

MINUTES

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Linda Frohring

ALSO PRESENT

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

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 July 29th, 2020 meeting were presented for approval.

Mr. Garry Smyth moved to accept the minutes from the July 29th, 2020 meeting as presented. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Jeff Greene and carried unanimously by all members present.

Advisory Board Review- State & Federal Programs for Broward County.

The Intergovernmental Affairs Section of Broward County requested Advisory Boards review the State and Federal programs for Broward County and offer suggestions for the upcoming 2021 State Session and the 117th Congress.

Ms. Stephanie Coberly recognized Orlando Garcia, Coordinator with the Inter-Governmental Division for Broward County, and stated that a copy of last year's programs were included in the meeting email sent out to all members. Mr. Garcia described the process, stating that input was being requested for the upcoming year's legislative agendas.

Mr. Garry Smyth recommended that the County seek public/private partnerships for Residential Detox services to help meet the needs of the community during the COVID 19 pandemic. Mr. Jack Feinberg asked Mr. Smyth if he was requesting a Legislative Budget Request (LBR) seeking additional funding for such partnerships. Otherwise, most of the specified issues could be addressed on a County level. Mr. Smyth stated he felt both the LBR and County level discussions should be pursued. He expressed concern that the residents of Broward County may not be able to receive the proper level of care during this time, especially while BARC has a reduced capacity.

Both Mr. Garcia and Mr. Feinberg stated that this coming year BARC would not be submitting any LBR's due to the current economic conditions and the very probable budget shortfalls, sighting similar realities within the County for the upcoming fiscal year 2020-2021. Judge Speiser agreed, stating that all County agencies are fully aware of the budgetary issues and are not asking for additional funding for the upcoming fiscal year's budget.

Discussion continued concerning area non-profits, private facilities and BARC working together to provide the additional services that are needed. Mr. Smyth proposed developing a Memorandum of Understanding between the County and other providers on this matter.

Mr. Feinberg will contact Sylvia Quintana, CEO at Broward Behavioral Health Coalition, to discuss potential opportunities. Specifically, he would inquire BBHC has done in the past with non-profit and the private sector to provide services that are in demand. Mr. Feinberg will look to coordinate a meeting with BBHC and send updates to the Board. Mr. Smyth voiced an interest in attending such a meeting when scheduled.

Director's Report

Mr. Jack Feinberg reported that the expected tsunami has arrived, with BARC at full, and sometimes above capacity. Currently demand for services has increased significantly.

Mr. Feinberg explained that BARC is now able to get COVID 19 results back in a timelier manner and the benefits of that quicker turnaround. The wait-time was 3 to 21 days causing many difficulties, recent results have been coming back in 2 to 3 days.

Mr. Feinberg described the second Town Hall meeting between staff and himself. Staff discussed feelings of heightened anxiety, with mental health issues being a growing

concern. Further discussion centered on what constitutes exposure for staff as two clients have tested positive for COVID 19. Mr. Feinberg described different levels of exposure that the CDC has set forth, stating that we are all still learning. Each situation is unique and continues to offer challenges for staff and clients as well as how business is conducted.

Mr. Feinberg stated that the Letter of Appreciation from the Advisory Board to all BARC staff, was well received and very much appreciated. Staff expressed interest in the Board, its function and were grateful that their efforts during these times are recognized.

Ms. Stephanie Coberly thanked Mr. Feinberg for his report and opened the floor for questions.

Mr. Garry Smyth applauded Director Feinberg for displaying good leadership on having the Town Hall meeting with staff, stating that such a platform may not always be an easy task for Administrators and employers.

President's Report

Ms. Stephanie Coberly thanked Board members for reviewing materials before the meeting and for their input and participation.

Adjourn

There being no further issues or discussion, Mr. Matthew Hatfield made a motion to adjourn, Judge Mark Speiser seconded, and the motion carried unanimously by all members present. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 AM.