



Meeting Summary

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC) Division
Broward County Substance Abuse Advisory Board
September 25th, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT

Checke, Christopher
Hatfield, Matthew
Hurt, Kathy
Karney, Donald
Nelson-Wernick, Eleanor (phone)
Rapaglia, Ray
Smyth, Garry
Sobelman, Jonathan

MEMBERS ABSENT

Coberly, Stephanie (Ex)
Falzone, Lynette
Resnick, Charles
Speiser, Judge Mark

ALSO PRESENT

John, Gerard - Director Broward Addiction Recovery Division
Bostick, Keith – Deputy Director Human Services
Torre, Salvatore - Recording Secretary
Dale, Kacee - Asst. Recording Secretary
Cassini, Marty – Intergovernmental Affairs

Location

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC)
Rocky Rodriguez Community Room

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Christopher Checke at 7:40 am.

Quorum

It was determined a quorum was present

Meeting

Draft minutes from the June 26th, 2024, meeting were presented for approval. Mr. Matthew Hatfield moved to accept, seconded by Mr. Jonathan Sobelman, and carried unanimously by all members present.



Sunset Review/Intergovernmental Affairs

Mr. Marty Cassini briefly discussed the Sunset Review process and stated everything seemed good. He will provide an update when the proceedings have concluded and advise if there are any recommendations.

The Board inquired about an application for appointment to the Board submitted by Ms. Heather Palacios. Mr. Cassini will follow up with the Commissioners.

There was some discussion regarding changing the name of the Board to reinforce the medical nature of substance use disorders and reduce the stigma associated with "substance abuse". This matter was tabled until the next meeting on January 29th, 2025.

Division Report

Mr. Checke turned the floor over to Director Gerard John to deliver the Division Report.

Mr. John spoke on new software purchased to assess clients and determine the potential suicide risk level of patients within 72 hours after discharge. iPads were purchased to help facilitate completion of the assessments.

Mr. John spoke about the client retreat scheduled for 10/2/2024 at Residential, and suggested board members stop by. Mr. John will send details to the board members.

Mr. John also spoke to members about the need for gently used clothing for clients leaving treatment. He will send a list of items needed to board members.

Mr. John shared that BARC recently purchased duffle bags for clients leaving treatment with only trash bags to carry personal items in.

Mr. John discussed the plans for BARC Detox 25 bed expansion. The plans are going well and are currently with the architect. There is currently no tentative completion date.

Mr. John informed board members of BARC's on-going community outreach to the county's homeless community in partnership with the Housing Options, Solutions, and Supports Division (HOSSD) of Human Services. This outreach has taken place at the downtown Bus Terminal off Broward Blvd and at the Pompano homeless encampment. Additionally, he advised that the County Commission approved four (4) additional staff positions that will act as an ongoing outreach team. Hiring is planned to begin next month.

Current census; Central has 45 with 50-bed capacity. Residential is currently at 76 with a 96-bed capacity.



Member's Forum

Members spoke on the need for a subcommittee, based on the opioid settlement funds and how part of that settlement agreement advocates for county governments to establish an Opioid Settlement Citizens Advisory Council that would gather input and suggestions locally on the best use of funds received.

The Division will follow-up with Mr. Cassini to see if the Advisory Board can create a subcommittee within the existing board, or if it needs to be established separately. The Board would like to advocate for the County Commission to establish such a committee, which would seek input from community partners and community organizations, and report back to the commission.

There are currently 8 available positions on the board. The Florida Association of Recovery Residences (FARR) CEO Michael Schlossman will attend meeting in January to be introduced to the board.

Human Services Deputy Director Keith Bostick spoke on Florida's new law going into effect on October 1st, 2024, making it illegal for people struggling with homelessness to sleep outside on public property.

Adjourn

Mr. Checke thanked Mr. John for the Division Report and asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn made by Garry Smyth, seconded by Ray Rapaglia – meeting adjourned at 8:49 am.

Next quarterly meeting to be held on January 29th, beginning at 7:30am, Rocky Rodriguez Community Room – BARC Central.