Director Human Services**

Keith Bostick introduced himself as the new Deputy Director of Human Services. Mr. Bostick shared some information about his career history and commented that he is excited to be here and looking forward to getting involved in all the various Human Services units. He believes innovation and change can be scary, but at the same time it presents an opportunity to serve those in need.

### **Director's Report**

Director Jack Feinberg advised that he is very proud of all the staff at BARC. During this most difficult and challenging time, all BARC staff have risen to the occasion in a calm and professional manner.

He advised that all visitors and staff are screened before entering the building. We started doing this before most other providers in the County. BARC initiated the screening process at the behest of our Medical Director, Dr. Dale Fahie. Dr. Fahie is an invaluable asset to this agency, the county and the entire community. He is very dedicated to our clients, he consistently provides education not only to nurses and other medical staff, but to all employees. He is extremely well versed in public health and has the experience to help lead BARC during this pandemic.

Early in the pandemic, BARC transition to Skype for all Outpatient and Intensive Outpatient programs. This was done rather quickly, within a matter of days. BARC staff may have had technology challenges, but those were quickly overcome. We have seen an increase in attendance of about five to ten percent.

One thing we did have to stop offering was drug testing. It was just not feasible to continue having clients leave their homes and come into the building, while maintaining community lockdown and social distancing. Going forward the division will be looking at utilizing an old school color system and having clients call-in for random drug testing.

We continued to operate at full capacity at on the Detoxification unit until we became unable to maintain sufficient social distancing. We reduced services from 50 clients to 27, reserving one room in case we had a client who tested positive.

We reduced our Admissions hours also. Instead of being 24/7, we are currently operating at 12 hours (6 am to 6 pm) seven days a week and only accept appointments. Community Court and Marchman Act are exceptions to the appointments only. BARC makes accommodations for those referrals.

Our Residential capacity is also being reduced by 50%, down to 48 clients. All reductions were done on a gradual basis; for every two discharges, we admitted one.

BARC also has financial staff who have been able to telework, further reducing staff physical interactions.

Mr. Garry Smythe inquired about BARC's plan to re-open. Mr. Feinberg responded that most states, counties, and facilities will reopen in four phases. The first re-opening phase is basically maintaining social distancing, continuing to wear personal protective equipment and start increasing capacity.

BARC never scaled below this phase, except for a couple of elements. BARC would bring some staff back into the building from teleworking while continuing to use some degree of telehealth. While our group rooms are large enough to maintain social distancing, it is very difficult to be understood when you are speaking through a mask.

Staff are working on plans to resume additional services, but it will probably be sometime before we are back at capacity. When services do resume, it will be a gradual process. We will evaluate continuing services as an appointment only. All options will be heavily based on the medical aspect as well as demand for services.

Resuming urine drug screening would also be one of the first things that we will bring back. Discontinuing testing was a difficult decision as it is a good part of outpatient services. It may very well have played a part in increased attendance. We have an agreement with a lab, and we will probably institute a color/call in system. We would do it at a high random rate with enough colors that it will truly be random.

We do not anticipate going back to double occupancy or resuming walk-in services anytime soon. Any plan to increase or resume services at full capacity would be vetted through Broward County Human Services Department and County Administration. More importantly, our Medical Director, Dr. Fahie, and medical staff are very knowledgeable about communicable diseases and very tightly tied with local epidemiologists and the Department of Health. So, any decision to resume full services would be based on solid medical advice. The status of a reliable vaccine would most likely play into any plan. BARC never completely shut down or stopped providing services, but we will be very careful when resuming full operations. Reopening will also be based on demand.

Mr. Smythe expressed concerned with the limited availability at both detox and residential and asked if there was any partnership with private providers to assist in getting BARC back up to capacity. Mr. Feinberg advised that he is not aware of any such arrangement. He further stated that at this time, BARC is meeting community demand; we are not turning people away. We are not admitting anyone who does not meet the ASAM criteria. Also, we do a telephone triage when someone schedules an appointment and if someone wants to come to detox simply because they have nowhere else to go, they are not being admitted. We are holding people longer to make sure they are safe.

The largest shortage of beds is not really in detox, it is in supportive housing - where clients go after detox while they are getting back on their feet.

Mr. Keith Bostick added that BARC and the Department will continue to look at opportunities throughout the country and look for additional funding to assist clients in the successful transition to other levels of care.

Mr. Jeff Greene asked if BARC has any historical data regarding services at or about the time of the 2008 financial crisis. Mr. Feinberg advised that he did not but would look into it.

Judge Mark Speiser advised that judges are tentatively expected to return to the courthouse in July 2020. However, it may be the end of the calendar year before jurors

may be back in the courthouse and that may not even happen. Zoom trials are being considered.

### **President's Report**

Ms. Stephanie Coberly suggested that the Board look at some trainings that may be available to help bring Board Members up to speed on COVID 19, social and drug trends during this time and adjusting business processes to meet the needs of the community.

Mr. Christopher Checke consistently sends out information about trainings and conferences, many of them at no/low cost.

The Board did ask if our Medical Director, Dr. Dale Fahie could provide a medical update/perspective at upcoming meetings. Mr. Jack Feinberg advised that he would be sure to invite Dr. Fahie to the next meeting and he would attend if his schedule permitted.

### **By-Laws Modification**

A final draft of all suggestions to clarify the By-Laws during the February 26, 2020 meeting were presented for final approval. None of the changes reflected substantive 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 changes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matthew Hatfield and carried unanimously by all members present.

### **Sunset Review Panel Meeting**

During the February 26, 2020 Meeting, the Board discussed the possibility of adding or substituting the 19<sup>th</sup> position on the Board with someone other than a member of the Broward Police Chief Association.

In response to the current social situation, the Board discussed making no change to the position at this time. Mr. Orlando Garcia advised that we could modify the requirements of this 19<sup>th</sup> Board member at any time and did not need to wait until the next Sunset Review.

Ms. Linda Frohring made a motion to maintain the 19<sup>th</sup> position as a member of the Broward Police Chief Association for the time being. This Motion was seconded by Mr. Jeff Greene and carried unanimously by all members present

### **Adjourn**

There being no further issues, on motion made by Mr. Jeffrey Green, seconded by Mr. Christopher Checke, and carried unanimously by all members present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.