



Meeting Summary

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC) Division
Broward County Substance Abuse Advisory Board
January 29th, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT

Checke, Christopher
Coberly, Stephanie
Diego, Elias
Hatfield, Matthew
Hurt, Kathy
Karney, Donald
Nelson-Wernick, Eleanor
Rapaglia, Ray
Sobelman, Jonathan
Speiser, Judge Mark

MEMBERS ABSENT

Resnick, Charles
Smyth, Garry

ALSO PRESENT

John, Gerard - Director Broward Addiction Recovery Division
Dale, Kacee - Recording Secretary
Bailey, Patricia - Asst. Recording Secretary
Mitchell, Barbara – LPN with BARC's Medication Assisted Treatment Program

Location

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC)
325 SW28th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315
Rocky Rodriguez Community Room 1001

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Stephanie Coberly at 7:34 am.

Quorum

It was determined a quorum was present

Minutes

Draft minutes from the September 24th, 2024, meeting were presented for approval. Mr. Matthew Hatfield moved to accept, seconded by Ms. Kathy Hurt, and carried unanimously by all members present.



New Business

Mr. Elias Diego was appointed to the Board by Commissioner Steve Geller. He briefly introduced himself and shared why he chose to join this Board.

Ms. Stephanie Coberly advised the members that Ms. Karen Gordon, Assistant County Attorney, will be at the April 23rd, 2025, Meeting to discuss *Sunshine Law, Public Records & Ethics*. She will join the meeting at 8:15 am. BARC staff will send the informational PowerPoint out to all members. Mr. Sal Torre may have already sent it, but just to be sure, it will be sent again. It is a rather lengthy PowerPoint, so members are asked to review the information prior to the meeting. This will allow Ms. Gordon time to go over the highlights and concentrate on questions from the Board.

Bylaws – Updates

Suggested revisions / updates to the Bylaws were presented to the Board and discussed. These revisions are necessary to be consistent with the County's General Provisions regarding Boards.

ARTICLE VII - ATTENDANCE

Section 1.

~~Attendance at the Board meeting is governed by Broward County Code Ordinance No. 2003-21 amending Section 1-233 of Chapter 1, Article XII of the Broward County Code of Ordinances.~~

~~Any appointee to a Board, authority or agency who has three (3) consecutive absences or misses four (4) meetings in one (1) calendar year shall be automatically removed as a member, except where otherwise provided in the Broward County Charter, general or special law. There are no excused absences under any circumstances; however, the appointing commissioner or the other appointing authority, where appropriate, may reappoint the member when extenuating circumstances are found to exist for said member's absences.~~

Attendance at the Board meeting is governed by Broward County Code Ordinance Chapter 1, Article XII Boards, Authorities and Agencies Generally, Sec. 1-233.

Removal based on Attendance



1. Board meetings on a quarterly or less frequent basis: Members will be removed after two (2) consecutive unexcused absences or missing two (2) properly noticed meetings in one (1) calendar year.

2. Board meetings more frequently than quarterly: Members will be removed after three (3) consecutive unexcused absences or missing for (4) properly noticed meetings in one (1) calendar year.

Excused Absences

Require written notice to the chair of the board prior to the meeting (when practicable). The chair of the board shall determine whether the absence meets the criteria for an excused absence. Members may be excused ONLY for the following reasons:

1. Member performing an authorized alternative activity relating to outside advisory board business that directly conflicts with the properly noticed meeting;
2. Death of an immediate family member (spouse, father, mother, stepparent, in loco parentis, child, or stepchild domiciled in member's household);
3. Death of member's domestic partner;
4. Member's hospitalization;
5. Member summoned for jury duty; or
6. Member is issued a subpoena by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Non-excused absences

1. Out of town business.
2. Doing business or attending a meeting for member's company.
3. Attending another meeting as an elected official.
4. Car problems.
3. If an appointee is automatically removed under this subsection for violating the attendance requirements, the appointing/nominating Commissioner or other appointing/nominating authority may reappoint the appointee when extenuating circumstances, as determined by the appointing/nominating authority, are found to exist for the appointee's absences.

There was also a correction to the name of the board on page 3, under Article V.

Attendance requirements had not been discussed since converting to quarterly meetings. The attendance requirements are much stricter now that meetings are only four times per year. There was a brief discussion regarding changing the number of meetings per year so that attendance would not be so demanding. After discussion, it was decided to not to change the number of meetings at this time, but the matter could be raised again at a future meeting.



Ms. Patricia Bailey explained that should a member be removed from the Board due to absenteeism, they could reach out to their appointing Commissioner and request they be reappointed. Additionally, Ms. Bailey reminded everyone that should their appointing Commission no longer be on the Commission, the incoming Commissioner has six months to reappoint them, or they will automatically be removed. Accordingly, it is incumbent upon each Board member to proactively reach out to the new Commissioner and request re-appointment. Additionally, you are not required to live the same district as the Commissioner who appoints you; you must live in Broward County. As a courtesy you should inform your appointing Commissioner if you are moving out of their district.

Mr. Matthew Hatfield moved to accept the revisions to the Bylaws as presented. This Motion was seconded by Mr. Don Karney, and carried unanimously by all members present.

Renaming the Board

It was previously suggested that the Board consider a new name utilizing terminology intended to reduce the stigma of substance use. Some advocates argue that terms as simple as "substance abuse," suggest that people are consciously choosing to use drugs or alcohol. The Board was provided a publication from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) that explains some of the preferred terms to use when talking about addiction. Also, several names used by similar groups across the country were shared with the Board.

Mr. Gerard John was asked how he felt about changing the name to which he replied, "more important than the name is what the Board does".

After a brief discussion, it was agreed to maintain the current name, but that the issue could be raised again should someone propose new name.

Division Report

Mr. Gerard John introduced Ms. Barbara Mitchell. Ms. Mitchell is the primary nurse with BARC's Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program and attended a previous meeting where several clients shared their success with the BARC program. She provided an update on those clients, advising that they continue to be successful in their recovery, maintaining sobriety, re-establishing healthy relationships, finding stable employment, actively participating in support groups, and demonstrating personal growth in various aspects of their lives.



The Board asked Ms. Mitchell if she could invite other clients to speak about their involvement with the MAT program. She was also asked about having family members come and share the impact of having a loved one in recovery.

Mr. John mentioned due to recent rule changes, the MAT program no longer requires participants receive counseling. BARC will continue to encourage that aspect, but cannot deny access to MAT medications if they decline.

Mr. John discussed the Addiction Receiving Facility (ARF) that is being planned using Opioid Settlement Funds. The building will be on the west side of the current BARC facility and will serve 25 clients in a locked environment.

Mr. John spoke about Outreach Team that will be funded with Opioid Settlement Funds. The team will include a Registered Nurse, a licensed Behavioral Health Clinician, a Substance Abuse Case Worker and a Mental Health Specialist. A van will also be made available for the team to assist in transporting clients or potential clients. He briefly discussed the goals of team which include, going to locations throughout the County and engage individuals who may need treatment, assessing persons on the spot, transporting persons to BARC or other locations to receive treatment, and making educational presentations to the community.

The Division has been participating in similar outreach activities in conjunction with our sister agency, Housing Options, Solutions, and Supports Division (HOSSD). The Board was invited to join BARC and HOSSD on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at approximately 10 am for the next planned outreach at the Pompano Bus Terminal.

Human Services Office of Equality & Community Investment (ECI)

Mr. David Watkins, Human Services Administrator, from the Human Services Office of Equality & Community Investment (ECI) was introduced. Mr. Watkins explained that the mission of his office is to centralize and expand the efforts of the Human Services Department's (HSD) community investment through the development and coordination of human services grants, request for proposals, external grant funding application activities, nonprofit capacity building, technical assistance, community engagement activities and college internship experiences within the HSD through the University Student Practicum Program (USSP).

He joined today's meeting to introduce himself and ask for the Board's support in sharing information about funding opportunities aimed at improving the health and welfare of Broward County residents. He shared a current Emergency Solutions Grants Program Request for Proposals (RFP) for housing and essential services providers for certain residents of Broward County.



He asked the Board to forward any grant opportunities that they became aware of that may be advantageous to BARC or the County.

Mr. Watkins briefly discussed the USSP program that has agreements with a number of colleges and universities to provide internships for clinicians, nurses and most recently Office Support Staff. This program has been highly successful and is growing quickly.

Member's Forum

Mr. Ray Rapaglia informed the Board that a large transitional housing unit in Hollywood, Florida was recently closed for failing to recertify. He indicated that the facility had approximately 180 beds and all current residents would need to find new living arrangements. Broward Behavioral Health Coalition (BBHC), as well as other agencies were assisting, but it is a large scale and very difficult process.

Mr. Christopher Checke asked about the impact of the Executive Order from the White House freezing spending on federal loans and grants. Mr. Gerard John explained that the County Office of Management and Budget (OMB) were closely watching this event and providing updates as they become aware, but the entire process is still very confusing. Also, while BARC does not receive any direct federal funding, some of the agencies that fund BARC do. At this time BARC does not know how this action will impact BARC.

Mr. John expanded on recent White House actions involving immigration and how this may impact people seeking treatment. He advised that he recently met with BARC supervisors and discussed how this should be addressed both with clients and should officials come to the facility. As of now, it does not seem to have had a substantial impact, but it is on everyone's mind.

Ms. Kathy Hurt discussed the 2nd Annual National Addiction Solutions Summit to be held on February 19, 2025, at the Hollywood Diplomat Beach Resort. This event is presented by the United Way Commission on Behavioral Health and Drug Prevention with the support of several community agencies. There will be a VIP reception the evening before. Both events are free, but parking is \$15 (\$30 for valet).

The Keynote Speaker is Rahul Gupta, MD, MPH, MBA, former Director of the White House Office of Drug Control Policy (2021 -2025). The Moderator is Dr. Stephen Loyd, Director of West Virginia's Office of Drug Control Policy. Dr. Loyd also provided first hand, expert advice to the producers of the miniseries, "Dopesick".

Topics that will be included in the Summit:
– Data Sharing Systems



- Evidence Based Responses
- Novel and Promising Strategies
- Prevention Strategies
- Importance of Creating Positive Private Partnerships Q&A

Ms. Hurt will forward additional information after the meeting, including how to register.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Christopher Checke, seconded by Mr. Ray Rapaglia and carried unanimously by all members present. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 am.

Next quarterly meeting to be held on April 23rd, 2025, beginning at 7:30am, Rocky Rodriguez Community Room – BARC Central.