

Beaufort County Alcohol & Drug Abuse Department
Virtual Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 16, 2021

Attending Board Members: Javier Zimbron, Thomas Hale, Worth Liipfert, Linda Hoffman, and Carol Hartman

Absent Board Members: Joe Naughton

Visitors: None

Attending Beaufort County Alcohol & Drug Abuse (BCADAD) Staff: Steve Donaldson, BJ Ray, and Christina Coker

Meeting called to order at 5:02 pm by Carol Hartman (Worth Liipfert asked Carol to head the meeting as he was attending via telephone while driving).

The Pledge of Allegiance was cited by all attending together.

Emailed Handouts to Board Members:

Agenda
Minutes from December 16, 2020 Meeting
Director's Report

Previous Meeting Minutes Approval:

Motion made by Javier Zimbron to approve the minutes from December 16, 2020
2nd by Worth Liipfert
Motion passed unanimously

Action Items from the last meeting: None

Public Comment: None

Director's Report:

- **COVID Update:**
 - Shortly after re-opening in November, BCADAD Offices closed again due to the rise in the infection rate for Beaufort County. During December and January, 39% of the BCADAD staff contracted COVID. All have recovered. Currently, 0% of the team has COVID. The State moved both Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Abuse staff members into Group 1A to receive the COVID vaccinations. Fifty percent of the staff have opted to get the vaccinations. The others have decided to wait or have declined altogether. Two staff members who had COVID were advised to delay but plan to get the vaccinations once the waiting period has expired. All staff vaccinations will be complete during the first week of March. The office is planning to re-open with a skeleton staff on March 8. All groups will remain virtual until it is safe for our patients and staff to resume in-person services. Local infection rates and The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations will be reviewed and used to make re-opening decisions. The CDC Safety Guidelines will be followed in the office.

- **Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program:**

- Beaufort Memorial Hospital (BMH) has delayed implementing the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program with the department. The MAT contract with DAODAS is awaiting the signature of Russell Baxley, BMH CEO.
- **Personnel Updates:**
 - Presently, BCADAD has all staff back at work (virtually).
 - A Peer Support Specialist position in the Beaufort Office was filled. His start date is February 22, 2021.
 - The Bridge Grant position is expected to be filled as the paperwork is in the process of heading to Human Resources for final vetting and approval to hire. March 2021 is the anticipated start date.
 - We have received a letter of resignation from Shavon Jenkins, LPHA, effective February 19, 2021. She will be leaving us to start her own counseling business. She leaves us with our blessing and knows she is welcome to re-apply if desired. She will be missed and is wished the very best in this new endeavor.
 - Christina Coker will be leaving on maternity leave soon and is in the process of training other operational staff to carry on her duties while she is out. The baby is due on April 19.
- **New Opportunities**
 - **Health Resources & Services Administration Grant (HRSA)**
The BCADAD is in the process of applying for this grant. The HRSA Grant is a 3-year grant, worth \$1 million dollars and will cover services to the community deemed underserved in the areas of Prevention, Intervention, Treatment, and Recovery by expanding Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), educating community professionals regarding institutional bias, and expanding the role of Peer Support Specialists at Beaufort Memorial Hospital. The grant process includes creating a Consortium of Members such as BMH, Detention Center, Fire and Rescue Departments, Low Country Faces and Voices of Recovery (FAVOR), and South Carolina Rural Health Care Program, naming a few. The grant has enabled the department to develop a data warehouse which will be useful even if awarded. As each grant has an evaluation requirement and reporting, the grant writers have offered to handle this for 4% of the grant award, which in this case would be \$40K. Award notification is expected by June 2021, and implementation would start on October 1, 2021.
 - **New Paths Program** – No contract has been received from the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (SC-DAODAS). Still, Steve has been assured the money is available, and we should receive a sub-contract request.
 - BCADAD presently has two staff members taking training through the Department of Transportation to be certified as Substance Abuse Professionals (SAP). Once training is complete and certified, BCADAD will serve those with commercial driver's licenses by providing assessments. It will also be a goal of BCADAD to have our drug screening lab certified.
 - Tricare (Military Health Insurance) – Now that our Outpatient and Intensive Outpatient Services are fully accredited, we qualify to provide treatment services to patients with Tricare Insurance. We are presently in the process of applying to become a network provider.
 - Virtual Treatment Services - SC-DAODAS has approved virtual Outpatient and Intensive Outpatient (IOP) Treatment Services to be paid using the Block Grant Funds.

- Beaufort County has approved additional office space in the Human Services Building in Beaufort for BCADAD's use. The BCADAD will need space if the HRSA grant is funded.
 - Billboards around Beaufort County will inform the community about NARCAN and with positive messages promoting Anti-Stigma. Billboards are expected to be in place by March 1 and will rotate throughout September 30, 2021. The Prevention staff will be working on positive responses to negative messages received from the community by phone and email.
- **Financial Report: Christina Coker**
 - Christina went over the Year-To-Date financial report, which included figures for July 2020-January 2021. She reported that BCADAD had received 40% of expected revenue and used 43% of budgeted expenses. She said BCADAD is expected to transfer over \$398K from its fund balance, which is less than the initially anticipated amount of \$463K to zero out finances for FY21. The transfer will take place at the end of June 2021. She explained that the decrease in the is due to staff productivity and the ability to bill for virtual groups and keep expenses very low.
- **Board Vacancy**
 - An application has been received to fill the Board vacancy. This application has been turned in and will begin the approval process shortly with final approval from County Council expected in time for this new board member to attend the next BCADAD Board Meeting in April 2021. The new board member is a member of the Beaufort community as well as the recovery community.
- **Questions/Advice/Comments**
 - Javier asked a question regarding Drug Court. Steve reported that the Solicitor's Office extended drug court services to both Colleton and Jasper Counties. However, he had no funding for a counselor in Beaufort. Steve said that from 2018-2020 between 23-32% of Beaufort Drug Court patients are diagnosed with a form of opioid misuse. Therefore, the goal is to supplement the Beaufort Drug Court with personnel through the possible HRSA Grant. Mr. Jeff Kidd is heading the multi-disciplinary courts and will be BCADAD's new contact.

The next Virtual Meeting is April 14, 2021

Meeting Adjourned – Motion made by Linda Hoffman
 Second by Javier Zimbron
 Motion Passed Unanimously

Submitted: bjr