

**Beaufort County Alcohol & Drug Abuse Department
Virtual Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 17, 2021**

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

Absent Board Members: Javier Zimbron

Visitors: Audra Antonacci – Ogden, Assistant County Administrator for Community Services

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

Meeting called to order at 5:01 pm by Worth Liipfert

All attending cited the Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction of Audra Antonacci - Ogden, New Assistant County Administrator for Community Services

Emailed Handouts to Board Members:

Agenda
Minutes from April 20, 2021 Meeting
Director's Report

Previous Meeting Minutes Approval:



Motion made by Tom Hale to approve the minutes from April 20, 2021
2nd by Worth Liipfert
Motion passed unanimously

Action Items from the last meeting: None


Public Comment: None

Director's Report:



A. COVID-19 Update:

-  All staff has been asked to mask up again.
-  One employee continues to have ill effects from Covid, but she has worked through it for the most part.

B. Board Update:

-  A board vacancy is now available. Joe Naughton's energy will be missed. He remains a friend to our mission and to BCADAD.

C. Personnel Update:

-  One vacant Counselor position. The Position has been advertised since November 2020.
-  Adolescent Counselor (Grant Funded) position is now open and advertised.

- ✚ Bluffton bi-lingual Receptionist position has been filled. She started on August 2, 2021.
- ✚ The Operations Manager resigned, effective August 12, 2021, to work closer to home (newborn baby). She is contracting with the Department to assist with billing and has consented to train her replacement.
- ✚ The Operations Manager position has been filled. Barbara Mathis is expected to begin work on August 30, 2021.
- ✚ Spanish interpreter needed for PRN work (3-6 hours a week).
- ✚ Position names changed. Several staff members will be getting new identification badges due to the compensation and classification study adopted by the county council.

D. Financial Update:

- ✚ Several funds related to The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Alcohol Excise Tax-related funds, and staff development and retention funds are being finalized for the Department soon. The details and instructions on how they are drawn down are expected soon.
- ✚ The county passed its budget. The BCADAD budget presented was for \$1,620,907, which does not include the funds above or any possible grant awards still pending.
- ✚ Alcohol Excise Tax funds and Debt Set-off received made the Department nearly break even for FY21 (still not a final accounting).

E. Project Updates

- ✚ **Tricare-** The application is "approved," but we are not yet eligible to bill Tricare Insurance. More paperwork was submitted, and a Humana representative has been assigned to get us over the finish line.
- ✚ **Detention Center Programming-** The Beaufort County Detention Center has been meeting with BCADAD to plan for meeting inmate behavioral health needs. The Department has committed ARPA funds to a "demonstration project," if helpful. The project is too premature to detail, except there are many inmates who have both substance misuse and mental health service needs.
- ✚ **Virtual and Face-to-Face Outpatient and Intensive Outpatient Groups-** In August, the BCADAD moved towards more face-to-face "therapy" services, given stakeholder and regulatory pressures to do so. Additionally, FY21 outcomes for service completion continued to titrate lower throughout the fiscal year (*goal is 55%, but the year ended at a 38% completion rate*). Therefore, those with the highest understanding of need are going to be provided face-to-face services.
- ✚ **Strategic Plan-** August 12, the rough draft of the strategic plan was completed with our consultants. The goal is to enact it and to orient all staff to it by October 1, 2021.
- ✚ **BJCHS-** Comp Health consented to expand their menu of medications to include alcohol users. More medications options were sought, but DAODAS was only offering those to agencies with a medical provider of their own on staff. That means the rural counties could not benefit. However, a "Hub and Spoke" model was offered, but it just made things too complex, especially with the case management and transportation barriers that would get created through participation.
- ✚ The BCADAD successfully became a student loan forgiveness site for clinical-type personnel. Prevention, clerical, and administrative staff are excluded.

F. Prevention

- ✚ The prevention department has done several "Family Fun Activates" through grant funding. Adventure courses, mini-golf, bowling, Highway 21 movie night, and a few other activities through partnerships with local businesses were offered to families.
- ✚ Anti-stigma training targeting first responders took place recently. More events are planned.

- ✚ Evidence-based training for teachers (at the Beaufort County School Administration) was paid for and held by the Department and mutually agreed upon to take place on August 3rd & 4th. Sadly, the school system then pulled most of its staff from the event to meet new principals. Therefore, the planned participants declined by 80%.

G. Clinical Operations

- ✚ Clinical staff completed a training series through Duke University to enhance understanding of addiction as a brain disease and group facilitation.
- ✚ With the Delta variant, plans to resume most services face-to-face were delayed.
- ✚ ADSAP demand is more significant than staff on-hand.

• New Business:

- BJHCH – A new contract has been entered with Beaufort-Jasper-Hampton Comprehensive Health Center, which enhances Medication Approved Recovery (MAR) services for Opiate and Alcohol users.
- BCADAD applied for and has been approved as a Star LRP site for Student Loan Forgiveness. Five (5) staff members have submitted applications to have their student debt forgiven. So far, we have not heard if any of the applications have been approved.
- Overdose Awareness Day is August 31, 2021. The Prevention Department will be promoting the day on social media and offering another Narcan Distribution and training /Detera Bag Community Event.
- We currently have two (2) grant opportunities for which we are in the process of applying.
 - a. The State Opioid Response 3 (SOR3) Grant. This would be a one-time \$50K grant and would be facilitated by our Prevention Department.
 - b. The 2nd grant would be for Prevention work with the Hispanic population of Beaufort County. This grant would be \$90K/year for three years.
- DAODAS has backed off insisting on returning to Face-to-Face services considering the spike in Covid cases. We desire to return to Face-to-Face services as soon as it is safe to do so. Our Outcomes are not where we would like them. Patient retention is down.
- Board members gave their impressions/opinions/suggestions regarding the proposed updated Mission and Vision Statements.
 - a. Board was confused using the "Trauma-Informed Care" phrase
 - b. Impressions: Both statements felt to be too broad.
 - c. Suggestions: Use more positive/supportive language that speaks to what BCADAD does for the community.

• Financial Report: None

• Questions/Advice/Comments

- The Board brought up the topic of Fentanyl and DAODAS's Fentanyl Test Strips Program. Steve answered their questions. The Board supports BCADAD participating in the Fentanyl Test Strips Program only with the support of the County Council as this could be a hot-button topic that could cause backlash from the community. Worth has

researched this topic and has offered to write a letter to County Council indicating the Board's support for this program and the reasons why. Upon receipt of this letter, Steve will forward it to both Audra Antonacci-Ogden and Larry McElynn.

The next Virtual Meeting is October 19, 2021

Meeting Adjourned – Motion made by Tom Hale
Second by Linda Hoffman
Motion Passed Unanimously

Submitted: bjr