

**Beaufort County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Department
Board of Trustees**

Date: 08/12/2020

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

In accordance with South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, Section 30-4-80(d), all local media was duly notified of the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Introduction of Board and Administration
- IV. Public Comment
- V. Approval of Minutes (July)
- VI. Director's Report
- VIII. Financial Report
- IX. Committee Reports:
 - A. FAVOR Update, if applicable: Joe Naughton

Beaufort County Alcohol & Drug Abuse Department
Virtual Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 15, 2020

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

Absent Board Members: Joe Naughton, Dominique Driessen-Espana

Visitors: Larry McElynn, County Council Member and Liaison to Beaufort County Alcohol & Drug Abuse Board
Monica Spells, County Assistant Administrator

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

Meeting called to order at 4:10pm by Chairman: Worth Liipfert

Pledge of Allegiance was cited

Emailed Handouts to Board Members:

Agenda
Minutes from October 16, 2019 Meeting
Director's Report
FY21 Budget/Financial Update

Introduction of County Council Liaison:

Councilman Larry McElynn introduced himself to the Board. He was elected in 2018 to Beaufort County Council. He explained that he has a personal and professional interest in working with the BCADAD Board. He previously served on the BCADAD Board.

Agenda Approval:

Motion made by Tom Hale; 2nd by Javier Zimbron
Motion passed unanimously

Previous Meeting Minutes Approval:

Motion made by Tom Hale to approve the minutes from October 16, 2019; 2nd by Javier Zimbron
Motion passed unanimously

Chair's Remarks: Worth Liipfert

- Addressed Board By-Laws regarding Attendance Policy
- Explained that members were to attend a majority of meetings and encouraged them to do so.
- The attendance policy will be enforced in 2020.
- If there is an issue with a member not being able meet the attendance policy guidelines, they are asked to call him to discuss the matter.

Director's Report:

- **Personnel Update**
3 – Clinical staff members have left employment since the last Board meeting in October 2019. County presently has a hiring freeze in place. These positions will remain unfilled, in addition to 2 grant funded positions until the hiring freeze is lifted.
- **Screening-Brief-Interview-Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Program:**
The Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS) is open to conversations with operationalizing SBIRT programming in the Beaufort Memorial Hospital (BMH) after removing grant funding for BMH's slow response to implement the collaborative approach with BCADAD

The Controlled Substance Abuse Task Force formed by Dr. Kurt Gambla, Chief of Staff @ Beaufort Memorial Hospital (BMH) asked if SC-DAODAS would be open for a second chance. The SC-DAODAS Director, Ms. Goldsby, indicated openness discussing to such a discussion in the near future.

Steve also indicated that in view of the county hiring freeze, he and Goldsby discussed the SBIRT Patient Navigators be part of BMH's staff, and BCADAD the treatment providers and to work in collaboration with BMH.

- **Solicitor's Office/Drug Court**

Linda Delihunty from the solicitor's office and BCADAD's Director initiated discussions about changes to the Drug Court program and agreement with the department in April. The end result was the solicitor made a decision to close the Beaufort County Drug Court. BCADAD will continue working with present Drug Court patients until they finish the program. However, after June 1, 2020 no new admissions would occur.

Solicitor hired a new attorney in December to handle cases related to drinking and driving, which has resulted in the idea of creating a new diversion program for persons ticketed for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) with a blood alcohol level of .05-.08. The department was approached to see if there was willingness to get involved and to assist with programming. Steve Donaldson referred the attorney to Kershaw County regarding their DUI diversion program for information, and expressed commitment to the idea.

Councilman McElynn asked for clarification on if there were current Drug Court Patients being served and what would happen to other DUI offenders not in the diversion program under consideration. Steve Donaldson indicated that BCADAD was still serving a number of Drug Court Patients, which gives the solicitor the time needed to make other arrangements, but the department has left the door open at the request of the solicitor's office in case they wanted to return. Also, it was also clarified that BCADAD was open to providing services to anyone referred or voluntarily seeking services.

- **COVID-19 IMPACT**

The w BCADAD locations reopened to the public on June 15th following Beaufort County and CDC guidelines. However, on July 13, 2020, The BCADAD offices once again closed to all patients to any face-to-face interaction with patients. Staff has implemented the use of telephonic services/telehealth ADSAP Groups virtually, as a result of multiple staff and patients from groups reporting COVID-19 symptoms.

The department has estimated that in the 7 week period from March 8 thru June 1, 2020 billing was down \$12k from the same time period last year, and fewer people are seeking out services at this time.

- **State Infrastructure Funds:**

Construction has been completed on the unisex urine drug screen bathrooms at both BCADAD locations, which left approximately \$2k which will be used to renovate the Beaufort Office Receptionist Area. The project is expected to be completed by the end of July 2020.

- **Spanish Translation:**

All BCADAD forms and program information packets have been translated into Spanish, which includes the BCADAD Monthly Newsletter.

Javier Zimbron has requested copies of the translated information.

- **Financial Report:**

County will not be transferring funds from the general fund to offset BCADAD Budget in FY21. Therefore the budget is not balanced. BCADAD will be using money from the department's fund balance to cover expenses for FY21. The department will cut expenses where possible to include training and travel and office supplies. Further reductions to budgeted revenue sources are still anticipated to State and Federal monies. However, it is unknown at this time as both are having to reevaluate budgets due to unexpected COVID-19 expenses.

- **CARF**

Survey to be handled virtually and will take place August 13th and 14th of 2020. It was announced that the change to this type of survey resulted in a small refund in excess of \$2k.

Announcements:

- Narcan Training/Distribution Event to be held on July 18th at both BCADAD locations from 10am to 1pm
- ECHO Grant Funded Public Service Announcements (PSA) have been completed and are ready for distribution over the County Channel and 27 other channels, as well as social media.

Next Meeting is August 12th 2020

Motion to Adjourn: Motion made by Carol Hartman; Seconded by Linda Hoffman
Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned

| Submitted: bjr



Beaufort County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Department's Director's Report

A. Personnel Update: No changes. The vacant positions (3) are not deemed critical at this time.

B. Project Updates:

- ✚ **SBIRT-** No further updates. The meeting between the department, South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS), and Beaufort Memorial Hospital (BMH) has not yet occurred. However, I was alerted that a meeting within the hospital occurred and there is support for meeting to move forward with the project once Dr. Gambla returns from vacation.
- ✚ **State Infrastructure Funds-** Final reporting on the \$40k to the department was completed and sent to the state. The department drew down all but \$9.00 between the Urine Drug Screen Collection Rooms and related supplies, and refinishing the Beaufort Reception Area.
- ✚ **Technology Conversion-**The department's technology plan led to converting from desktop computers to tablets or laptops for all staff. Currently several staff have been converted and some still have loaners from the Information Technology Department. This allows for all staff to work remotely, which has been incredibly helpful during Covid-19. To that end, those who once had both a desk top and a laptop are now only using a single device.

C. Finance

- ✚ **FY20-** Despite the Covid impact on the department's 4th quarter, early indications from all accounting (FY20 not yet closed) looks like the department will finish the FY20 year with \$90k in the black.
- ✚ **4th Quarter Alcohol Excise Tax-** Although the department was alerted that FY21 Alcohol Excise Tax Collections will likely be different, there were enough taxes collected in South Carolina during FY20 that the \$61k budgeted for the department's 4th quarter should be unaffected.

D. FY 20 Services Provided and Demographics

Beaufort	FY19	471	vs.	FY20	352	<i>-119 patients served or -25.27%</i>
Bluffton	FY19	381	vs.	FY20	322	<i>- 59 patients served or -15.49%</i>
Department		852	vs.		674	<i>-20.90 census reduction</i>
<i>Total178 fewer patients served in FY 20</i>						

Program Service Numbers of Note:

- + IOP numbers did not change (4 people fewer served in FY20 than FY19)
- + Adolescent Admissions – 42% (*75% served in Bluffton)
- + ADSAP Admissions:
 - Bluffton- No change
 - Beaufort- -39.71%
- + OP Admissions:
 - Bluffton – -27%
 - Beaufort- -30%

*Beaufort has numerous adolescents in need of alcohol and drug services in the Beaufort area at the Right Choices Program for alcohol and drug related school issues. The department does have a grant to hire a counselor to imbed in that program, however, the department is on a hiring freeze and school is not in session.

Other Demographics: *(No notable change between FY19 and FY20)*

- + Genders Served: Male 70% / Female 30%.
- + Racial/Ethnicity: White 48% / African American 44% / Latinix/Hispanic 7% / Other 1%.
- + Employed: Approximately 50% in FY19 and 43% in FY20.

E. Covid Impact

- + All services provided by telehealth or telephonic services presently.
- + Office locations closed again as of July 17th, due to increase in COVID cases among county employees.
- + -45% fewer admissions nationally and -50% in Beaufort County.
- + No significant change in completion rates 56% are completing services (55% is the department goal, which is approximately +10% than national completion rates, per National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA)).

F. Overdose Data

See attachment

OPIOID OVERDOSE DATA

National

- ✚ National Data 70.50% of all overdoses are from opioids
- ✚ 66% or 50,042 of all overdoses are from synthetic opiates (excluding methadone) (CDC, 2019)

South Carolina

- ✚ June 2020 Overdoses- 900 vs. 527 in June 2019 (+62.04%)
- ✚ YTD (through June) 4200 overdoses vs. 2764 in 2019 (+52%)
- ✚ Largest increases occurring during COVID period
- ✚ Twenty-one (21) overdoses in Beaufort that required EMS response, per Christina Galardi from CDC foundation. Per Christina, “Beaufort has seen higher activity than typical during COVID as a whole.”

Average demographic of a person overdosing on opiates:

- ✚ White 81%
- ✚ Male 64%
- ✚ Between 25-34 yrs 29.5%

In FY20 Opiate persons served on Medication Assisted Treatment:

- ✚ 19 (2 were re-admissions)
- ✚ 11 currently in services vs neighboring counties like Colleton serving over 70 patients. (Underserving Beaufort) (CDC, 2020)

Opportunities available:

- ✚ SC-DAODAS is open to Peer Recovery Support Professionals working in the BMH-ED (Time sensitive, in view of past failed attempt)
- ✚ Other grant funding available through 2 different funding sources for:
 - ✚ Suboxone (only for opiate users), Dr and Nurse time (set rates). Pharmacy 100%
 - Or
 - ✚ Suboxone, Vivitrol (Opiates or Alcohol), Acamprostate (for ETOH), Oral Naltrexone (an opioid antagonist), disulfiram (Antabuse for ETOH), labs, UDS, Dr and Nurse time (set rates). Pharmacy 100%.

BCADAD continues to do curbside events for the distribution of Narcan and Deterra Bags. Two PSAs are about to air on the County Channel, social media, and in our monthly newsletters. They can also be found on our webpage.