



## Advisory Board Meeting February 15, 2022

**Attendance:** Carol Hartman, Linda Hoffman, Worth Liipfert, Holly Peterson, Blake White

**County Representative:** Audra Antonacci-Ogden, Steve Donaldson

**Not attending:** Thom Hale and Javier Zimbron

**Meeting called to order at 6:03pm**

**I. Pledge of Allegiance was cited by all.**

**II. Director's Report:**

**A. Personnel Update:**

✚ Three positions vacant. A bilingual Preventionist, Peer Support Specialist, and Adult Counselor to do ADSAP are still needed.

✚ New Personnel:

- Michelle Ciavolino- Bluffton Adult Treatment Counselor
- Karen Engrum- Financial Coordinator
- Kathi Williams- First Responder Peer Recovery Specialist
- Four other new staff are in the vetting process with Human Resources (A Peer, Receptionist, and two Counselors)

✚ Prevention is working with local magazines to do articles for Spanish speaking audiences, and the Beaufort County Communications Department is assisting with doing Spanish speaking ads on gas pumps throughout the county to advertise personnel positions.

✚ A second meeting was held with HR to request assistance. They have committed to doing ads in La Isla and to bump up Indeed ads on a regular basis.

✚ Staff are selecting from a menu of BCADAD shirt options at no expense to them. This is one morale booster activity. A staff retreat is also in the planning stages, and Leadership are looking at the timing for offering retention bonuses. Advisory Board orders will be sought after Steve sends out ordering information.

**B. Financial Update:**

✚ Many grant funds are not being utilized, because personnel for those grants are not yet onboard or DAODAS requirements for using the funds is too restrictive, thus making the funding only look good on paper.

Steve indicated that Councilman McElynn and he spoke about the October 2021 SC Substance Abuse Treatment Policy Brief and the low number of monies spent in the state (see attached), which results in South Carolina spending less than anyone in the nation. Councilman McElynn and Steve are planning to invite the SC Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS) director to Beaufort to further discuss ideas on how to leverage and use more funds. Worth indicated that he is willing to express some of his concerns to local state representatives and to the legal council for DAODAS, if needed.

Blake asked questions about the use of ARPA and PPP funds. Steve indicated no known funds are earmarked for BCADAD, but the county and state have an enormous amount of money to spend.

- ✚ Beaufort County settled with one of the Opioid lawsuit defendants. As a result, a board will be created as part of the settlement to oversee plans Beaufort County has to use those funds over the next 17 years. Questions were asked about board composition and selection processes. Audra indicated that the process is unfolding and other than the board member's residing in South Carolina, more needs to be learned to fully understand the process. Steve indicated the funds would be for Beaufort County for opioid abatement, and not necessarily all directed towards treatment. Annually a critical analysis would be done to determine the best use for the available funds in the upcoming year.
- ✚ The county is in the middle of preparing budgets for the next fiscal year. Expenditures for many things such as personnel, training, conferences, professional services, and contract fees are going to be paid from some of the department's grants. Including the expansion of services planned, and to cover some existing expenditures. When budgets are complete, Steve will update the board on the plan for FY23.

#### C. Project Updates/New Projects:

- ✚ **Detention Center Programming-** Conversations with the detention center and their assistant county administrator are occurring. A consultant will likely be hired to make recommendations. Either the opioid settlement funds or the \$1 million grant may fund some alcohol and drug treatment initiatives.
- ✚ **New Grant-** A three-year \$1 million grant with a primary focus is to enhance behavioral health services in the detention center and in the emergency department at Beaufort Memorial Hospital was submitted. Award announcements will not occur until April and not to be expended until October.
- ✚ **Tricare-** Policies of Tricare requiring BCADAD employees appearing on malpractice insurance was a hurdle. As of January 21<sup>st</sup>, that barrier was resolved. Individual counselors are in the process of getting vetted by Tricare. The department is nearly ready to advertise that we take the insurance.
- ✚ **Dual Diagnosis Capability in Addiction Treatment (DDCAT)-** No updates.
- ✚ **Beaufort Jasper Hampton Comprehensive Health Services MAT Expansion-** No updates.

#### D. Prevention:

- ✚ The PS3 Grant of \$48,696 has started. More opioid overdose awareness, stigma reduction training, and marketing efforts are the grant's foundation.
- ✚ A five-year Drug Free Communities Grant for north of the Broad River will be submitted in April. The goals for the grant are in development from a coalition formed in October 2021.

#### E. Clinical Operations:

- ✚ **IOP Services-** Virtual IOP vs Face-to-Face or a hybrid model was discussed. Steve indicated the state plans to sit in on one of the sessions to then possibly allowing the federal block grant dollars to pay for it. The pros and cons for each were discussed by the board, given the Covid period. It was agreed that face-to-face for therapy services would be more beneficial, although a virtual model likely safer.
- ✚ **Census-** Clinical services are still operating at about a 50% census (212 patients) from the norm.
- ✚ **Drug Court-** The Drug Court program through the 14<sup>th</sup> circuit solicitor's office hired a new counselor from BCADAD. Steve indicated the benefit to BCADAD is the counselor would likely strengthen the relationship.

**F. General Operations:**

- ✦ The BCADAD Assistant County Administrator and Facilities Director have been doing walk throughs in the Human Services Building to look at necessary upgrades, which will help to create an updated and safer environment. Upgrades to include carpeting removal, new flooring, card readers to access certain areas, in addition to other ancillary items.
- ✦ Other county employees will be co-located in the Human Services Building. As a result, physical space adjustments will be necessary, especially with anticipation of grant employees also coming onboard and taking space. Given those dynamics, some office and conference room sharing will become necessary.
- ✦ Steve indicated the synergy between Beaufort County departments is very healthy. Working together toward common community goals is a norm, which makes it satisfying to work with such a team.

**Adjourned at 5:57pm by unanimous vote.**

Respectfully submitted: swd