



Board Meeting

April 12, 2022

Attendance: Carol Hartman, Worth Liipfert, Holly Peterson, Thom Hale

County Representative: Steve Donaldson

Not attending: Linda Hoffman, Javier Zimbron, Blake White

Meeting called to order at 6:08 pm

I. Pledge of Allegiance was cited by all.

II. Director's Report:

A. Personnel Update:

- ✚ All counselor positions are filled. Many of the recent hires are inexperienced or only have bachelor's level education.
- ✚ All Peer Support positions for the BCADAD office positions are vacant, due to promotions into other department positions. The department is advertising for replacements.
- ✚ Bluffton bilingual receptionist position is vacant. This position turns over more than any departmental position. A root cause analysis is underway.
- ✚ The Project Mariposa Prevention position has been filled, which allows the three-year grant program to get under way soon after training. She will start the Monday after Easter.
- ✚ The Peers in the First Responders Program completed Peer Support Certification Training. Credentials are pending.

B. Financial Update:

- ✚ Grant funding is starting to be utilized. For example:
 - DAODAS has agreed to allow the department to use Covid Stabilization funding to cover approximately **\$90,000** in counselor salaries through February 28, 2023.
- ✚ DAODAS is also allowing the department to get "privileged" to do group therapy virtually starting on April 17, 2022. DAODAS has also sat in on two virtual IOP groups and the state treatment director is going to recommend we be able to bill for that too. However, this will have minimal impact on this fiscal year's federal grant draw down amounts. *It should be noted that the department is doing more in-person services. This is in preparation for any future need.*

- ✚ The projected use of the BCADAD Fund Balance currently to balance the FY22 year is nearly \$380k.

C. Project Updates/New Projects:

✚ **Grants-**

- The Department is awaiting an award announcement that should come in April for \$1 million.
- A Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grant for approximately \$125k a year for five years was submitted yesterday. This grant would enhance Prevention activities north of the Broad River. *Notification of award would not be until August.*
- A \$3.2 million-dollar five-year grant has been written and will be submitted by April 29, 2022. This grant will focus on working collaboratively with the solicitor's office, the detention center, and BMH. *Notification of award would not be until August.*

✚ **First Responder Grant-** Boots on the ground are expected the Monday following Easter. Personnel have been busy getting trained and developing community relationships. However, some community Narcan training has started too. The peers have been going to see the homeless to develop relationships and have been impressive with their commitment to the community.

✚ **Dual Diagnosis Capability in Addiction Treatment (DDCAT)-** Today the department went through a rigorous review with Case Western University to look at our dual diagnosis competency and **capability**. A report will take several weeks to compile, given numerous documents, policies, etc. need to be analyzed. The next step would be development of a plan to improve and have Case Western University consult with us for a year.

✚ **MAT Expansion-** Comp Health has not expanded services beyond Buprenorphine. A private outfit in Bluffton has been in discussions about meeting our potential need for another partner. Everything is preliminary. Holly indicated another organization may be starting services with MAT in that area too. She indicated a willingness to get more information to Steve.

D. Space Issues: Together for Beaufort County have moved into the Human Services building. We will be sharing conference space and a break room. If some community based or Prevention Grants are funded requiring more personnel, those staff, not counselors, may have to start office sharing. Program expansions may eventually create space issues.

E. Cultural Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Steve indicated he has found the need for doing such training face to face and not through their learning system. He contracted with an organization to do a staff training on 06/17/22.

F. Staff Development Retreat- A staff development retreat will be held on May 12, 2022, at Sgt Jasper County Park. The offices will close at 11:30am on those days. The retreat will be funded by Proviso monies. The purpose is to do some team building, reward hard work during the pandemic, and to have some fun with one another.

G. Prevention Updates:

- ✚ A Drug Free Community Grant was submitted last week for approximately \$125k annually for five years.
- ✚ Galen Sturup-Comeau has been busy with the Prevention expansion grant related to opioid abatement. Several Family Fun Activities are about to be advertised.
- ✚ A two location Narcan event out in the community led to the training and distribution of 35 Narcan kits. The library system and the First Responder team were great collaborators on the project. Several more training events are scheduled for April and May.
- ✚ April 30th a Take Back the Meds Day has been scheduled in conjunction with the Beaufort County Sheriff's Department. Locations and times to be advertised.

H. Clinical Operations:

- ✚ **Spanish** patients in need of ADSAP are waiting for services. The department is working on contracting with a new translation service and or contracting with a PRI certified bilingual man who is considering the opportunity. The Project Mariposa Preventionist will be trained in the PRI curriculum and offered the opportunity to have a BCADAD staff provide the service.
- ✚ **Census** has started to increase to approximately 218 patients, which is still a significant departure from the norm.
- ✚ **Drug Court** relationships have improved with the recent change of counselor in Drug Court. More referrals are starting to come in from them.
- ✚ **Certifications-** Two staff are getting trained and certified to be able to provide treatment for compulsive gambling.
- ✚ **The Right Choices** program within the Beaufort County School now has a BCADAD counselor. The department has expanded the ability to serve more adolescents. Services will start in that program near months end.

III. Questions, Concerns and Other Feedback:

- ✚ Some discussion about recovery housing took place. Steve indicated an Oxford House for women and their children is planned for Beaufort, but exact dates unknown. He indicated he would get more information and email the group. Steve indicated the house would allow for residents on MAT.
- ✚ Holly indicated that The Hope House has decided not to extend housing to people on MAT but was glad to know that someone once on the board is hoping to have such a house open for men by July 2023.
- ✚ Steve shared that the South Carolina Association of Recovery Residences was certifying recovery houses. He also indicated that there was legislation pending regarding the certification of recovery housing, and if the legislation passes that DAODAS would restrict county alcohol and drug authorities to make referrals to those uncertified. Steve indicated more needs to be learned and shared with the board on this issue as well.
- ✚ Carol was concerned for the mutual help communities access to detention centers. Steve indicated he would try to get an update and email the board what was learned.

Meeting adjourned at 5:57pm.

Respectfully submitted: swd