

MINUTES

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC) Division
Broward County Substance Abuse Advisory Board
September 25, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT

Christopher Checke
Stephanie Coberly
Jodi Cowart
Linda Frohring
Jeff Greene
Matthew Hatfield
Eleanor Nelson-Wernick
Charles Resnick
Garry Smyth
Jonathan Sobelman

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jeffery Barrett
Kathy Hurt
Mark Speiser

ALSO PRESENT

Jack Feinberg, Division Director
Patricia Bailey, 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 7:36 am.

Quorum

It was determined a quorum was present.

Minutes

The minutes from the May 29, 2019 meeting were presented for approval. Ms. Linda Frohring moved to accept the minutes as presented. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Charles Resnick and carried unanimously by all members present.

Director's Report

Mr. Jack Feinberg discussed the items that were recently approved for funding by the County Commission for the Fiscal Year 2020:

1. Seven (7) additional full-time milieu staff (3 Substance Abuse Caseworkers and 4 Mental Health Specialists) to increase staff to client ratios at BARC Residential. BARC's 92 bed Residential Treatment Facility in Coral Springs requires additional staff to ensure adequate monitoring and safety of patients. The main tasks include facilitating the daily taking and inventorying of medication, checking beds, conducting urine drug screening, monitoring client behavior, etc. This is critical as the facility relies on these staff to monitor medication self-administration and ensure the health and safety of patients.

2. Two 23-hour Triage Hold Bays for Detox Admissions, including 4 full time RNs. BARC's 50 bed detoxification unit is often at capacity when individuals present with an emergent need for medical detoxification. Often these individuals are Broward County citizens with no financial means or health coverage to access care at other facilities and go untreated despite their immediate need and desire to receive help. Due to the rapid turnover in beds at BARC Detox, a bed is often available within the next 24 hours. This request will allow vulnerable citizens to receive stabilization care in a medical treatment room in BARC's Triage unit, for up to 23 hours, until a bed in Detox becomes available.

3. Contracted housekeeping services for Detox. BARC currently utilizes Mental Health Specialists and Nurses to clean patient sleeping rooms and change linens. This is not an optimal use of their time and nor are they proficient at it. Additionally, they identify it as a task that negatively effects their job satisfaction. This request will provide funding to contract with a housekeeping service for patient sleeping rooms. As a bonus, BARC will be partnering with a community organization that will teach new job skills to the contracted staff.

4. Two additional Behavioral Health Clinicians to function as Court/Criminal Justice Liaisons. One will attend and represent BARC at Community Court, Marchman Court, Drug Court and other legal or civil proceedings and the other will conduct in-custody or off-site assessments and screenings.

5. Funding for a new electronic health/medical record to replace ECHO was approved.

6. Additional funding to support the full implementation of the previously approved bed management/patient tracking software.

The request for a parking lot to the west of the building was not approved. The anticipated cost was not available, but we will be able to pursue this request next fiscal year.

Another item that was not approved was for long acting injectable buprenorphine. However, the Division has submitted a special request to the state legislature for a one-time grant of approximately \$158,000.

Mr. Feinberg advised that the Division recently hired a new Admissions Director – Vanessa Major. This position will have Administrative and Clinical oversight and management of the entire Admissions Unit. She will assist in the design and operation of enhanced program services within the section; developing and implementing strategic plans to improve programming. This will require collaboration between clinical staff, the medical team, and finance staff to unify and streamline the admissions

process. It is the goal of the Division to have admissions completed within 120 minutes. Her experience with local stakeholders and their processes is a further benefit.

Mr. Feinberg discussed the Division's Response to staff feedback during the Department's Coffee and Conversation Meetings. Many of the staff comments were indicative of organizational trauma. Though the cause of organizational trauma is often characterized by a single great event, such as a natural disaster, major mergers of companies, drastic budget cuts or work place violence, trauma can also come from a series of persistent events, such as frequent changes in leadership, changes in mission, changes in roles and responsibilities and major changes in work processes and or locations that are implemented without skilled and sufficient change management. The Division will be working on this as well as the other concerns that were raised during these staff meetings.

Mr. Feinberg advised that a long time BARC employee will be retiring in the next six months and we will begin recruiting shortly. The position is for a Human Services Administrator and they will need to be well versed not only in Outpatient and Intensive Outpatient, but also in the Medication Assisted Treatment program. Since many BARC clients are involved in both it only makes sense that they are managed together.

The Division is working with Broward Sheriff's Office (through a grant) to have Peer Specialists in the Broward Health hospitals – North and South. Peer Specialists are stationed at the hospital, in the emergency room, to assist in providing treatment for patients being discharged for non-fatal opioid overdoses to help combat the numerous re-admissions and reduce overdose deaths. The Peer Specialists speak with the patient and their families to help them better understand the disease and treatment options. Mr. Gary Smyth added that studies have shown that while the patient may not enter treatment immediately, they often go back to the materials received and reach out for assistance a day or two later. So, the impact is significant, if sometimes delayed.

Mr. Fienberg presented a brief data synopsis of admissions and discharge between the various programs including the Medication Assisted Treatment Program.

President's Report

Ms. Stephanie Coberly discussed what the role of the Board should look like going forward. She stated that previous meetings centered around supporting and advocating for a new BARC facility; now we are in the facility, what next? What can the Board do to help the community? Build awareness?

Mr. Christopher Checke quoted the County Ordinance which defines the Board powers, duties and functions: "The Broward County Substance Abuse Advisory Board shall advise the Broward County Board of County Commissioners and the Broward Addiction Recovery Division on matters relating to substance abuse." The Assistant County Attorney has been invited to attend the October 30, 2019 meeting to explain the purpose of this Board and what can and cannot be done.

Currently, the Division generally brings information to the Advisory Board and the Advisory Board members bring information about what is going on in the community. Ms. Coberly opened the floor for comments and discussion.

There was some discussion regarding the loss of prevention and awareness programs since the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) eliminated that unit. BSO's Department of Community Programs (DoCC) is still operational and their mission is to reduce crime and create safer communities through alternatives to incarceration but does not include prevention and awareness education. However, Sheriff Gregory Tony feels that prevention and awareness can best be provided by his officers on the streets daily. This way they can build a relationship with individuals, the schools, homeowners associations and other groups.

The Public Education and Awareness Team (PEAT) for BARC will be at the October 30, 2019 meeting to explain what they do for the community and for BARC staff.

There was some mention of bringing speakers to the Meetings and inviting staff for educational purposes.

Mr. Jeffrey Green provided information from the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board's 2nd Educational Summit. He advised that although this event is geared towards First Responders and Law Enforcement, everyone is welcome. RSVP is required. The event is scheduled for October 16, 2019, at Ann Kolb Nature Center, in Hollywood, Fl. A copy of the invitation/flyer will be forwarded to all Board Members.

Sunset Review

The Board was advised that the County will begin its annual Sunset Review Process of all Advisory Boards. A Sunset Review is an evaluation of the need for the continued existence of each Board, assessing their effectiveness and performance.

The Intergovernmental Affairs/Boards Section (IABS) is the lead for the Review and will reach out to Stephanie Coberly, Christopher Checke, Jack Feinberg or Patty Bailey, for certain information. The recommendations are brought before the Advisory Board seeking their input before going to County Administration and the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC).

The process is expected to start during the first quarter of FY 2019-2020.

Adjourn

There being no further issues, on motion made by Ms. Eleanor Nelson-Wernick, seconded by Ms. Jodi Cowart, and carried unanimously by all members present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 a.m.