

**Beaufort County Alcohol & Drug Abuse Department
Virtual Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 20, 2021**

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

Absent Board Members: None

Visitors: None

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

Meeting called to order at 5:00 pm by Worth Liipfert

All attending cited the Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction of new Board Member, Blake White

Emailed Handouts to Board Members:

Agenda
Minutes from February 16, 2021 Meeting
Director's Report

Previous Meeting Minutes Approval:

Motion made by Tom Hale to approve the minutes from February 16, 2021
2nd by Javier Zimbron
Motion passed unanimously

Action Items from the last meeting: None

Public Comment: None

Director's Report:

- **COVID-19 Update:**
 - The BCADAD has approximately 65% staff vaccinated.

- **Personnel Update:**
 - Adolescent Counselor through the Bridge Grant has started. This counselor will be embedded in the Right Choices Program and provide relief for the one Adolescent Counselor serving Beaufort County.
 - Two vacant counselor positions now exist (one has been vacant for over a year and can now be filled). One accepted and then opted to stay with his employer.
 - Both Peer Recovery Support Specialists are now certified and able to provide and bill for services.
 - The operations manager is out on medical leave until July.

- **Financial Update:**
 - Debt Set-Off Program has exceeded expectations. Nearly \$30k in bad debt has been recouped.
- **Project Updates:**
 - **\$ 1 Million Grant-** was submitted as scheduled. The Beaufort Memorial Hospital (BMH) system opted not to be involved, as desired. Therefore, the focus changed but only slightly. The goal is to enhance medication-assisted treatment, peer workforce, resume Drug Court services, and do community outreach with first responders.
 - **Additional Grants (\$4.65 million over five years)-** Two additional grants are under consideration. One is to obtain additional funding to stabilize the peer workforce and not seek year-to-year funding through SC-DAODAS; to produce training videos on Narcan for internal and external use; and expand Medication Assisted Recovery efforts. The other is to partner with first responders (Sheriff, EMS, and Firefighters) to enhance Narcan training, pay for their Narcan, and track overdoses responses.
 - **Drug Court-** The 14th Circuit Solicitor and BCADAD are finalizing contracts and Business Associate Agreements to resume Drug Court programming and embedding a Peer Recovery Support Specialist if a grant is awarded to provide additional support.
 - **BMH-** the Medication Assisted Treatment Contract to work more with Beaufort Memorial Hospital medical clinics was executed, but work plans tabled.
 - **New Paths-** Program redevelopment has started. The department is looking at internal resources and volunteer coordination to assist. That way, the monies could be used for transition assistance when women with SUDs issues need support otherwise not available.
 - **Department of Transportation-** Two staff are now certified by the Department of Transportation (DOT) as DOT counselors. The Treatment Director will be proposing service enhancements and marketing once counselor vacancies have been filled.
 - **Tricare-** Awaiting Tricare to notify BCADAD if approved to be a service provider. Marketing to follow.
 - **Virtual Outpatient and Intensive Outpatient Groups-** the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug “provisionally” privileged BCADAD to provide virtual Intensive Outpatient (IOP) Treatment Services. The service is now offered to all patients, but Medicaid beneficiaries are still not authorized.
 - **Strategic Plan-** The department is working with external consultants to craft a 3-5 year strategic plan. The gathering of information and feedback started in November. Leadership has been working with the consultants on the actual program for the last month. The goal is to have a completed plan by July 2021.
 - **SC-DAODAS County Plan-** The department will be asking for recurring funding for 3 positions (2 Peers and 1 Adolescent Counselor).
 - **Employee Spotlight-** The department started an Employee Spotlight Award. The first recipient was Katie Godowns from Prevention, and the winner for the 3rd Quarter was Margo Weeks from the Peer Recovery Program. Spotlitged Employees are highlighted on the service location bulletin boards.
- **Prevention**
 - The Narcan Curbside event held on April 10, 2021, was held at both service locations. There were 40 citizens trained to use Narcan at the event. Local library staff reached out and indicated they needed Narcan for first aid at the libraries. The BCADAD Grant Writers are going to bookmark the library need in the work plan and budget.

- The anti-stigma campaign use of billboards and social media has been going on for approximately two months. The promotion includes Narcan awareness and distribution. No known benefit to date.
- The next DEA Takeback Event will occur on April 24 from 10 am-1 pm in the Sheriff Dept parking lot in Beaufort and at the Bluffton Government Center.
- **Outcomes**
 - Counselor productivity was 63% for the 3rd Quarter.
 - Patient completion rates for the 3rd Quarter dropped to 49%, which exceeds the departmental goal of 55%. However, ADSAP exceeded 90% for the first time in over a year.
 - Most importantly, it is getting harder to engage patients timely with the counselor vacancies. Treatment on demand is hard to do, and the wait for initial appointments is beyond two to three weeks, depending upon the service and location.
 - Data Points of Interest for FY21 1st Quarter:
 - Referrals are coming from: 65% Criminal Justice System, 11% DSS, 10% Self-Referral, School 2%, Medical Community 1%, 11% Other.
 - Gender: 65% Male and 35% Female
 - Race: 58% White, 28% Black, and 10% Hispanic, and 4% Other
 - Age Groups: 27% Adolescents, 71% Adults, 2% Seniors (Age range 25-34 is the highest age group)
 - Substance Use (Primary or Secondary Problem): Alcohol 76.59%, Cannabis 47.51%, Nicotine 47.51%, Cocaine 14.18%, Opiates 13.47%, Methamphetamines: 7.09%, and 4.02% of patients are IV Using.
 - Re-arrest after Discharge 3% (Exceeds State average of 2%)
 - Return to Substance Use (Excludes Nicotine) 1% (Self-Report from 19% of all patients discharged)
- **Financial Report: None**
- **Questions/Advice/Comments**
 - Steve gave an update on the new proposed Halfway House legislation. He indicated the following:
 - a. Halfway Houses are not presently regulated
 - b. S.C. Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS) will not be taking a position on this issue
 - c. Registering with the State will be optional. However, if a house is not registered, BCADAD will not make referrals to these houses.
 - d. Registered Houses must be open to accepting Medicated Assisted Recovery (MAR) persons.
 - Discussion among the Board members followed.

The next Virtual Meeting is June 15, 2021

Meeting Adjourned – Motion made by Joe Naughton
Second by Carol Hartman
Motion Passed Unanimously

Submitted: bjr